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CORRESPONDENCE

REF.: THE BIOLOGICAL MEANING OF ANTI-HBc POSITIVE RESULT IN BLOOD DONORS: RELATION TO HBV-DNA AND TO OTHER SEROLOGICAL MARKERS

São Paulo, December 2, 2003

Dear Editor,

In the original article “**The biological meaning of anti-HBc positive result in blood donors: relation to HBV-DNA and to other serological markers**” published in May-June 2003², the authors stated that “a recent study shows a high prevalence of anti-HBc (16%) in blood donors” and referred our paper (ALMEIDA NETO *et al.*, 2001)¹. Actually, we have not studied the prevalence of this marker in blood donors. We did find 16% of false-positive results after retesting 112 isolated anti-HBc seropositive blood donors.

Thanks for your attention,

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REFERENCES

1. ALMEIDA NETO, C.; STRAUSS, E.; SABINO, E.C.; SUCUPIRA, M.C.A. & CHAMONE, D.A.F. - Significance of isolated hepatitis B core antibody in blood donors from São Paulo. **Rev. Inst. Med. trop. S. Paulo**, **43**: 203-208, 2001.
2. ARRAES, L.C.; XIMENES, R.; ANDRIEU, J.-M. *et al.* - The biological meaning of anti-HBc positive result in blood donors: relation to HBV-DNA and to other serological markers. **Rev. Inst. Med. trop. S. Paulo**, **45**: 137-140, 2003.