

# News... Cerba

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## Cerba training calendar...

### We would like to remind you of the next CERBA training days:

#### "SCIENTIFIC" THEMATIC DAYS

Ref. JTS02      Cancer Research Day 2010, March 30<sup>th</sup>

This event will take place in the CERBA Laboratory amphitheatre at Saint-Ouen L'Aumône (95).

#### "QUALITY ASSURANCE" THEMATIC DAYS

"Support for the 15189 Accreditation"

Ref. JTAQ02      Module 1 on 2010, March 16<sup>th</sup>  
Module 2 on 2010, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Both of these events will take place in Lyon at the NOVOTEL Lyon Bron.

Some places are still available, so we invite you to return your registrations to us as soon as possible. All the relevant practical information and details to register are available on our website:

**[www.lab-cerba.com](http://www.lab-cerba.com) (page: Continuous training)**

## New developments...

### **IgG class C1q autoantibodies: Marker of Lupus renal complications ...**

Anti-C1q antibodies are common in patients with lupus (30 to 50%) and are found in 50 to 100% of patients with lupus glomerulonephritis, the most serious complication of lupus.

This renal specificity makes the anti-C1q antibody a more specific marker than the anti-double-stranded-DNA (ds DNA) antibody level for the monitoring of lupus renal complications. Recent studies have in fact shown that the elevation of anti-C1q antibodies occurs earlier than that of anti-ds DNA antibodies during renal damage relapse, and there is an obvious relationship between the level of antibodies and the extent of the damage.

Conversely, the anti-C1q antibodies present a good negative predictive value: patients without anti-C1q antibodies do not develop renal complications.

## WEB NEWS

### WEB NEWS

**Available at [lab-cerba.com](http://lab-cerba.com):**

● **News page: the latest legislation, as published in the French Official Gazette:**

- Ordinance no. 2010-49 of 13 January 2010 relative to biology (published in the Official Gazette of 15 January 2010).

- Changes to nomenclature of medical biological procedures applicable since 19 January 2010 (published in the Official Gazette of 19 December 2009)

● **Page: Continuous training**

- 2010 Cerba training programme  
- Registration form  
- Practical information (sites, addresses, directions, etc.)

● **Page: Quality assurance**

- Cerba Quality Manual to download  
- Accreditation certificate and qualification  
- Various certificates (confidentiality, serum banks, archived results)

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Thus, besides the level of anti-ds DNA and complement C3 and C4 fractions, for monitoring the progression of lupus, the determination of anti-C1q antibodies is useful for the diagnosis of renal damage and for monitoring the therapeutic response.

In addition to lupus, it is noteworthy that anti-C1q antibodies can be found in other autoimmune diseases (hypocomplementemic urticarial vasculitis/MacDuffie syndrome, Felty's syndrome, Sjögren's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis), renal diseases (membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis) and sometimes in elderly subjects.

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**- IN PRACTICE -**

- Sample: 1 ml of serum or EDTA plasma
- Assay method: EIA
- Storage: refrigerated
- Run frequency: 5/week
- Technical turnaround time: 1 day

Reminders ... Reminders ... Reminders ... Reminders ... Reminders ...

**IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY** .....

As part of the good practices for performing immunohaematology examinations, we would like to remind you that the labelling of patient tubes must display:

- the complete birth name if there is a married name
- first name(s)
- sex
- date of birth
- date and time of the sampling

Thank you for taking these recommendations into consideration. Otherwise, we will have to refuse the samples due to their non-conformity.

**- IN PRACTICE -**

• **Samples:**

Blood group ABO-RH1 (RhD) and phenotype RH-KEL 1 (Rh-K):

Use 5 ml of whole blood (EDTA tube or citrate tube). It is recommended that you send us a sterile (and unpipetted) sample that is less than 3 days old and has been refrigerated.

Antiglobulin testing:

Use 5 ml of whole blood and 5 ml of serum. It is recommended that you send us a sterile (and unpipetted) sample that is less than 3 days old and has been refrigerated.

Attach the request sheet created for this purpose (<http://www.lab-cerba.com/protocoles-bio.asp>).

- **Technical turnaround time for the return of the results:** 1 day

**MARKERS OF FOETAL TRISOMY 21 IN MATERNAL SERUM** .....

**Since November 2009**, the first strategy that patients are to be offered is the combined screening at the 1st trimester of pregnancy, provided that:

- the ultrasound is done between 11.0 and 13.6 weeks LMP
- the identification number of the ultrasound technician is indicated on the prescription or the ultrasound report
- measurements of nuchal translucency and crown-rump length are noted.

**If these 3 conditions are fulfilled**, the patient can receive this screening at the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester and have the sample taken as soon as possible (see sampling calendar on our website).

**Without information concerning the ultrasound**, the strategy of maternal serum markers is performed at the 2nd trimester.

All the documents and information may be downloaded from our website:

[www.lab-cerba.com](http://www.lab-cerba.com) (page: analyses information / sampling requirements)