

TEST: HEPATITIS B CORE ANTIBODY (ANTI-HBc)

PRINCIPLE:

The Anti-HBc assay can be used to detect antibodies against hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc) in serum following exposure to infectious hepatitis B virus (HBV). Anti-HBc is detectable shortly after the appearance of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). As the appearance of anti-HBsAg may be delayed after HBsAg clearance, anti-HBc is sometimes the only serological marker for HBV infection and potentially infectious blood³. Anti-HBc is found in acute and chronic hepatitis B patients and also indicates past resolved infection.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:

2ml serum collected in a red top tube with no additive or in a serum separator tube (gel barrier). Serum should be separated from the clot as soon as possible to avoid hemolysis. Store at 2-8°C for 48 hours. Store frozen at -20°C if not tested within 48 hours. Avoid repeat freeze-thaw cycles.

METHOD: Enhanced Chemiluminence

REFERENCES:

1. Hoofnagle, JH., Seeff, LB., Bales, ZB., Zimmerman, HJ. Veterans Administration Hepatitis Cooperative Study Group . Type B Hepatitis After Transfusion With Blood Containing Antibody to Hepatitis B Core Antigen. New England Journal of Medicine, 298:1379-1383 (1978)
2. Hoofnagle, JH., Gerety, RJ., Barker, LF., Antibody to Hepatitis B Virus Core in Man. Lancet, ii: 869-873 (1973)
3. Hoofnagle, JH., Gerety, RJ., Ni, LY., Barker, LF. Antibody to Hepatitis B Core Antigen:A Sensitive Indicator of Hepatitis B Virus Replication. New England Journal of Medicine, 290: 1336-1340 (1974)

Normal Range: Non-reactive

Reported as reactive or non-reactive

Turnaround Time: 1 day