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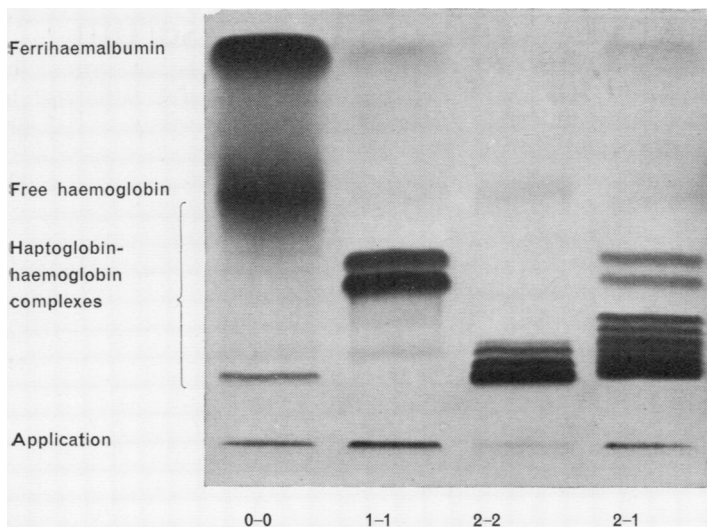


Fig. 2 Serum haptoglobin phenotype patterns. Eight mg Hb% was added to each sample before electrophoresis on acrylamide gel. Phenotypes (left to right) 1-1 (unsaturated), 2-2, and 2-1. The fast moving band in each instance corresponds to the position of ferrihaemalbumin. The intermediate band is free haemoglobin.

This method is very suitable for routine analysis of sera samples in a clinical laboratory setting and can be used as an alternative method to disc electrophoresis (Davis, 1964) for research purposes (Hawiger, Niewiarowski, Gurewich, and Thomas, 1970). This technique has been found to be more sensitive than starch gel for typing haptoglobin phenotypes in the presence of profound hypohaptoglobinaemia (Nandi, Lewis, Jick, Slone, Shapiro, and Siskind, 1970).

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We are grateful to Ortho Diagnostics for supplying Sickledex.

We are indebted to Dr N. E. G. Richardson for referring the case mentioned in the text.

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A report form for the serial display of laboratory results in small hospitals

C. P. MAYERS *From the International Grenfell Association, St Anthony, Newfoundland*

Serial display of the laboratory results in the patient's case notes makes it possible for the clinical staff to assimilate the data at a glance. The many advantages of cumulative report forms were described in this journal in the report of the Working Party of the Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP Report, 1968). Cumulative report forms can be produced in larger hospitals by computer-based systems (eg, College of American Pathologists, 1965) or by photographic reproduction (eg, Whitby and Owen, 1965), but these systems are too expensive for use in small hospitals.

This paper describes a cheap laboratory report form designed for use in small hospitals to produce a cumulative report in the patient's case notes. The design is similar to the report forms used in larger laboratories (ACP Report, 1968) but this report form takes advantage of the smaller range of investigations performed in small hospitals to display the laboratory information in the correct time sequence on a single page of the case notes.

The Report Form

The report form measures $8\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches (210×79 mm) and fits the $11 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inch (280×216 mm) page used for patients' case notes in this hospital. This width utilizes the full width of the page for the display of laboratory data. It would require alteration for use in some hospitals where different page sizes are used, such as the 10×8 inch size (254×203 mm) or the $11\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inch size (299×210 mm) recommended in two recent reports (Ministry of Health, 1965; Scottish Health Services Council, 1967). The form is a 'no-carbon-required' combined request and report form. It consists of two sheets of paper with identical printing, glued together by a thin strip along the top margin. The top sheet can be torn off along the line of perforations $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) below the top edge. Just below the line of perforations, the top copy has a strip of transfer tape across the back, which peels off to expose an adhesive surface which is used to stick the form onto the mount page in the case notes. Subsequent forms are added in shingle fashion, from below upwards on the mount page.

The paper is coloured to identify the various kinds of laboratory report forms. As recommended in the Scottish Health Services Council report (1967), bacteriology is blue, chemical

Notice

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The volume entitled 'The Pathology of Trauma' which contains papers delivered at the symposium organized by the Royal College of Pathologists in the spring of this year will be shortly available. The price is £2.00, and there is a concessionary price of 35s. (£1.75) for all members of the Royal College, members of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, and regular subscribers to the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. (Both of these prices include postage for orders received before 30 January 1971). Please send orders to the Publishing Manager, *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.