

Research Title : Immunodiagnosis of Syphilis by an Enzyme-linked  
Immunosorbent Assay

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Abstract

An indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was evaluated for diagnosis of syphilis. Antibodies to sonicated antigen of Treponema pallidum were evaluated with sera from 38 persons presumed normal, 54 prostitutes and 57 patients with syphilis. The levels of specific antibodies to T.pallidum in sera from prostitutes and patients with syphilis were significantly higher than those from persons presumed normal ( $p < 0.0005$ ). Agreement of ELISA results with the Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL), and the Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody Absorption (FTA-Abs) results were 81.1% and 81.6% respectively. The overall sensitivity of the ELISA with sera from patients with various stages of syphilis was 90.7%. With sera from persons presumed normal, the specificity of the ELISA was 94.7%. The ELISA has good potential as a confirmatory test in the serodiagnosis of syphilis.