

ANTIBODY TO HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN (Mouse Monoclonal)

Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0

Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) for the Detection of
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) in Human
Serum, Plasma, and Cadaveric Serum Specimens

For *In Vitro* Diagnostic Use

32591	• 480 Tests
32592	• 960 Tests
25258	• 4800 Tests

For Reference Use Only

Lexicon/Lexique/Glosario/Glossar/Definizione				
English	Français	Español	Deutsch	Italiano
Wash Solution Concentrate (30X)	Solution de lavage concentrée	Solución concentrada para lavado	Konzentrierte Waschlösung	Soluzione di lavaggio concentrata
Chromogen: TMB Solution	Chromogène : solution de TMB	Cromógeno: solución de TMB	Chromogen: TMB-Lösung	Cromogeno: soluzione di TMB
Substrate Buffer	Tampon substrat	Tampón sustrato	Substratpuffer	Tampone substrato
Stopping Solution	Solution d'arrêt	Solución de parada	Stopplösung	Soluzione bloccante

WASH

TMB SOLUTION

SUB BUF

STOP

For Reference Use Only

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1 - NAME AND INTENDED USE

Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 is a qualitative enzyme immunoassay for detection of Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) in human serum or plasma, and also in cadaveric serum specimens. The HBsAg EIA 3.0 is intended to be used for screening blood and blood products intended for transfusion or for further manufacture into plasma products. The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 is also intended for use with the Ortho Summit™ System (OSS) in the screening of blood donors.

2 - SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION OF THE TEST

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a major public health problem worldwide, with significant transmission of the virus occurring through the use of contaminated donor blood and plasma. Also of concern is the transmission of HBV and other infectious diseases through tissue transplantation.¹ Because the presence of circulating Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) closely follows the course of infection, screening for HBsAg is used to detect potentially infectious blood and plasma.² Enzyme immunoassays to detect HBsAg have replaced relatively insensitive gel diffusion methods and have been reported to have equivalent sensitivity to radioimmunoassay methods.³ The application of monoclonal antibodies for the detection of HBsAg has previously been reported.^{4,5} The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 is a third generation enzyme immunoassay, which uses mouse monoclonal antibodies to detect HBsAg in human serum, plasma, or cadaveric specimens.

Specimens that are non-reactive when tested with the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 are considered negative for HBsAg and need not be tested further. Reactive specimens should be retested, in duplicate, using the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 to determine whether they are repeatedly reactive. A repeatedly reactive specimen should be confirmed by a licensed neutralization procedure utilizing human anti-HBs (HBsAg Confirmatory Assay 3.0). If the HBsAg in the specimen can be neutralized by the confirmatory procedure, the specimen is considered positive for HBsAg and need not be tested further.

3 - BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PROCEDURE

Wells of the microwell strip plates are coated with mouse monoclonal antibody to HBsAg (anti-HBs). Serum or plasma and appropriate controls are added to the wells, and incubated with the bound antibody. If HBsAg is present, it will bind to the antibody and not be removed by washing. The strips are washed to remove any unbound material. Washing is followed by the addition of Conjugate Solution (peroxidase-conjugated mouse monoclonal antibodies directed against HBsAg). The Conjugate Solution will bind to the antibody-HBsAg complex, if present. Unbound conjugate is removed by a wash step. Next, Working Chromogen Solution is added to the plate and allowed to incubate. A blue or blue-green color develops in proportion to the amount of HBsAg present in the sample. The enzyme reaction is stopped by the addition of acid, which changes the blue-green color to yellow. The optical absorbance of specimens and controls is determined with a spectrophotometer set at 450 nm wavelength.

4 - REAGENTS

Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 Product Description

Product No: 32591 • 480 Tests, 32592 • 960 Tests, 25258 • 4800 Tests

Component	Contents	Preparation
R3 • HBsAg Conjugate Concentrate 1, 1, or 5 vials (1.2 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-HBsAg (mouse monoclonal): horseradish peroxidase conjugate• Buffer with protein stabilizers• 0.005% Gentamicin Sulfate• 0.5% ProClin® 300	Dilute in HBsAg Conjugate Diluent as described.
R1 • Strip Plates Anti-HBsAg Microwell 5, 10 or 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microwell strips in holder, coated with antibody to HBsAg (mouse monoclonal)• Potential Sodium Azide and ProClin® residue	Use as supplied. Return unused strips to the pouch and reseal. Do not remove desiccant.
R2 • Wash Solution Concentrate (30X) 2, 3 or ** bottles (120 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sodium Chloride• Tween 20	Dilute to 1:30 with deionized water. Clinical laboratory reagent water Type I or Type II is acceptable.
C0 • HBsAg Negative Control (Human) 1, 1, or 5 vials (12 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal Human Serum• Non-reactive for HBsAg, Anti-HBsAg• Non-reactive for Antibody to HIV and HCV• 0.005% Gentamicin Sulfate• 0.16% ProClin® 950	Ready to use as supplied.

Component	Contents	Preparation
C1 • HBsAg Positive Control (Human) 1, 1, or 5 vials (8 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal Human Serum containing HBsAg • Non-reactive for Anti-HBsAg • Non-reactive for Antibody to HIV and HCV • 0.005% Gentamicin Sulfate • 0.16% ProClin® 950 	Ready to use as supplied.
C2 • HBsAg Low Positive Control (Human) 1, 1, or 5 vials (8 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal Human Serum containing HBsAg • Non-reactive for Anti-HBsAg • Non-reactive for Antibody to HIV and HCV • 0.005% Gentamicin Sulfate • 0.16% ProClin® 950 	Ready to use as supplied.
R4 • HBsAg Conjugate Diluent 1, 1, or 5 bottles (120 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer with protein stabilizers • 0.005% Gentamicin Sulfate • 0.5% ProClin® 300 	Ready to use as described under Working Conjugate Solution.
R8 • Substrate Buffer 1, 1, or 5 bottles (120 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogen Peroxide • Citric Acid/Sodium Acetate buffer • Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) 	Ready to use as supplied.
R9 • Chromogen 1, 1, or 5 bottles (12 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB)* 	Dilute with Substrate Buffer as described.
R10 • Stopping Solution 1, 1, or ** bottles (120 ml)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1N H₂SO₄ (Sulfuric Acid) 	Ready to use as supplied.
Plate Sealers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear plastic sealers 	Ready to use as supplied.

