Toxoplasmosis: IgG Avidity and Its Implication in Serodiagnosis

Veeranoot Nissapatorn¹ and Nongyao Sawangjareon²

¹University of Malaya,
²Prince of Songkla University
¹Malaysia,
²Thailand

1. Introduction

*Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*) is a ubiquitous, coccidian intracellular protozoan parasite that causes toxoplasmosis, a cosmopolitan zoonosis. *Toxoplasma* infections are reported in approximately one-third of the world’s population but most are asymptomatic. The infections are mainly acquired through consumption of raw or uncooked meat containing viable tissue cysts or by contamination with highly resistant oocysts in foods, soil and water. In the symptomatic condition, toxoplasmosis occurs congenitally through transplacental transmission from a primarily infected mother during pregnancy that leads to intrauterine death, spontaneous abortion or severe congenital defects such as retinochoroiditis, hydrocephalus or mental retardation (Wong & Remington, 1994; Tenter et al, 2000; Sukthana, 2006). Toxoplasmosis is also a serious and life-threatening disease found in immunocompromised patients such as in organ transplant recipients (Aubert et al, 1996), patients with cancer (Herold et al, 2009) or AIDS (Nissapatorn et al, 2004).

The laboratory diagnosis of toxoplasmosis can be done in many ways including serology, the isolation of *T. gondii* after inoculation into experimental animals, histological examination, and molecular analysis (Fleck & Kwantes, 1980; Meganathan et al, 2010). Of these, serological tests to determine specific antibodies such as IgG, IgM, IgE or IgA are currently the first-line methods of diagnosis to differentiate recent or chronic infections with *T. gondii* (Sensini, 2006). Diagnosis of symptomatic toxoplasmosis is not straightforward due primarily to the clinical manifestations being varied and it can mimic other diseases (Santoni & Santoni-Williams, 1993; Hurt & Tammaro, 2007). Traditionally, the diagnosis of recently acquired toxoplasmosis has been detected either by demonstrating a specific immunoglobulin (Ig) M antibodies, a significant increase in specific IgG antibodies, or both. Due to the high IgG antibodies titres to *T. gondii* infections among the majority of immunocompetents (Remington & Desmonts, 1990) and the persistence of specific IgM antibodies in some individuals this has led to complications in the interpretation of serodiagnostic results even when toxoplasmosis was clinically suspected (Brooks et al, 1987; Bobic et al, 1991; Bertozzi et al, 1999). Moreover, a primary acquired *Toxoplasma* infection during pregnancy and the risk of congenital toxoplasmosis is a medical (clinical and diagnostic) challenge for the clinicians dealing with this tropical and infectious parasitic
disease. Therefore, a sensitive and specific method is mandatory for the management of patients with a high probability of being infected by *T. gondii* (Kotresha & Noordin, 2010). In recent years, a number of new methods including new serodiagnostic tools have been developed towards improving the ability to diagnose recently acquired *Toxoplasma* infections during pregnancy in order to limit congenital infections (CI) in the fetus and newborn (Remington et al, 2004). From this point of view, this chapter is aiming to highlight the significant contributions of recently developed serological methods such as the IgG avidity test and serodiagnosis using various recombinant proteins and its implications for the management, including diagnosis and treatment, of toxoplasmosis, particularly in pregnant women or HIV-infected patients among the so called “high risk” population.

2. Recombinant proteins in serodiagnosis of toxoplasmosis

Currently, antigens used for commercial serological assays for the detection of specific anti-*Toxoplasma* antibodies are mainly based on whole tachyzoite lysates. However, the major disadvantage of this kind of antigen is its inconsistent quality due to contamination by extraparasitic components during the processing of preparations that result in interassay variability (Aubert et al, 2000). The use of recombinant antigens cloned in suitable expression vectors has been proven to improve consistency of the tests and to reduce the costs of production (Hisczczyska-Sawicka et al, 2003). However, because of its complex life cycle, a number of proteins produced at different stages of the parasite life cycle can play different roles in stimulating host immune responses during the infectious process. Furthermore, a precise distinction between acute and latent invasion may be difficult since IgM antibodies, a specific marker for early infection, could be present in sera for many years (Meek et al, 2001). Therefore, certain antigens that are specific to the acute or chronic stages of the infection that produce specific IgG antibodies could serve as a mean to distinguish the recent from a chronic infection.

