Antistreptolysin O Titre (ASOT)
A rapid latex slide test for the detection of antistreptolysin O antibodies in serum

Intended Use
Rapid latex agglutination test for the qualitative screening and semi-quantitative determination of antistreptolysin O (ASO) antibodies in human serum.

Background
In infections caused by β-hemolytic streptococci, Streptolysin O is liberated from the bacteria stimulating production of antistreptolysin O (ASO) antibodies. The extent and degree of infection can be monitored by measuring the levels of these antibodies. Increase in ASO titre generally occurs one to four weeks after onset of infection with β-hemolytic streptococci Group A. As the infection subsides, the titre declines and returns to normal levels within six months. If the titre does not decrease, a recurrent or chronic infection may exist.

Test Principle
Spectrum ASO latex reagent is a suspension of polystyrene particles sensitized with streptolysin O. When the latex reagent is mixed with a serum containing antibodies to streptolysin O, visible agglutination occurs. The latex reagent has been produced so that agglutination will take place only when the level of antibodies to streptolysin O is greater than 200 IU/ml.

Reagents
Spectrum ASO latex kit contains the following reagents:

- Latex Reagent (bottle with green cap):
  A suspension of polystyrene latex particles in glycinysalene buffer pH: 8.5 ± 0.1, coated with streptolysin O.

- Positive Control Serum (bottle with red cap):
  Is prepared from a stabilized human serum pool containing more than 200 IU/ml antistreptolysin O. Both reagents contain 0.9 g/L Sodium azide as a preservative.

- Negative Control Serum (bottle with white cap):
  Reagent contain 0.9 g/L Na azide as a preservative.

Slides and Stirrers.

NOTE: Negative Control Serum, Slides and Stirrers are only included in Complete Kits REF: 510 001 (50 test) & REF: 510 002 (100 test)

Storage & Stability
The reagents are stable up to the expiration date specified when stored at 2 – 8 °C.

Precautions and Warnings
All human blood components used to prepare controls have been tested for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and HTLV-II antibodies by FDA approved procedure and found to be non-reactive.
No known test method for HBsAg or HTLV-III antibodies offers total assurance that a human derived product will not transmit hepatitis or HTLV-III virus. The user is therefore cautioned to handle reagents as if being capable of transmitting these diseases.

Specimen Collection and Preservation
Use only serum specimens, plasma samples are not suitable for the test. Serum samples can be stored for 24 hrs at 2 – 8°C, for longer Storage it is recommended to store the samples at -20°C.

Procedure
Qualitative Test (Screening)
1. Bring all reagents and specimens to room temperature.
2. Place one drop (~ 50 μl) of the positive control and 50 μl of the patient serum into separate circles on the glass slide.
3. Shake the ASO latex reagent gently and add one drop (45 μl) on each circle next to the sample to be tested and control.
4. Mix well using disposable stirrer spreading the mixture over the whole test area and tilt the slide gently. Agitate for about 2 minutes with rotator or by hand and observe for the presence or absence of agglutination.

Results and Interpretation
Negative result: No agglutination of the latex particles suspension within two minutes.

Positive result: An agglutination of the latex particles suspension will occur within two minutes, indicating an ASO level of more than 200 IU/ml.

Semi-Quantitative Test
1. Serum to be titrated is serially diluted (1:2, 1:4, 1:8 etc) in 0.9 g/L saline solution.
2. Place one drop of positive control on slide. Do not attempt to dilute the ASO positive control serum for comparative or other purposes as no correlation exists between actual titre of the control and titre of unknown sera.
3. Place 50 μl of each serum dilution individually in successive circles on the slide and proceed as in screening methodology.

Results and Interpretation
The serum ASO titre can be defined as the highest dilution showing a positive result. The approximate ASO level (IU/ml) present in the sample can be obtained by the following formula:

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\text{ASO Title (IU/ml)} = \frac{\text{Highest dilution with positive reaction} \times \text{Reagent sensitivity (200 IU/ml)}}{200}
\]

e.g. if the agglutination is present up to a titre 1:8, the approximate serum ASO level is 8 x 200 = 1600 IU/ml

Expected Value
Up to 200 IU/ml

Limitations of the Procedure
Occasional agglutinations observed after 4 minutes have no diagnostic significance.
Highly haemolyzed and lipemic serum as well as plasma interfere with the test.

References

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