*NOTE: Tetramethylbenzidine is a non-carcinogenic and non-mutagenic chromogen for peroxidase.^{6,7}

**Wash Solution Concentrate and Stopping Solution must be purchased separately for the 50 plate (4800 test) kit. Refer to catalog number 25261 for the Wash Solution Concentrate and catalog number 25260 for the Stopping Solution. These reagents are included in the 5 plate (480 test) and 10 plate (960 test) kits.

Store the kit at 2-8°C. Bring all reagents, except Conjugate Concentrate, to room temperature (15-30°C) before use. Return to 2-8°C immediately after use. Store all unused strips/plates with desiccant at 2-8°C.

5 - WARNINGS FOR USERS

1. For *In Vitro* Diagnostic Use.

2. Wear protective clothing, including lab coat, eye/face protection and disposable gloves (synthetic, non-latex gloves are recommended) while handling kit reagents. Wash hands thoroughly after performing the test.

3. Do not smoke, drink, or eat in areas where specimens or kit reagents are being handled.
4. Do not pipette by mouth.
5. This test kit should be handled only by qualified personnel trained in laboratory procedures and familiar with their potential hazards. Wear appropriate protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection and handle appropriately with the requisite Good Laboratory Practices. The following is a list of potential chemical hazards contained in some kit components (refer to Product Description chart):
 - a. ProClin® 300 (0.5%) or ProClin® 950 (0.16%), biocidal preservatives that are irritating to eyes and skin, may be detrimental if enough is ingested, and may cause sensitization by skin contact; prolonged or repeated exposure may cause allergic reaction in certain sensitive individuals.
 - b. 0.005% Gentamicin Sulfate, a biocidal preservative, which is a known reproductive toxin, photosensitizer and sensitizer; prolonged or repeated exposure may cause allergic reaction in certain sensitive individuals.
 - c. The 1.0 N Sulfuric Acid (H_2SO_4) Stopping Solution is irritating to skin and severely irritating or corrosive to eyes, depending on the amount and length of exposure; greater exposures can cause eye damage, including permanent impairment of vision. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. Keep away from strong bases, reducing agents and metals; do not pour water into this component. Waste from this material is considered hazardous acidic waste, however if permitted by local, regional, and national regulations, it might be neutralized to pH 5-8 for non-hazardous disposal.
6. The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 contains human blood components. No known test method can offer complete assurance that infectious agents are absent. Therefore, all human blood derivatives, reagents and human specimens should be handled as if capable of transmitting infectious dis-

ease, following recommended *Universal Precautions* for bloodborne pathogens as defined by OSHA, the guidelines from the current CDC/NIH *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* and/or local, regional and national regulations. The following human blood derivatives are found in this kit:

- a. Human source material used in the preparation of the Negative Control (C0) has been tested and found non-reactive for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), anti-HBsAg, and antibodies to Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1 and HIV-2).
 - b. Human source material used in the preparation of the Positive Controls (C1 and C2) contains normal human serum with purified HBsAg. It has been tested and found nonreactive for anti-HBsAg, and for antibodies to Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1 and HIV-2).
7. Biological spills: Human source material spills should be treated as potentially infectious.

Spills not containing acid should be immediately decontaminated, including the spill area, materials and any contaminated surfaces or equipment with an appropriate chemical disinfectant that is effective for the potential biohazards relative to the samples involved (commonly a 1:10 dilution of bleach, 70-80% ethanol or isopropanol, an iodophor (such as 0.5% Wescodyne™ Plus), or a phenolic, etc.) and wiped dry.⁸⁻¹⁰

Spills containing acid should be appropriately absorbed (wiped up) or neutralized, the area flushed with water and wiped dry; materials used to absorb the spill should be disposed of as biohazardous waste. Then the area should be decontaminated with one of the chemical disinfectants.

NOTE: DO NOT PLACE SOLUTIONS CONTAINING BLEACH INTO THE AUTOCLAVE.

8. Dispose of all specimens and material used to perform the test as though they contain an infectious agent. Laboratory chemi-

cal and biohazardous wastes must be handled and discarded in accordance with all local, regional and national regulations.

6 - PRECAUTIONS FOR USERS

1. Do not use any kit components beyond their stated expiration date.
2. The reagents that may be used with different lots of the HBsAg EIA 3.0 kit are the Chromogen (R9), Substrate Buffer (R8), Wash Solution Concentrate (R2), and Stopping Solution (R10). Do not mix any other reagents from different lots. Any lot number of the following reagents may be used with this assay provided they have the correct catalog number and are not used beyond their labeled expiration date:
 - Chromogen (R9) - Catalog # 26182
 - Substrate Buffer (R8) - Catalog # 26181
 - Wash Solution Concentrate (R2) - Catalog # 25261
 - Stopping Solution (R10) - Catalog # 25260
3. Exercise care when opening vials and removing aliquots to avoid microbial contamination of the reagents.
4. Use a clean, disposable container for the Conjugate. Exposure of the Conjugate to sodium azide will result in its inactivation.
5. Avoid exposing Chromogen or Working TMB Solution to strong light during storage or incubation. Do not allow the Working TMB Solution to come into contact with any oxidizing agents.
6. Use clean, polypropylene containers to prepare and store the Working TMB Solution. If glassware must be used, pre-rinse thoroughly with 1N sulfuric or hydrochloric acid followed by at least three washes of deionized water. Be sure that no acid residue remains on the glassware.
7. Bring all reagents except Conjugate Concentrate to room temperature before use.

