sensitive Nigrosin stain may be used (Nigrosin 5 mg in 100 ml 2% acetic acid). When the bands are completely stained (the sheet is best kept in the staining bath overnight) a quick rinse in tap water is quite sufficient.

If the serum to be tested contains antigen a sharp precipitation band is visible toward the anode; if it contains antibody a band shows up towards the cathode.

The advantages of crossover electrophoresis on Cellogel are:

1. With one electrophoretic run about 30 samples can be thoroughly examined after an hour and a half. This makes the technique particularly suitable for rapid checking of blood donors' sera.

2. The technique is more sensitive than the micro-Ouchterlony-Elek double-diffusion method. This is because all the reactants in the samples move towards each other. Under these conditions it was possible to detect a precipitation band after staining with Nigrosin by applying 3 μl of a sample containing serum hepatitis antigen diluted up to 1:30.

3. The precipitation band is clearly visible leaving no doubt in interpretation (Fig.).

Compared with crossover electrophoresis in agar gel, our technique, which is easily handled, allows us to test more samples in a shorter time using smaller quantities of reagent. Cellogel staining is fairly simple and a permanent record of the results is obtained after clearing.

Dr B. S. Blumberg kindly supplied the reference antiserum.

References


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