

# Reactivity patterns and infection status of serum samples with indeterminate Western immunoblot tests for antibody to human immunodeficiency virus type 1

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Serum samples with indeterminate Western blot (WB) tests from 61 individuals whose sera were positive by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) were studied in order to characterize their putative reactions with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) proteins and to resolve the HIV infection status of these individuals. The reaction observed by WB could not be confirmed either by radioimmunoprecipitation assay and subsequent electrophoresis (RIPA) or by use of LiaTek (Organon Teknika, Turnhout, The Netherlands) in 28% of the samples. Of the 86 samples that were indeterminate by WB, 66 reacted with p24 by WB; this reaction was confirmed by RIPA in only 21 (32%) and by LiaTek in 49 (74%) of the 66 samples. On the other hand, none of the indeterminate samples that reacted with HIV envelope proteins by WB did so by LiaTek, while 50% precipitated at least some of these proteins in the RIPA. The sensitivities of the three methods for detecting the antibody reaction with the different HIV