

was found that the amount of direct-reacting bilirubin was significantly reduced in the presence of even small amounts of haemoglobin. Failure to recognize this fact could lead to a serious under-estimation of the proportion of conjugated bilirubin in the serum.

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Commonly, these organisms are identified by a battery of bacteriological tests. A lengthy series of tests delays reports and is not practical in a small laboratory. The addition of the DNase test to a select few biochemical tests as indicated here, is useful as a part of a screening procedure in distinguishing *Serratia* from closely related organisms. The use of this test might eliminate *Serratia* organisms from subsequent biochemical and serological investigations. Its helpfulness lies in its convenience, and in its ability to demonstrate hydrolytic activity after a short period of time (18 to 24 hours). It is believed that the DNase test is of distinct value as a routine aid in enteric bacteriology.

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