8. Clinical samples may contain very high levels of HBsAg. Therefore, care must be exercised when dispensing samples to avoid cross contamination through aerosols or carryover. For manual pipetting of controls and specimens, use an individual pipette tip for each sample and do not allow other parts of the pipetting device to touch the rim or interior of the specimen container. Consider using new stoppers/caps to seal specimen tubes after use, to avoid errors or contamination of the work area while recapping tubes.
9. Handle the Negative and Positive Controls in the same manner as patient specimens.
10. If a specimen or reagent is inadvertently not added to a well, the assay results will read negative.
11. Inadequate adherence to package insert instructions may result in erroneous results.
12. Use only adequately calibrated equipment with this assay.
13. Use of dedicated equipment is recommended if equipment performance validations have not precluded the possibility of cross-contamination.
14. The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 performance is highly dependent upon incubation times and temperatures and effective washing. Temperatures outside of the validated ranges may result in invalid assays. Incubation temperatures should be carefully monitored using calibrated thermometers, or equivalent.
15. **Caution: Certain washer conditions such as partially blocked cannulae can lead to sub-optimal washing and false reactive test results. It is recommended that users of Ortho Summit™ System or any other microplate washer carefully verify that the washing system is clear and operating properly before performing an assay.**
16. Components of this kit meet FDA potency requirements.

7 - REAGENT PREPARATION AND STORAGE

Working Conjugate Solution

Bring Conjugate Diluent (R4) to room temperature. Invert Diluent and Conjugate Concentrate (R3) to mix before using. Prepare a 1:101 dilution for each strip to be tested by mixing 10 µl of Conjugate Concentrate with 1.0 ml of Conjugate Diluent in a clean, polypropylene container. Note Concentrate lot number, date and time of preparation, and date and time of expiration (8 hours from preparation) on container. Mix Working Solution thoroughly when combined and again just prior to use. Working Solution should be used within 8 hours.

Return Conjugate Concentrate to the refrigerator immediately after use. To avoid contamination of Conjugate, wear clean gloves and do not touch tips of pipettes. Store Working Conjugate Solution at room temperature until use.

Prepare only the amount of reagent to be used within 8 hours, ensuring that the volume of diluted reagent will be adequate for the entire run. Use the following table as a guide:

Preparation of Working Conjugate Solution by Strip

Number of Strips to be used	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12*
Amount of Conjugate Concentrate (µl)	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Amount of Conjugate Diluent (ml)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

* Complete Plate

Preparation of Working Conjugate Solution by Plate

Number of Complete Plates to be used	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Amount of Conjugate Concentrate (µl)	120	240	360	480	600	720	840	960	1080	1200
Amount of Conjugate Diluent (ml)	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120

Working TMB Solution

Note: 1:11 Dilution. Bring Chromogen (R9) and Substrate Buffer (R8) to room temperature. Invert the Chromogen and Substrate Buffer to mix before using. Prepare a 1:11 dilution for each strip to

be tested by mixing 100 µl of Chromogen with 1.0 ml of Substrate Buffer in a clean, polypropylene container. Note Chromogen lot number, date and time of preparation, and date and time of expiration (8 hours from preparation) on container. Mix TMB Working Solution gently prior to use. Working TMB Solution should be kept in the dark at room temperature and used within 8 hours.

Chromogen should be colorless to slightly yellow. Any other color indicates that the reagent is contaminated. Do not use this reagent.

The Working TMB Solution should be colorless. A distinct blue color indicates that the reagent is contaminated. Discard the Working TMB Solution and prepare fresh reagent in a clean polypropylene container.

Prepare only the amount of the reagent to be used within 8 hours, ensuring that the volume of diluted reagent will be adequate for the entire run. Extra Chromogen is provided. Use the following table as a guide:

Preparation of Working TMB Solution by Strip

Number of Strips to be used	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12*
Amount of Chromogen (µl)	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200
Amount of Substrate Buffer (ml)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

* Complete Plate

Preparation of Working TMB Solution by Plate

Number of Plates to be used	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Amount of Chromogen (ml)	1.2	2.4	3.6	4.8	6.0	7.2	8.4	9.6	10.8	12.0
Amount of Substrate Buffer (ml)	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120

Wash Solution

Prepare Wash Solution by adding one part Wash Solution Concentrate (R2) (30X) to 29 parts of deionized or distilled water (e.g., 120ml of Wash Solution Concentrate to 3480 ml of deionized water). Any lot of Wash Solution Concentrate, provided it is

catalog number 25261 and within its labeled shelf life, may be used with this assay. Clinical laboratory reagent water Type I or Type II is acceptable. The diluted Wash Solution can be stored at room temperature for up to four weeks in a plastic container. Note the lot number, date prepared, and expiration date on the container. Discard if no suds are evident in the Wash Solution. Prepare a sufficient quantity of Wash Solution to complete a full run.

8 - SPECIMEN COLLECTION, PREPARATION, AND STORAGE

Serum, plasma, or cadaveric serum specimens may be used. The following anticoagulants have all been evaluated and found to be acceptable: EDTA, sodium and lithium heparin, sodium citrate, CPDA-1, and ACD. Samples which are collected into anticoagulant tubes should be filled as labeling indicates to avoid improper dilution. Specimens with observable particulate matter should be clarified by centrifugation prior to testing. No clinically significant effect has been detected in assay results with increased levels of protein, lipids, bilirubin, or hemolysis, or after heat inactivation of patient samples. Cadaveric serum samples with increased levels of hemolysis have been tested, and no clinically significant effect has been detected in assay results. Note: Cadaveric serum samples with increased levels of protein, lipids, bilirubin, or microbiological contaminants have not been available to evaluate with this assay.

Serum, plasma, or cadaveric serum specimen may be stored at 2-8°C for up to seven days. Samples should not be used if they have incurred more than 5 freeze/thaw cycles. Mix samples thoroughly after thawing. Note: Cadaveric specimens that are weakly reactive may become nonreactive after freeze/thaw cycles.

Note: If specimens are to be shipped, they should be packed in compliance with Federal Regulations covering the transportation of etiologic agents. Studies have demonstrated that specimens may be shipped refrigerated (2-8°C) or at ambient temperatures for up to 7 days. For shipments that are in transit for more than 7 days, specimens should be kept frozen (-20°C or lower). Refrigerate samples at 2-8°C at receipt, or freeze for longer storage.