Tachyzoites, the rapidly multiplying stage of the parasite, is considered to be responsible for active toxoplasmosis. In contrast, bradyzoites, a dormant stage that persists within cysts and is thought to evade the immune response by their absence of expression of immunodominant antigens throughout a prolonged infection (Smith et al, 1996). Several studies have shown that the main targets for antibody production during the acute and chronic phase of *Toxoplasma* infection are the surface antigens (SAG) present in the tachyzoite membrane (Mineo et al, 1980) and their usefulness as antigens has been shown. Secretory proteins: micronemes (MIC), rhoptries (ROP) and dense granules (GRA) released from three distinct tachyzoite parasite organelles during invasion are other potential diagnostic antigens of interest as markers of acute infection. ROP and MIC released during the cell invasion, and GRA that is discharged from parasitophorous vacuoles after invasion, and continues during the intracellular residence of the organism (Carruthers & Sibley, 1997).

The usefulness of several recombinant antigens of *T. gondii* that have been produced and extensively evaluated for their potential use as diagnostic antigens in ELISA to detect specific IgG antibodies during the early phase of infection, allows for differentiation of an acute from a chronic infection. Furthermore, if only a single serum sample is available, an IgG avidity test using recombinant antigens is seen to be more appropriate for detecting a recently acquired infection. The sensitivity and specificity for these antigens have been reported to be in the range of 80% to 100%. These antigens have included:
2.1 Rhoptries antigens (ROP)

Rhoptries are unique secretory organelles shared by all Apicomplexan invasive stages. More than 30 ROPs of \textit{T. gondii} have been identified (Bradley et al, 2005). They are exocytosed upon host cell invasion and their contents are involved in many functions fundamental for the parasite to enter into host cells, and for the establishment and maintenance of the parasitophorous vacuole membrane and acquisition of nutrients (Dubremetz, 2007). The use of recombinant ROP antigens (rROP) has been largely described as the antigenic substrate to use in ELISA tests to detect infection with \textit{T. gondii} (vanGelder et al, 1993; Aubert et al, 2000; Chang et al, 2011). rROP1 has shown its diagnostic value in IgG ELISA avidity tests for identification of acute infections (Holec-Gąsior et al, 2009, 2010a). There is data regarding the potential use of rROP2 for the diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis that have focused on IgG reactivities (Martin et al, 1998; Chang et al, 2011). In a mouse model, IgM antibody against rROP4 was significantly higher than IgG antibodies with a peak of detection coming on the turn of the acute to a latent infection (Gatkowska et al, 2010).

2.2 Microneme proteins (MIC)

MICs are proteins involved in recognition and/or binding to the host cell (Soldati et al, 2001). At least 12 MICs have been identified from \textit{T. gondii} (Carruthers & Tomley, 2008). However, little is known whether rMIC can be used as an antigen. rMIC1 has thus far been the only protein shown to be highly reactive against sera of patients with acute toxoplasmosis (Holec et al, 2008).

