

Pre S1 antigen in different forms of hepatitis B virus infection Antígeno Pre S1 en diferentes formas de infección con el virus de la hepatitis B.

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Pre S1 antigen was measured using an ELISA technique in patients with different forms of hepatitis B virus infection. It was detected in 10 of 19 patients with acute hepatitis B (53%), 12 of 15 chronic hepatitis B virus carriers (80%), 9 of 11 patients with chronic hepatitis B (82%) and 3 of 4 patients with hepatoma and positive markers of hepatitis B virus infection. Pre S1 remained positive beyond 150 days in two patients with acute hepatitis that evolved to chronicity. Among subjects with chronic hepatitis B that received interferon, pre S1 antigen negativized only in the patient that had a complete response. Pre S1 detection is an index of hepatitis B virus replication and its persistence determines chronicity. Its negativization after antiviral therapy should have a predictive value.