This kit is not intended for use with specimens other than serum, plasma, or cadaveric serum specimens. This kit is not intended for use on saliva/oral fluids or urine samples.

9 - HBsAg EIA 3.0 PROCEDURE

Materials Provided

See Reagents Section on page 5.

Materials Required but not Provided

1. Precision pipettes to deliver volumes from 10 μ l to 200 μ l, 1 ml, 10 ml, 25 ml, and 50 ml (accurate within \pm 10%). A multi-channel pipettor capable of delivering 100 μ l is optional.
2. Pipette tips.
3. Dry-heat static or shaker incubator capable of maintaining $37\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. If a shaker incubator is used, it should have the following specifications:

Amplitude: 0.75 to 3.00 mm

Frequency: 500 to 2300 R.P.M.

4. Microwell plate or strip washer qualified for use with this assay. The washer must be capable of dispensing 400 μ l per well, cycling 5 times, and soaking for 30-60 seconds between each wash. Use validated equipment which does not cause carryover.
5. Microwell plate or strip reader qualified for use with this assay. The spectrophotometer should have the following specifications at wavelength 450 nm:

Bandwidth: 10 nm HBW (Half Band Width), or equivalent

Absorbance Range: 0 to 2 AU (Absorbance Units)

Repeatability: \pm (0.5% + 0.005) AU

Linearity or Accuracy: 1% from 0 to 2.0 AU

The instrument should contain a reference filter for reading at 615 to 630 nm. An instrument without a reference filter can be used; however, areas in the bottoms of the wells that are opaque, scratched or irregular may cause absorbance readings that are falsely elevated.

6. The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 is approved for use with the Ortho Summit™ System and Ortho Summit™ Processor as a screening test for human serum and plasma specimens. The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 Ortho® Assay Protocol Disk is available from Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics.
7. Household bleach (5% to 8% sodium hypochlorite) which may be diluted to a minimum concentration of 10% bleach (or 0.5% sodium hypochlorite). Alternative disinfectants include: 70% ethanol or 0.5% Wescodyne Plus™ (West Chemical Products, Inc.).
8. Paper towels or absorbent pads for blotting.
9. Labeled null strips, for testing partial plates.
10. Clean polypropylene containers, with caps, for preparation of TMB and Conjugate Working Solutions, 15 or 50 ml.
11. Deionized or distilled water. Clinical laboratory reagent water Type I or Type II is acceptable.
12. Gloves.
13. Laboratory timer.
14. EIA reagent reservoirs (optional).

Preliminary Statements

1. The expected run time for this procedure is approximately 3-3.5 hours from initiation of the first incubation step. Each run of this assay must proceed to completion without interruption after it has been started. The maximum allowable time from start of pipetting to start of incubation is ≤ 1 hour.
2. Positive and Negative Controls must be run on each plate. The cutoff for patient samples is determined by the controls on each individual plate.
3. The number of controls to be included in each run of this assay are two Positive Controls, two Low Positive Controls, and three Negative Controls.

4. Do not splash controls, specimens, or reagents between microwells of the plate.
5. Cover plates for each incubation step using plate sealers provided or other appropriate means to minimize evaporation.
6. Avoid exposure of the plates to light during the final incubation step (following the addition of the Working TMB Solution).
7. Adhere to the recommended time constraints for the use of the Working TMB Solution (8 hours), Working Conjugate Solution (8 hours), and Wash Solution (4 weeks).
8. Avoid the formation of air bubbles in each microwell.

There are two procedures for the detection of HBsAg in serum or plasma, procedures A and B. **For the detection of HBsAg in cadaveric serum specimens, only procedure A can be used.** The two procedures for the detection of HBsAg are described below:

Procedure	Specimen incubation	Conjugate incubation	Color development
A	Dry heat, 36-38°C, static incubation, 60 min.	Dry heat, 36-38°C, static incubation, 60 min.	15 to 30°C; 30 min. in the dark.
B	Shaker incubation, 36-38°C, 60 min.	Shaker incubation, 36-38°C, 60 min.	15 to 30°C; 30 min. in the dark.

For samples that are originally tested on either procedure A or B, any repeat testing or confirmation must be tested using the same procedure.

EIA Procedure A and B

1. Perform equipment maintenance and calibration, where necessary, as required by the manufacturer.
2. **Bring all of the reagents, except Conjugate Concentrate, to room temperature before beginning the assay procedure.**
3. Prepare working concentrations of Wash Solution, Conjugate Solution, and TMB Solution. Mix gently, by inversion. **Be sure**

that Conjugate Solution is completely mixed. Mix again just before use.

4. Remove strips not needed for the assay and replace them with labeled Null Strips, if necessary.
5. Microwell strips not needed for the assay may be returned to the plate pouch and sealed, and then used at a later time. Strips from different plates can only be mixed to assemble full or partial plates if they are from the same plate lot and have come from plates that have previously been tested with kit controls and yielded valid runs. When assembling a plate that contains strips from a newly opened, previously untested plate, one of these strips should be placed at the beginning of the plate and tested with the kit controls.
6. If sample identity is not maintained by an automatic procedure, identify the individual wells for each specimen or control on a data sheet.
7. **Add 100 μ l of the controls or specimens to the appropriate wells** of the microwell plate. Two Positive Controls, two Low Positive Controls, and three Negative Controls should be assayed on each plate or partial plate of specimens.
8. Cover the microwell plate with a plate sealer or use other means to minimize evaporation.

Procedure A: Incubate the plate for 60 to 65 minutes at $37\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ using a dry-heat static incubator.

Procedure B: Incubate the plate for 60 to 65 minutes at $37\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ using a shaker incubator.

9. At the end of the incubation period, carefully remove the plate cover and aspirate the fluid from each well into a biohazard container. **Wash the microwell plate or strip a minimum of five times** with the Wash Solution (at least $400\ \mu\text{l}/\text{well}/\text{wash}$), or as otherwise validated. **Soak for 30 to 60 seconds between each wash.** Aspirate the Wash Solution after each wash. After the last wash, if excess liquid remains, blot the inverted plate on clean, absorbent paper towels.

