

Interpretation of the Hepatitis B Panel

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Tests	Results	Interpretation
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative negative negative negative	susceptible
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive positive	immune due to natural infection
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative negative positive	immune due to hepatitis B vaccination
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	positive positive positive negative	acutely infected ⁵
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	positive positive negative negative	chronically infected
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive negative	four interpretations possible *
<p>* 1. May be recovering from acute HBV infection. 2. May be distantly immune and test not sensitive enough to detect very low level of anti-HBs in serum. 3. May be susceptible with a false positive anti-HBc. 4. May be undetectable level of HBsAg present in the serum and the person is actually a carrier. 5. May be chronically infected and continue to be IgM anti-HBc positive (footnote added by NM).</p>		

From: Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, STD and TB Prevention.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/b/bserology.htm>