2.3 Dense granule antigens (GRA)

Among identified GRA antigens, at least 12 out of 14 GRA antigens have been detected from \textit{T. gondii} tachyzoites as excretory/secretory antigens (Nam, 2009). They are believed to be involved in parasite survival and virulence (Michelin et al, 2009; Rome et al, 2008). GRA1 is the major secretory antigen recognized in humans chronically infected with \textit{Toxoplasma}. GRA2 has been shown to induce strong antibody and T-cell responses in both humans and experimental mice (Sharma et al, 1984; Brinkmann et al, 1993; Murray et al, 1993; Prigione et al, 2000). While, GRA6 and GRA7 are also shown strong antibody responses in the acute phase of \textit{Toxoplasma} infection (Gatkowska et al, 2006). GRA7 was found in the parasitophorous vacuole and cytoplasm of the host cell infected with the tachyzoite stage (Jacobs et al, 1998). As a consequence, GRA7 is only released after the rupture of infected cells in the acute stage of infection and it is only then that it is exposed to the hosts’ immune system. Therefore, detection of GRA7 antibodies would be expected to be a good candidate to use for serodiagnosis. Several rGRA antigens such as rGRA2 (Golkar et al, 2007; Holec-Gąsior et al, 2009), rGRA6 (Aubert et al, 2000; Golkar et al, 2007), rGRA7 (Aubert et al, 2000; Piekiewicz et al, 2004; Pfrepper et al, 2005; Pietkiewicz et al, 2007), and rGRA8 (Pfrepper et al, 2005; Gatkowska et al, 2006; Babaie et al, 2009) have been proposed as markers to indicate acute infections. rGRA4 and rGRA7, but not rROP2, have been shown to be valuable in differentiating acute and chronically infected individuals for both adult and congenital toxoplasmosis (Nigro et al, 2003; Altcheh et al, 2006). In contrast, rGRA1 was reported to be a marker for chronic infections (Ferrandiz et al, 2004; Piekiewicz et al, 2004).
2.4 Surface antigens (SAG)

Five major SAG antigens specific to the tachyzoite stage have been identified (Couvreur et al., 1988). Of these, the SAG1, SAG2, and SAG3 antigens are the main proteins expressed on the surface of tachyzoites. They are involved in the process of host cell invasion after infection (Mineo & Kasper, 1994; Grimwood & Smith, 1996), and are highly immunogenic for IgG responses. SAG1 and SAG3 are stage-specific antigens of the tachyzoites and are highly conserved in most isolates (Gross et al., 1996; Wu et al., 2009). In contrast, SAG2 has been identified from both bradyzoites and tachyzoites (Lekutis et al., 2000). SAG4 is another surface protein that is specifically expressed by bradyzoites (Knoll & Boothroyd, 1998).

rSAG1 successfully detected IgG antibodies in the acute phase of infection (Pietkiewicz et al., 2004), but the highest response to rSAG1 was found during latent infections (Gatkowska et al., 2010). Some studies did show that rSAG2 was effective in specifically detecting IgG antibody to T. gondii in patients with acute toxoplasmosis (Parmley et al., 1992). However, more recent studies showed that rSAG2 was produced in acute and chronic infections (Lau & Fong, 2008), whereas rSAG2A was present only during the acute phase of toxoplasmosis (Bela et al., 2008).

2.5 Combinations of recombinant antigens

A cocktail of recombinant antigens help to improve the serological diagnosis of clinical toxoplasmosis. A combination of rGRA1 and rGRA6 has shown promising results when being preliminary tested (Lecordier, 2000). While, the triple combination of SAG1, ROP1 and GRA7 have also been successfully tested in a preliminary format (Aubert, 2000). Different combinations of recombinant antigens that have been evaluated and successfully increase the sensitivity of serodiagnosis from chronic toxoplasmosis are summarized in Table 1.

| References                | Combinations of recombinant antigens                                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aubert et al, 2000        | rSAG1, rROP1, and rGRA7                                                   |
|                           | rGRA7, rGRA8, and rSAG1                                                   |
| Li et al, 2000            | rGRA7, rGRA8, rSAG2, and rH4                                              |
| Nigro et al, 2003         | rROP2 and rGRA7                                                           |
| Pietkiewicz et al, 2004   | rSAG1, rGRA1, and rGRA7                                                   |
| Holec et al, 2008         | rGRA1, rGRA7, and rSAG1                                                   |
|                           | rGRA8, rSAG2, and rGRA6                                                   |
|                           | rMic1ex2, rMAG1, and rMIC3                                                 |
| Cóceres et al, 2010       | rHSP20, rSAG1, and rGRA7                                                   |
|                           | rHSP20 and rSAG1                                                          |
|                           | rHSP20 and rGRA7                                                          |
|                           | rSAG1 and rGRA7                                                           |
| Holec-Gąsior & Kur, 2010  | rMAG1, rSAG1, and rGRA5                                                   |
|                           | rGRA2, rSAG1, and rGRA5                                                   |
|                           | rROP1, rSAG1, and rGRA5                                                   |
| Holec-Gąsior et al, 2010b | rMAG1 + rSAG1 + rGRA7                                                     |