NOTE: Grasp the plate holder firmly at the center of the long sides before inverting to blot.

10. **Add 100 μ l of Working Conjugate Solution to each well** containing a specimen or control.
11. Cover the microwell plate with a plate sealer or use other means to minimize evaporation. Incubate the plate for 60 to 65 minutes at $37\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ using either a dry-heat static incubator or shaker incubator as was utilized in Step 8.
12. At the end of the incubation period, carefully remove the plate cover and aspirate the fluid in each well into a biohazard container. **Wash the plates a minimum of five times** with Wash Solution (at least $400\ \mu\text{l}/\text{well}/\text{wash}$), or as otherwise validated. **Soak for 30 to 60 seconds between each wash.** Aspirate the Wash Solution after each wash. After the last wash, if excess liquid remains, blot the inverted plate on a clean, absorbent paper towel. NOTE: Grasp the plate holder firmly at the center of the long sides before inverting to blot.
13. **Add 100 μ l of the Working TMB Solution to each well containing a specimen or control.** Cover the microwell plate with a fresh plate sealer or use other means to minimize evaporation. **Incubate plates in the dark for 30 to 33 minutes at room temperature ($15\text{-}30^{\circ}\text{C}$).** (For example, cover the plates with black plastic or place in a drawer.)
14. Carefully remove the plate cover and **add 100 μ l of Stopping Solution to each well** to terminate the reaction. **Tap the plate gently, or use other means to ensure complete mixing. Complete mixing is required for acceptable results.**
15. **Read absorbance within 30 minutes** after adding the Stopping Solution, using the 450 nm filter with 615 nm to 630 nm as the reference. (Blank on air.) Ensure that all strips have been pressed firmly into place before reading.

Decontamination

Dispose of all specimens and materials used to perform the test as though they contain an infectious agent. Disposal should comply with all applicable waste disposal requirements.

10 -QUALITY CONTROL

Determine the mean absorbance for the Negative Controls, Positive Controls and Low Positive Controls by dividing the summation of the values by the number of acceptable controls. One Negative Control may be discarded if it is outside of the acceptable validation range. No Positive Controls may be discarded.

Mean Absorbance of the Negative Controls (NCX)

Determine the NCX as shown in the example below:

Negative Control

<u>Sample Number</u>	<u>Absorbance</u>	<u>Total Absorbance</u>	=	$\frac{0.099}{3}$	= 0.033 (NCX)
1	0.032	3		3	
2	0.034				
3	<u>0.033</u>				
	0.099				

The individual absorbance values of the Negative Controls must be greater than 0.000 AU and less than or equal to 0.100 AU. One Negative Control absorbance value may be discarded if it is outside this range. The NCX may be calculated from the two remaining absorbance values.

Mean Absorbance of the Positive Controls (PCX)

Determine the PCX as shown in the example below:

Positive Control

<u>Sample Number</u>	<u>Absorbance</u>	<u>Total Absorbance</u>	=	$\frac{3.440}{2}$	= 1.720 (PCX)
1	1.683	2		2	
2	<u>1.757</u>				
	3.440				

The PCX must be greater than or equal to 1.000 AU, and each Positive Control absorbance value must be within the range of 0.65 to 1.35 times the PCX. No Positive Control absorbance value may be discarded.

Both Positive Control absorbance values above are within the range of 0.65 to 1.35 times the PCX as shown by the calculation below.

$$0.65 \times \text{PCX} = 0.65 \times 1.720 = 1.118$$

$$1.35 \times \text{PCX} = 1.35 \times 1.720 = 2.322$$

Therefore, the acceptable range is 1.118 to 2.322.

Mean Absorbance of the Low Positive Controls (LPCX)

Determine the LPCX as shown in the example below:

Low Positive Control

<u>Sample Number</u>	<u>Absorbance</u>	<u>Total Absorbance</u>	=	<u>0.762</u>	=	0.381 (LPCX)
1	0.360	2		2		
2	<u>0.402</u>					
	0.762					

The LPCX must be positive (i.e. greater than or equal to the assay cutoff value).

Cutoff Value

Determine the cutoff value by adding the NCX to 0.070 as shown in the example below:

$$\text{NCX} = 0.033$$

$$\text{Cutoff Value} = 0.033 + 0.070 = 0.103$$

Validation

A run is valid if the following criteria are met:

- The absorbance values of the Negative Controls are greater than 0.000 AU and less than or equal to 0.100 AU. One Negative Control value may be discarded. If two or more Negative Controls are out of limit, the run must be repeated.
- The average of the absorbance values of the Positive Control must be greater than or equal to 1.000 and the individual absorbance values must be within range of 0.65 to 1.35 times the PCX. No Positive Control values may be discarded.
- The average absorbance of the Low Positive Controls must be positive (\geq assay cutoff). No Low Positive Control absorbance values may be discarded.

11 - INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The presence or absence of HBsAg is determined by relating the absorbance value of the specimen to the cutoff values. The cutoff value is determined by addition of 0.070 to the mean absorbance value of the Negative Controls (NCX). An example of values obtained from an assay run and the interpretation are as follows:

Example:

Negative Control OD values	0.032 0.034 0.033	Individual Negative Control OD Values Negative Control mean	 Valid 0.033
Positive Control OD values	1.683 1.757	Positive Control mean	1.720 Valid
Low Positive Control OD value	0.360 0.402	Low Positive Control mean	0.381 Valid
Cutoff Value = 0.033 + 0.070 =	0.103		
Patient OD values	1.910 0.295 0.011 0.726 0.100	Interpretation	Reactive Reactive Nonreactive Reactive Nonreactive

Specimens with absorbance values that are < 0.000 must be repeated. Those with values greater than the upper linearity limits of the reader should be reported as reactive.

Specimens with absorbance values less than the cutoff value are considered non-reactive by the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 and may be considered negative for HBsAg. Further testing is not required.

