

A new substrate for the detection of antimitochondrial antibodies in human serum Un nuevo sustrato para la detección de anticuerpos antimitocondriales en suero humano.

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This work describes a new method to detect antimitochondrial antibodies using indirect immunofluorescence on mouse sperm as substrate. As controls conventional substrates and mitochondrial protein immunoblots were used. An intense fluorescent reaction was visualized in the mitochondrial sheet of mouse sperms allowing a straightforward diagnosis of positive sera. Sera coming from 10 patients with progressive systemic sclerosis, 12 patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and 17 patients with primary biliary cirrhosis were tested with this method, confirming results obtained with conventional tests that use indirect immunofluorescence and rat frozen kidney slices as substrate. The new method is simpler, more accurate and has a lower margin of error.