

## **An enzyme-linked immunoassay for the possible detection of non-A, non-B viral antigen in patients with epidemic viral hepatitis.**

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### **An enzyme-linked immunoassay for the possible detection of non-A, non-B viral antigen in patients with epidemic viral hepatitis.**

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### **Abstract**

An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay has been developed by using IgM antibodies from the acute stage as a source to capture the antigen in stools of patients with epidemic non-A, non-B (NANB) viral hepatitis. 29/69 (42.3%) of the patients and 3/9 (33.3%) contacts were positive for a suspected NANB viral antigen. However, only 1/27 (3.7%) of the negative controls drawn from amongst the patients with amoebiasis, giardiasis, hepatitis due to virus A and healthy individuals was positive for NANB antigen in the stool. The suspected NANB viral antigen was more frequently detected in stools collected between the 14th and 18th day of icteric hepatitis. The study suggests that IgM antibodies from patients with acute viral NANB hepatitis react with an antigen present in the stools of a high proportion of patients with epidemic NANB viral hepatitis. This serological test may be useful to establish the etiological diagnosis of non-A, non-B (fecal-oral) viral hepatitis. ELISA-positive stools contained 27 nm viral particles.

### **References**

Tandon BN, Gandhi BM, Joshi YK, Irshad M, Gupta H. Hepatitis virus non-A, non-B: the cause of major public health problem in India. Bull WHO 1985; 63: 931- 934.