Specimens with absorbance values greater than or equal to the cutoff value are considered initially reactive by the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0. Initially reactive specimens should be retested in duplicate to validate the initial test results. If, after repeat testing, the absorbance values of both duplicate specimens are less than the cutoff value, the original specimen may be considered non-repeatedly reactive and negative for HBsAg. Reasons for non-repeatedly reactive specimens include:

- improper washing of microwell plates

- cross-contamination of non-reactive specimens with HBsAg from a high titered specimen
- contamination of the TMB Reagent solution by oxidizing agents (sodium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide, etc.)
- contamination of the Stopping Reagent

If, after repeat testing, the absorbance value of either of the duplicates is greater than or equal to the cutoff value, the specimen must be considered repeatedly reactive. If a confirmation is performed, repeatedly reactive specimens must be confirmed by the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg Confirmatory Assay 3.0, a licensed neutralization procedure utilizing human anti-HBs. The specimen can be considered positive for HBsAg only if the HBsAg can be neutralized by the confirmatory procedure.

12 -LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

1. The Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 Procedure and the Interpretation of Results must be followed when testing serum or plasma specimens for the presence of HBsAg. The user of this kit is advised to read the package insert carefully prior to conducting the test. In particular, the test procedure must be carefully followed for sample and reagent pipetting, plate washing and timing of the incubation steps.
2. A designation of reactive for HBsAg must not be based on a single reactive test result. Additional testing, such as confirmatory testing, is required to establish the specificity of any specimen reactive by the screening procedure.
3. False positive results can be expected with a kit of this nature. The proportion of reactives that are false will depend on the sensitivity and specificity of the test kit and upon the prevalence of hepatitis B virus in the population being screened.
4. False negative results can occur if the quantity of marker present in the sample is too low for the detection limits of the assay, or if the marker which is detected is not present during the stage of disease in which a sample is collected.

5. Failure to add specimen or reagent as instructed in the procedure could result in a falsely negative test. Repeat testing should be considered where there is clinical suspicion of infection or procedural error.
6. An absorbance value of less than 0.000 AU may indicate a procedural or instrument error which should be evaluated. That result is invalid and that specimen must be re-run.
7. Factors that can affect the validity of results include failure to add the specimen to the well, inadequate washing of micro-plate wells, failure to follow stated incubation times and temperatures, addition of wrong reagents to wells, the presence of metals, or splashing of bleach into wells.

13 -PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF SERUM AND PLASMA TESTING

Reproducibility

Intra-assay and inter-assay reproducibility of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA were assessed for Procedure A (static mode) and Procedure B (shaker mode) using a nine member precision panel. Each member of the precision panel was tested four times on five different days on each of three lots of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg at six sites. The mean, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation of the absorbance values are shown in Table 1A (Procedure A) and Table 1B (Procedure B) below:

Table 1A: Reproducibility of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA Procedure A (Static)

Intra-assay Reproducibility					Inter-assay Reproducibility				
Panel Member	N	Mean OD	SD ¹	%CV	Panel Member	N	Mean OD	SD ²	%CV
1	360	1.305	0.092	7.0%	1	360	1.305	0.142	10.9%
2	360	0.390	0.033	8.5%	2	360	0.390	0.050	12.8%
3	360	0.217	0.015	6.9%	3	360	0.217	0.026	12.0%
4	359*	0.125	0.013	10.4%	4	359*	0.125	0.018	14.4%
5	360	1.606	0.069	4.3%	5	360	1.606	0.148	9.2%
6	360	0.612	0.041	6.7%	6	360	0.612	0.066	10.8%
7	359*	0.323	0.022	6.8%	7	359*	0.323	0.035	10.8%
8	360	0.165	0.012	7.3%	8	360	0.165	0.018	10.9%
9	358*	0.030	0.006	20.0%	9	358*	0.030	0.010	33.3%

Table 1B: Reproducibility of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA Procedure B (Shaker)

Intra-assay Reproducibility					Inter-assay Reproducibility				
Panel Member	N	Mean OD	SD ¹	%CV	Panel Member	N	Mean OD	SD ²	%CV
1	359*	1.901	0.082	4.3%	1	359*	1.901	0.191	10.0%
2	360	0.783	0.057	7.3%	2	360	0.783	0.089	11.4%
3	359*	0.453	0.026	5.7%	3	359*	0.453	0.051	11.3%
4	360	0.255	0.018	7.1%	4	360	0.255	0.029	11.4%
5	360	2.069	0.061	2.9%	5	360	2.069	0.202	9.8%
6	360	1.109	0.059	5.3%	6	360	1.109	0.101	9.1%
7	360	0.645	0.037	5.7%	7	360	0.645	0.060	9.3%
8	360	0.330	0.022	6.7%	8	360	0.330	0.032	9.7%
9	355*	0.033	0.006	18.2%	9	355*	0.033	0.008	24.2%

*Outliers not included in statistical calculations.

¹NCCLS Vol. 12 No.4, p.32, Eq 11. ²NCCLS Vol. 12 No.4, p.33, Eq's 12 and 13.

Specificity

Reactivity in Random Donor Populations

In clinical investigations performed at five blood centers and a plasmapheresis center, 19,319 specimens from random blood donors were tested for HBsAg. The proportions of these specimens found initially and repeatedly reactive by Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA for both Procedure A (static mode) and Procedure B (shaker mode) are shown in Table 2. The presence of HBsAg in repeatedly reactive specimens was confirmed by neutralization with human anti-HBs using the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg Confirmatory Assay.

