

Factors Known to Cause False Positive HIV Antibody Test Results

1. Anti-carbohydrate antibodies
2. Naturally-occurring antibodies
3. Passive immunization: receipt of gamma globulin or immune globulin (as prophylaxis against infection which contains antibodies)
4. Leprosy
5. Tuberculosis
6. Mycobacterium avium
7. Systemic lupus erythematosus
8. Renal (kidney) failure
9. Hemodialysis/renal failure
10. Alpha interferon therapy in hemodialysis patients
11. Flu
12. Flu vaccination
13. Herpes simplex I
14. Herpes simplex II
15. Upper respiratory tract infection
16. Recent viral infection or exposure to viral vaccines
17. Pregnancy in multiparous women
18. Malaria
19. High levels of circulating immune complexes
20. Hypergammaglobulinemia (high levels of antibodies)
21. False positives on other tests, including RPR (rapid plasma reagent) test für syphilis
22. Rheumatoid arthritis
23. Hepatitis B vaccination
24. Tetanus vaccination
25. Organ transplantation
26. Renal transplantation
27. Anti-lymphocyte antibodies
28. Anti-collagen antibodies (found in gay men, haemophiliacs, Africans of both sexes and people with leprosy)
29. Serum-positive for rheumatoid factor, antinuclear antibody (both found in rheumatoid arthritis and other autoantibodies)
30. Autoimmune diseases: Systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, connective tissue disease, dermatomyositis
31. Acute viral infections, DNA viral infections

32. Malignant neoplasms (cancers)
33. Alcoholic hepatitis/alcoholic liver disease
34. Primary sclerosing cholangitis
35. Hepatitis
36. "Sticky" blood (in Africans)
37. Antibodies with a high affinity for polystyrene (used in the test kits) Blood transfusions, multiple blood transfusions
38. Multiple myeloma
39. HLA antibodies (to Class I and class II leukocyte antigens)
40. Anti-smooth muscle antibody
41. Anti-parietal cell antibody
42. Anti-hepatitis A IgM (antibody)
43. Anti-Hbc IgM
44. Administration of human immunoglobulin preparations pooled before 1985
45. Haemophilia
46. Haematologic malignant disorders/lymphoma
47. Primary biliary cirrhosis
48. Stevens-Johnson syndrome
49. Q-fever with associated hepatitis
50. Heat-treated specimens
51. Lipemic serum (blood with high levels of fat or lipids)
52. Haemolyzed serum (blood where haemoglobin is separated from the red cells)
53. Hyperbilirubinemia
54. Globulins produced during polyclonal gammopathies (which are seen in AIDS risk groups)
55. Healthy individuals as a result of poorly-understood cross-reactions
56. Normal human ribonucleoproteins
57. Other retroviruses
58. Anti-mitochondrial antibodies
59. Anti-nuclear antibodies
60. Anti-microsomal antibodies
61. T-cell leukocyte antigen antibodies
62. Proteins on the filter paper
63. Epstein-Barr virus
64. Visceral leishmaniasis
65. Receptive anal sex

Christine Johnson: "Whose Antibodies Are They Anyway?" (Sept./Oct..1996, Continuum Magazine, London)