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Supplemental Testing of HCV Screening ELISA Positive Samples

- The question of a confirmatory test for anti-HCV has been an issue for several months. The circular argument of a confirmatory approach utilizing the same antigen as the screening test has been brought to everybody's attention.



Nevertheless, Ortho and Chiron are pursuing feasibility studies of a RIBA (Recombinant Immunoblot Assay) for HCV. The current evaluations are centered around three antigens: HCV antigen produced in yeast, HCV antigen produced in *E. coli*, and SOD produced in yeast. SOD (superoxide dismutase) is used as a fusion protein to facilitate an easier expression of the HCV antigen and can lead to some very rare cases of nonspecific reactivity.

Ortho and Chiron will provide information about the value of such an approach for the clarification of HCV positive samples as soon as available.



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