Table 2: Detection of HBsAg in Serum from Blood Donors

Group	Total Tested	Procedure A (Static)			Procedure B (Shaker)			Confirmed Positive
		Non-Reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	Non-Reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	
Random Donors, Site A	2000	1993 (99.65%)	7 (0.35%)	2 (0.10%)	1991 (99.55%)	9 (0.45%)	2 (0.10%)	0
Random Donors, Site B	2000	1980 (99.00%)	20 (1.00%)	17 (0.85%)	1996 (99.80%)	4 (0.20%)	3 (0.15%)	0
Random Donors, Site E	4369	ND*	ND*	ND*	4353 (99.63%)	16 (0.37%)	3 (0.07%)	0
Random Donors, Site F	6914	ND*	ND*	ND*	6848 (99.05%)	66 (0.95%)	9 (0.13%)	0
Total Serum Donors	15,283	3973 (99.33%)	27 (0.67%)	19 (0.47%)	15,188 (99.38%)	95 (0.62%)	17 (0.11%)	0 (0.00%)

ND* = Not Done

Detection of HBsAg in Plasma from Blood Donors

Group	Total Tested	Procedure A (Static)			Procedure B (Shaker)			Confirmed Positive
		Non-Reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	Non-Reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	
Random Donors, Site C	1520	1504 (98.95%)	16 (1.05%)	15 (0.99%)	1498 (98.55%)	22 (1.45%)	20 (1.32%)	0
Random Donors, Site D	2516	2511 (99.80%)	5 (0.20%)	2 (0.08%)	2514 (99.92%)	2 (0.08%)	2 (0.08%)	1
Total Plasma Donors	4036	4015 (99.48%)	21 (0.52%)	17 (0.42%)	4012 (99.41%)	24 (0.59%)	22 (0.55%)	1 (0.02%)

Detection of HBsAg in Serum and Plasma from Blood Donors

Group	Total Tested	Procedure A (Static)			Procedure B (Shaker)			Confirmed Positive
		Non-Reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	Non-Reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	
Total Serum and Plasma Donors	19,319	7988 (99.40%)	48 (0.60%)	36 (0.45%)	19,200 (99.38%)	119 (0.62%)	39 (0.20%)	1 (0.01%)

Specificity of the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA was estimated from the results of screening tests in random U.S. blood and plasma donors. Specificity was estimated by the following formula:

$$\frac{(\# \text{ normal donor specimens} - \# \text{ repeatedly reactive specimens})}{(\# \text{ normal donor specimens} - \text{repeatedly reactive specimens confirmed positive for HBsAg})} \times 100$$

A total of 8036 donor specimens were tested with procedure A and 19,319 donor specimens were tested with procedure B of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA; 36 of these specimens were repeatedly reactive by procedure A; 39 specimens were repeatedly reactive by procedure B; one (1) specimen was confirmed to be positive for HBsAg with procedures A and B. Thus the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA has an estimated specificity of 99.55% (95%; binomial confidence interval¹¹ = (0.9940, 0.9970)) for procedure A; and of 99.80% (95%; binomial confidence interval¹¹ = (0.9973, 0.9987)) for procedure B.

Random blood donors tested with the Ortho Summit™ System

Additional specificity studies have been performed with the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 on the Ortho Summit™ System. A total of 24,244 normal donors (including a combination of serum and plasma specimens) were tested at 3 U.S. blood centers. A total of 42 samples were repeat reactive and either negative (9), non-neutralized (30), or QNS (3) for confirmatory testing. An

additional sample was initially reactive and QNS for further testing. Therefore, the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 had an estimated specificity in this study of $\geq 99.82\%$ (24,244 - 43/ 24,244; 95% confidence interval: 99.77-99.88).

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 was determined in three different product lots by testing dilutions of purified antigens (ad and ay) in human serum. In Table 3, the mean absorbance to cutoff ratio for each antigen concentration (ng/ml) is presented for each incubation procedure (static and shaker) for each of the lots. The antigen concentrations are expressed as both ng/ml (calibrated against Boston Biomedics, Inc. panel PHA805) and PEI units/ml (calibrated against the Paul Ehrlich Institute Standard).

Table 3: Detection of Purified HBsAg ad and ay subtypes

HBsAg Subtype	ng/ml	PEI units/ml	Procedure A (Static)			Procedure B (Shaker)		
			Mean Absorbance/cutoff			Mean Absorbance/cutoff		
			Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3	Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3
ad-01	2.5	0.31	17.95	15.87	13.86	25.61	25.24	22.20
ad-02	1.5	0.17	10.44	9.51	8.38	18.20	17.71	15.95
ad-03	1.0	0.10	7.30	6.48	5.71	13.61	12.96	11.47
ad-04	0.8	0.09	6.32	5.57	5.04	11.90	11.52	10.35
ad-05	0.6	0.07	4.80	4.29	3.81	9.55	9.14	8.11
ad-06	0.5	0.06	4.02	3.78	3.29	8.46	7.88	7.07
ad-07	0.4	0.05	3.42	3.08	2.77	6.69	6.48	5.77
ad-08	0.3	0.03	2.73	2.46	2.29	5.48	5.20	4.55
ad-09	0.2	0.02	1.95	1.91	1.58	4.12	3.63	3.43
ad-10	0.1	0.01	1.10	1.05	1.00	2.19	2.01	1.90
ay-01	2.4	0.21	14.35	13.23	10.95	23.45	22.01	19.79
ay-02	1.3	0.11	9.08	7.75	6.73	17.14	15.98	13.80
ay-03	0.9	0.07	6.22	5.56	4.65	12.58	11.70	10.18
ay-04	0.8	0.06	5.36	4.70	4.04	11.17	10.23	8.72
ay-05	0.6	0.05	4.06	3.58	3.10	8.76	8.03	6.81
ay-06	0.5	0.04	3.76	3.35	2.90	8.18	7.37	6.22
ay-07	0.4	0.03	2.97	2.86	2.38	6.80	6.35	5.47
ay-08	0.3	0.03	2.48	2.28	1.91	5.49	4.95	4.36
ay-09	0.2	0.02	1.80	1.66	1.46	3.89	3.64	3.18
ay-10	0.1	0.01	1.05	0.97	0.92	2.18	2.03	1.72
Negative	0.0	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.46	0.43	0.43	0.44

Reactivity in Patients Diagnosed with Hepatitis B

One hundred (100) specimens from individuals diagnosed with acute hepatitis were tested with procedures A and B of the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA. Of the 100 specimens, 94 were reactive with a licensed HBsAg EIA, all 94 specimens were reactive with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA, procedure B; 93 specimens were reactive with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA, procedure A.

