

THE IMMUNOFLUORESCENT DETECTION OF ENTAMOEBIA
HISTOLYTICA IN PUS USING AVIDIN-BIOTIN SYSTEM.

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Serological tests are frequently used in the diagnosis of amoebic liver abscess. E. histolytica has infrequently been demonstrated in the pus of internal organ abscesses, and differentiation between bacterial and amoebic abscesses may some times be difficult. Recently innovative sensitive techniques have been used to detect Entamoeba histolytica on tissues, cultures and pus using immunofluorescence techniques. The latter techniques have not been extremely popular because of poor specificity. Based on biotin-avidin interaction, an immunofluorescent technique has been developed to detect amoebae in the samples of pus. Antigen prepared from axenic cultures of E. histolytica strain NIH-200, was labelled with biotinyl-N-hydroxy-succinimide. FITC-avidin was used as a linkage molecule for biotin. Using this technique E. histolytica has been demonstrated in 18 of 19 (95 %) pus samples from patients with amoebic liver abscess. The specificity of the test was high as none of the 7 samples from pyogenic abscesses were positive.