Table 1. Selected combination of recombinant antigens that increase the sensitivity of serodiagnosis of chronic toxoplasmosis.
Furthermore, the multiple combinations of recombinant antigens P22, P25, P29, and P35 has confirmed that a cocktail of antigens might be helpful to differentiate between acute and chronic infections when tested against specific IgG antibodies in human samples (Li, 2000). Based on these results, it clearly shows that the combination of recombinant antigens is mandatory in the attempt to distinguish between acute and chronic Toxoplasma infections. Nonetheless, the combination of GRA1 and GRA6 for distinguishing between acute and chronic infections was unsuccessful found in pregnant women (Ferrandiz et al., 2004). The combinations of recombinant antigens that could be used to distinguish between acute and chronic infections are summarized in Table 2.

| References                  | Combinations of recombinant antigens               |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Li et al, 2000              | rGRA8, rSAG2, rGRA2, and rGRA7                     |
| Beghetto et al, 2003        | rGRA3, rGRA7, rMIC3, and rSAG1                     |
| Pietkiewicz et al, 2007     | rGRA1, rGRA7 and rSAG1                            |

Table 2. Selected combination of recombinant antigens that use to distinguish between acute and chronic infections.

3. IgG-avidity: A real-time serodiagnosis for Toxoplasma infection

It seems that a conventional single serum assay does not provide an accurate diagnosis in differentiating between a recently acquired primary infection and a chronic infection (Lappalainen & Hedman, 2004). The IgG-avidity test is an assay that measures the antigen-binding avidity/affinity of IgG antibodies against T. gondii infection and was first introduced to try to eliminate this problem (Hedman et al, 1989). This avidity test has significantly lessened the possibility of misdiagnosis, by assisting in determining a difference between a recently acquired (primary/acute) and a chronic (latent/past/remote) infection. This has greatly decreased the requirement for a confirmatory (a single or the first sample) or follow-up serological tests, to remove any doubts or anxiety for further testings (Cozon et al, 1998; Liesenfeld et al, 2001; Montoya et al, 2002; Remington et al, 2004; Press et al, 2005; Reis et al, 2006; Candolfi et al, 2007; Nissapatorn et al, 2011). Hence, the measurement of IgG-avidity has proved to be a highly sensitive method, used to assess the early time of antigenic challenge and it is especially recommended for use in combination with other existing conventional serological assays (Lappalainen & Hedman, 2004; Nissapatorn et al, 2011). The IgG avidity test has so far been the best serological approach that can offer a rapid diagnosis of a recently acquired Toxoplasma infection in a single serum sample. Until now the IgG-avidity test has been tested and used in several different clinical scenarios: a recently acquired Toxoplasma infection, primary acquired infection during pregnancy, congenital toxoplasmosis, ocular toxoplasmosis (OT), and in immunocompromised individuals such as cancer patients, solid organ transplant recipients or persons living with HIV/AIDS.

3.1 Acute (recently) acquired Toxoplasma infection

Approximately, one-third of the world’s populations are infected with T. gondii. However, the majority of these are either mild with non-specific clinical symptoms or asymptomatic. Lymphadenopathy is significantly present in only 3-7% of clinical cases but is the most common form in immunocompetent individuals (Gard & Magnusson, 1951; McCabe et al, 1987). The clinical features show localized, nontender and nonsuppurative lymphadenopathy.
as a result of *Toxoplasma* infection. Of note, lymphadenopathy may persist for months and may mimic clinically or histologically with neoplastic diseases such as lymphoma or carcinoma of the head, neck and breast (Lappalainen & Hedman, 2004). The diagnosis of toxoplasmic lymphadenopathy is based on serology and lymphnode biopsy.

