Effect of sodium azide on EIA (Corzyme)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sera tested with</th>
<th>Corab (RIA)</th>
<th>Corzyme (EIA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sodium azide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
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Quality assurance and medical audit in histopathology

In the Bulletin of the Royal College of Pathologists,1 there is a report under this heading that “Council has given consideration to the means for encouraging quality assurance and medical audit in histopathology. It recommends that histopathologists should form ‘slide-clubs’ at which material of interest and importance or should form ‘slide-clubs’ to pathologists to be studied.

Confusion of terms “birefringence” and “optical activity”

There is a tendency for authors of histopathological studies to use the term “birefringence” when “optical activity” is intended. The first term means double refraction or having two refractive indices, which is shown by passing a beam of light through a crystalline solid and observing that the beam is split into two rays. Optical activity is a different property which applies to some solids and liquids and indicates that a beam of polarised light is rotated when passing through them. This is the phenomenon studied in tissue sections when examining for foreign bodies, crystals, amyloid etc.

The apparent confusion between these two properties of matter possibly arises because each of the two rays issuing from a birefringent crystal—for example, a Nicta prism—consist of polarised light and may be used as a source of such light.

Letters to the Editor

References


Bibliography