Of 106 specimens from individuals diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B, all were reactive with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA, procedures A and B, and in 100% agreement with a licensed HBsAg EIA.

Of 25 anti-Delta positive specimens, all were reactive with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA, procedures A and B, and in 100% agreement with a licensed HBsAg EIA.

Reactivity in Seroconversion Panels

The sensitivity of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0, procedures A and B, was assessed in 20 seroconversion panels purchased from Boston Biomedical, Inc. (West Bridgewater, MA) and 1 seroconversion panel purchased from Serologicals, Inc. (Clarkston, GA). The number of the bleed at which HBsAg was detected ($S/CO \geq 1.0$) by the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0, procedures A and B, is compared to other licensed HBsAg assays (as recorded in the certificates of analysis) in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 Reactivity in HBsAg Seroconversion Panels

Panel I.D.#	Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0		HBsAg EIA #1 (overnight)	HBsAg EIA #2
	Static	Shaker		
902	7*	7*	9	9
903	3	2*	5	5
904	2	1*	3	3
905	1*	1*	1*	1*
906	2*	2*	2*	3
907	6	5*	6	6
908	6	4*	7	7
909	4	3*	4	5
910	3*	3*	3*	4
911	20*	20*	21	22
912	7	6*	8	8
914	2*	2*	5	5
915	1*	1*	9	11
917	2*	2*	3	3
918	2*	2*	3	3
919	5	4*	6	7
920	3*	3*	3*	3*
924	3	2*	3	4
931	5	3*	NT	7
932	10	8*	NT	10
40565L	2	1	3	NT

*Earliest detection

As can be seen from Table 4, the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 detected the presence of HBsAg as early as, or earlier than, the licensed HBsAg assays in all 21 seroconversion panels using Procedure A (static) and Procedure B (shaker). The shaker procedure detected 11 panels earlier than the static procedure.

Sensitivity testing with the Ortho Summit™ System

Additional sensitivity studies have been completed with the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA 3.0 on the Ortho Summit™ System, and demonstrate equivalent performance with Bio-Rad manual equipment.

14 - PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF CADAVERIC SPECIMEN TESTING

Reproducibility

Inter-assay reproducibility of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA was assessed for Procedure A (static mode) using twenty post-mortem sera and twenty normal donor sera, spiked with HBsAg positive serum to give reactivity near the cutoff. Each of the samples was tested once on six different days on each of three lots of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA at one site. For inter-assay reproducibility over all lots, percent coefficient of variation (%CV) ranged from 6.3% to 11.8% for the spiked post-mortem samples and from 5.9% to 12.6% for the spiked normal donor samples.

Specificity

In a clinical investigation at one site, sixty-three post-mortem samples and sixty-three normal donor samples were tested concurrently with procedure A (static mode) of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA. The mean signal to cutoff (S/CO) ratio for 63 post-mortem samples was 0.347 and the mean S/CO ratio for the 63 normal donors was 0.185. The presence of HBsAg in repeatedly reactive specimens was confirmed by neutralization with human anti-HBs using procedure A (static mode) of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg Confirmatory Assay. Results are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Reactivity with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA Procedure A

Population	Number Tested	Nonreactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	Confirmed Positive
Post-mortem	63	62 (98.41%)	1 (1.59%)	1 (1.59%)	0 (0.0%)
Normal Donor	63	63 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	NA	NA

NA = Not Applicable

Specificity of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA (Procedure A) was estimated by the following formula:

$$\frac{(\# \text{ specimens} - \# \text{ repeatedly reactive specimens})}{(\# \text{ specimens} - \# \text{ repeatedly reactive specimens confirmed positive for HBsAg})} \times 100$$

A total of sixty-three post-mortem specimens were tested with procedure A of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA; one (1.59%) of these specimens was repeatedly reactive but did not confirm positive for

HBsAg. Thus, the Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA (Procedure A) has an estimated specificity of 98.4% [95%; binomial confidence interval¹¹ = (94.39%, 100%)] for post-mortem specimens.

Sensitivity

Sixty-six post-mortem samples and sixty-six normal donor samples were pre-screened for HBsAg and antibody to HBsAg and found to be nonreactive. Each sample was divided into two portions. One portion of each post-mortem and normal donor sample was spiked at a potency near cutoff with a positive serum containing HBsAg ad/ay and the remaining portion was left unspiked. The sixty-six spiked and unspiked post-mortem samples were tested concurrently with sixty-six spiked and unspiked normal donor specimens on the same run of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA (Procedure A). Spiked specimens were expected to be reactive and therefore were not retested in duplicate. The presence of HBsAg in initially reactive specimens was confirmed by neutralization with human anti-HBs using procedure A (static mode) of Genetic Systems™ HBsAg Confirmatory Assay. Results are presented in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Reactivity with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA Procedure A

Population	Number Tested	Non-reactive	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive	Confirmed Positive
Spiked Post-mortem	66	0 (0.00%)	66 (100.0%)	NT	66 (100.0%)
Unspiked Post-mortem	66	65 (98.5%)	1 (1.5%)	QNS	0 (0.0%)
Spiked Normal Donor	66	0 (0.00%)	66 (100.0%)	NT	66 (100.0%)
Unspiked Normal Donor	66	66 (100.0%)	0 (0.00%)	NA	NA

NT = Not Tested
NA = Not Applicable
QNS = Quantity Not Sufficient

As can be seen in Table 6, of sixty-six post-mortem samples and sixty-six normal donor samples, spiked at a potency near cutoff and tested concurrently, all (100.00%) were reactive with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg EIA (Procedure A) and all confirmed positive with Genetic Systems™ HBsAg Confirmatory Assay (Procedure A).

Furthermore, according to the Student's t - test, there is no significant statistical difference between the spiked post-mortem mean optical density signal and that of the spiked normal donor mean optical density signal (two sample assuming unequal variances). These results demonstrate that the detection of HBsAg in post-mortem samples is comparable to the detection in normal donors.

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