Serological techniques have traditionally been used but shown some limitations in evaluating the timing of *Toxoplasma* infections. The IgG avidity test has since been introduced for differentiation between recently acquired and past infections in the course of toxoplasmic lymphadenopathy. The duration of low avidity values in patients with lymphadenopathy is not well defined. Lecolier and Pucheu observed patients whose sera had a low IgG avidity for as long as 20 weeks after the acquisition of infection (Lecolier & Pucheu, 1993). A low IgG avidity occurs during < 3 months of lymphadenopathy (Holliman et al, 1994). In the present study, low IgG avidity values were still observed 5 months after the first serological examination in 6 of 19 patients (31.6%) with lymphadenopathy (Paul, 1999). Whereas, a high IgG avidity test resulted from an individual who had a recent onset of lymphadenopathy of at least 4 months (Montoya et al, 2004). Therefore, a high IgG avidity value strongly excludes a recent infection, that is, one that was acquired during the previous 5 months, but a low avidity is not a safe marker for an early stage of infection (Paul, 1999).

### 3.2 Primary acquired *Toxoplasma* infection during pregnancy

Based on epidemiological data, the prevalent rate of *Toxoplasma* infection in pregnant women is generally high in many geographical locations and plausible risk factors play an important role in *Toxoplasma* acquisition found among these women. However, the rate of acute (recent) acquired *Toxoplasma* infection is unexpectedly low in pregnant women. The gestational stages of pregnancy are determined by the impacts of vertical transmission from the infected mother to the fetus; primary *Toxoplasma* infection in early trimester of pregnancy may result in severe clinical disease, in contrast, congenital toxoplasmosis as a result of maternal infection during third trimester of pregnancy is usually subclinical at birth (Desmonts, 1979). The clinical symptoms of acute toxoplasmosis during pregnancy are usually subclinical or associated with non-specific symptoms. Therefore, the diagnosis is mainly based on serological responses of pregnant women. Serological results are however difficult to interpret and that has contributed to the most challenging situation during pregnancy.

In clinical practice, simultaneous testing for specific IgG and IgM antibodies against *T. gondii* in serial serum samples collected at an interval of 3 weeks is the early step in routine screening for *Toxoplasma* infection. Of note, the presence of specific IgG and/or IgM antibodies against *T. gondii* in a single serum sample drawn during pregnancy cannot be used to determine if the infection was chronic or recently acquired. Therefore, successive tests and the definitive diagnosis are required as a result of this initial screening. Factors such as the trimester of infection and maternal-neonatal therapeutic treatments are the main contributing factors to the variation of immunological responses of both mother and neonate (Sensini, 2006). Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial during pregnancy, as the women then require immediate therapeutic options. In addition, IgG and IgM antibodies against *T. gondii* are the first-line serological diagnosis for the detection of recent or chronic infections. A seropositive woman for only IgG antibodies, is unlikely to have recently acquired
Toxoplasmosis: IgG Avidity and Its Implication in Serodiagnosis

Toxoplasmosis due to the level of specific *Toxoplasma*-IgG antibodies which is an unreliable indicator for acute infection (Robert et al, 2001). Following an acute *Toxoplasma* infection in the mother, the evidence for a rapidly transmitted infection to the fetus has been observed. Hence, early diagnosis of an acute infection during pregnancy is crucial to determine whether treatment of the infected mother can prevent vertical transmission to the fetus.

