

HASSL, A. and H. ASPÖCK (Abt. f. Med. Parasitol., Hyg.-Inst. d. Univ., Kinderspitalgasse 15, A-1095 Wien). Significance of Detection of Circulating Antigen in Infections with *Toxoplasma gondii*

Circulating *Toxoplasma* antigen (cag) has repeatedly been demonstrated in the blood of persons infected with *Toxoplasma gondii* and has generally been considered as being indicative for an active phase of an infection, ARAUJO and REMINGTON (1), van KNAPEN and PANGGABEAN (5). We have tested more than 120 sera of pregnant women with a suspected primary, fresh infection and 272 sera and liquors of patients with a HIV-infection for antigenemia. In the sera of the pregnant women "cag" was regularly found together with high IgG and IgM titers thus indicating an active event, but not the very first phase of the infection, HASSL et al. (4). These findings coincide very well with results of an experimental study in which an antigenemia in intermediate hosts was detected 5 to 8 weeks p.i., HASSL et al. (3). In patients with AIDS and with a *Toxoplasma* infection there was a good correlation between the appearance of "cag" and clinical findings, HASSL and ASPÖCK (2). Thus, the detection of "cag" has particularly proven useful as a diagnostic tool in cases where antibody titrations fail to uncover a *Toxoplasma* infection.

Keywords: *Toxoplasma gondii*, Circulating antigen, Pregnancy surveillance, AIDS-patients

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