The measurement of IgG avidity has been developed to avoid using confirmatory tests from a second serum sample for the possibility of a recently acquired infection obtained from the initial serodiagnostic test. A specific positive IgG test with a low avidity has been used to confirm a recent primary acquired *Toxoplasma* infection by using a single serum indicator (Joyncson et al, 1990; Lappalainen et al, 1993; Holliman et al, 1994; Jenum et al, 1997; Liesenfeld et al, 2001; Roberts et al, 2001; Abdel Hameed & Helmy, 2004; Press et al, 2005; Reis et al, 2006; Nissapatorn et al, 2011). Due to it being a safe and useful tool for screening for high sensitivity, an IgG-avidity test is able to verify that the majority of pregnant women who presented with *Toxoplasma* IgM antibodies did not have a recently acquired infection (Lappalainen et al, 1993; Nissapatorn et al, 2011). IgG-avidity is therefore recommended to serve as the primary tool for an IgG assay and a sensitive IgM test (Lappalainen & Hedman, 2004; Olariu et al, 2006). Moreover, the IgG-avidity test can be used as a subsequent measurement to confirm the IgM diagnosis, as shown in suspected cases of acute recent toxoplasmosis in immunocompetent patients (Table 3).

### Table 3. Laboratory diagnosis in different clinical scenarios of toxoplasmosis.

| Clinical scenarios                                      | Diagnostic tests                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Immunocompetents**                                   |                                                                                  |
| Acute infection (primary acquired infection)            | *Toxoplasma*-IgG and *Toxoplasma*-IgM antibodies, followed by the measurement of IgG-avidity test (if *Toxoplasma*-IgM positive) |
| Immunity (latent/chronic/past infection)               | *Toxoplasma*-IgG antibodies                                                      |
| Ocular toxoplasmosis (acute retinochoroiditis)          | *Toxoplasma*-IgG and *Toxoplasma*-IgM antibodies for the detection of past exposure; seldom useful to show acute infection. |
| Congenital toxoplasmosis (maternal-fetal infection)     | Serology for *Toxoplasma*-IgG, -IgM and -IgA antibodies of the newborn and the mother. *Toxoplasma*-PCR (and culture, if available) from clinical specimens such as blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). |
| **Immunosuppressed patients** (cancer patients, organs transplant or HIV-infected patients) | *Toxoplasma*-IgG and *Toxoplasma*-IgM antibodies for the detection of past exposure; a second sample is needed to show reactivation. *Toxoplasma*-PCR (and culture, if available) to detect ongoing active infection using blood and CSF specimens. |

When a primary acquired infection in a pregnant mother is diagnosed either by seroconversion for IgG or being seropositive for IgM antibodies followed by a low IgG-avidity, the infected mother should be referred immediately for medical assessment to an obstetrician who should include further tests including molecular analysis using an amniotic fluid sample to determine any fetal infection (Hohlfeld et al, 1994; Jenum et al,
| References | Sero-pattern | Interpretation | Comments |
|------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| Montoya & Liesenfeld, 2004 National committee for clinical laboratory standard, 2004 Remington et al, 2004 Nissapatorn et al, 2011 | IgG+IgM+ Mother | (a) Past or recently acquired infection | • Risk for congenital infection (CI)  
• Take gestation period into account. Serological tests for specific *Toxoplasma*-IgA and -IgE antibodies and IgG-avidity |
| | | (b) False-positive | • No risk for CI  
• Serological tests for specific *Toxoplasma*-IgA and -IgE antibodies and IgG-avidity |
| Sharma et al, 1983 Partanen et al, 1984 Villena et al, 1999 Gross et al, 2000 Pinon et al, 2001 Remington et al, 2001 Montoya, 2002 Flori et al, 2004 Nielsen et al, 2005 | IgG+IgM+ Newborn | (a) Maternal antibodies | • No risk for CI  
• Collect 2nd serum sample 10 days after birth to confirm contaminating maternal specific *Toxoplasma*-IgM antibodies. Test in parallel maternal and neonatal specific *Toxoplasma*-IgG antibodies by Western blotting (WB) or ELISA. Serological follow-up for 1 year to confirm seronegativity for specific *Toxoplasma*-IgG antibodies.  
• Check for stable IgG-avidity index. |
| | | (b) Maternal and neonatal antibodies | • CI after maternal infection in the third trimester (IgA+) or in the last month (IgA-) of pregnancy  
• Collect 2nd serum sample 10 days after birth in parallel maternal and neonatal specific IgG antibodies by WB or ELISA. Serological follow-up for 1 year to demonstrate the persistence of specific *Toxoplasma*-IgG antibodies.  
• Check for increased IgG-avidity index. |

Table 4. The measurement of IgG avidity test for toxoplasmosis in pregnant woman and newborn.
The combination of a sensitive test for *Toxoplasma*-specific IgM antibodies and the measurement of IgG avidity had shown the highest predictive value in association with the possible time of infection (Petersen et al., 2005; Press et al., 2005). When a high IgG-avidity result was found in women within their first trimester of pregnancies, it provided a strong indicator against primary infection. As there is a low risk of congenital toxoplasmosis there is no intervention necessarily required. In general, IgG-avidity has been used to confirm past or recently acquired infection or false-positive results in pregnant women who showed seropositive for IgG and IgM antibodies (Table 4) and this has been recommended by several authors (Montoya & Liesenfeld, 2004; National committee for clinical laboratory standard, 2004; Remington et al., 2004).

### 3.3 Congenital toxoplasmosis

Toxoplasmosis has historically been recognized as one of the most important pathogens causing congenital infection (CI) and it has also been comprised in “TORCHs” infections. Transplacental (vertical, congenital, materno-fetal) transmission of *T. gondii* can be a serious complication as a result of primary acquired infection during pregnancy. Of note, most infected children are asymptomatic at birth but they can manifest problems during later decades of life associated with ocular (acute retinochoroiditis) and neurological involvements (hydrocephalus).

Postnatal diagnosis is a complex process due to the presence of passive maternal IgG antibodies or the variability of perinatal IgM antibody findings (Desmonts et al., 1985; Daffos et al., 1988). Moreover, the level of specific IgA and IgM antibodies may not be able to be detected in all children with CI. Hence, a combination of specific IgA and IgM antibodies is the recommended approach for serological measurements in affected children (Naessens et al., 1999). In addition, determination of IgG-avidity and/or serological detection of specific IgG could serve as an alternative option for the diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis (Said et al., 2011). Combined with serological tests, the role of PCR in detecting *T. gondii* organism in amniotic fluid sample has been found to be more promising in terms of sensitivity and specificity during antenatal testing compared to postnatal diagnosis (Hohlfeld et al., 1994; Jenum et al., 1998; Yamada et al., 2011).

IgG avidity is generally not tested in the neonate due primarily to its having a similar pattern to the infected mother. However, a previous study has demonstrated that a significant maturation of IgG avidity was shown in congenitally infected children during postnatal follow-up (Lappalainen et al., 1995). In contrast, long-term therapy with pyrimethamine-sulphonamide, as opposed to treatment with spiramycin alone, was found to slow the progression of the avidity index (Flori et al., 2004). An IgG-avidity result in the first month of the postnatal period usually represents a combination of both mother and the newborn’s own IgG antibodies and that depends on several contributing factors such as the sampling time, the IgG-titre and avidity of the mother as well as the newborn (Lappalainen & Hedman, 2004). In the absence of materno-fetal transmission, the avidity index remains stable until the disappearance of passively transmitted specific antibodies from the infected mothers (Sensini, 2006). It is of interest that there is a delay of maturation of IgG-avidity in congenital toxoplasmosis that can be demonstrated by performing the test on antibodies eluted from dried blood spots (Guthrie cards) to detect, at birth, a maternal primary infection acquired during the second or third trimester of pregnancy and to evaluate retrospectively the risk for high suspicion of CI during late infancy (Buffolano et al., 2004). In
general, it has been recommended that IgG-avidity should be used to confirm CI in the neonates (Table 4) being seropositive for both IgG and IgM antibodies either from maternal antibodies or both maternal and neonatal antibodies (Sharma et al, 1983; Weiss et al, 1988; Chumpitazi et al, 1995; Flori et al, 2004; Nielsen et al, 2005).

3.4 Ocular toxoplasmosis

Ocular toxoplasmosis (OT) occurs mainly in the uveal tract and it is the most common cause of posterior uveitis in immunocompetent persons. Retinochoroiditis is the most common lesion found among non-specific clinical manifestations of OT. In most cases, OT is the result of reactivated or congenital rather than from acquired Toxoplasma infections (Perkins, 1973; Ronday et al, 1995; Montoya & Remington, 1996). Clinical diagnosis of OT is based on the manifestations of characteristic biomicroscopic features (Rothova et al, 1986; de Jong, 1989; Tabbara, 1994).

Over more than three decades, many different serological tests have been introduced to detect specific IgG antibodies against *T. gondii* that can indicate chronic infections (Holliman et al, 1991). The detection of specific IgM antibodies indicates a recently acquired infection, however, it is found to have a high rate of false-positive results due to persisting IgM antibodies (Leisenfeld et al, 1997). Moreover, the absence or low levels of specific IgM antibodies in reactivated OT, cannot therefore serve as a reliable serological marker for this disease (Lappin et al, 1995; Ronday et al, 1995; Garweg et al, 1998; Klaren et al, 1998). Serological diagnosis of OT is insensitive (Rothova et al, 1986; Kijlstra et al, 1989; Holliman et al, 1991) and is of limited value (Lappalainen & Hedman, 2004). Also, the role of an IgG avidity measurement is to confirm the stage of chronic infection and to raise the suspicion of an ongoing reactivated OT (Paul, 1999; Garweg et al, 2000).

3.5 Cerebral toxoplasmosis

In contrast to the majority of immunocompetent persons, toxoplasmosis can cause serious clinical outcomes in immunocompromised individuals such as patients with AIDS or organ transplant recipients. In patients with an advanced HIV infection, toxoplasmosis is one of the most common central nervous system diseases associated with opportunistic infections that cause high rates of morbidity and mortality. Cerebral toxoplasmosis (CT) is the most common clinical disease entity and it causes focal intracerebral lesion(s) in patients with AIDS. Among AIDS patients, >95% of CT is due to the reactivation of latent (chronic) *Toxoplasma* infections as a result of the progressive loss of cellular immunity (Luft & Remington, 1988). In clinical practice, the incidence of CT patients is related both to *Toxoplasma* IgG seropositivity and to the CD4 cell count. The risk of developing CT among seropositive patients with AIDS was 27 times that of seronegative ones (Oksenhendler et al, 1994). The clinical presentations of CT depend on the number of lesions and locations. Headache, hemiparesis and seizure (Porter & Sande, 1992; Nissapatorn et al, 2004; Vidal et al, 2005) are among the most common neurological presentations found in CT patients. Other clinical manifestations include disartrhia, movement disorders, memory and cognitive impairments and neuropsychiatric abnormalities. These neurological deficits remain in surviving patients even after a good clinical response to therapy (Hoffmann et al, 2007). More than 50% of CT patients may have focal neurological findings. The empirical diagnosis is based on a low CD4 count of less than 200 cells/cumm, computer tomography scans will show ring enhancing lesions, seroevidence of specific IgG, IgM or both antibodies...
to *T. gondii*, and a good response to anti-*Toxoplasma* therapy. Specific anti-*Toxoplasma* therapy is initiated in a highly suspicious or confirmed toxoplasmosis. CT is a life-threatening but treatable condition provided there is early diagnosis and treatment.

In HIV-infected patients, serological titres are often low and that makes for disease phase definition and therapeutic decisions difficult (Spausta et al, 2003). The determination of IgG avidity is another serological marker and it has been shown to be of some help in serodiagnosis of *Toxoplasma* infection among immunocompromised individuals. So far, very few studies have used the IgG avidity test for the differentiation of primary and reactivated chronic infections in HIV-infected patients. However, there was no significant difference between the avidity values in HIV-infected patients with CT and those without clinical signs of reactivation (Holliman et al, 1994; Spausta et al, 2003; Adurthi et al, 2010). A liver transplant recipient with reactivated toxoplasmosis was first reported by performing an IgG avidity test (Lappalainen et al, 1998). This patient was seropositive for *T. gondii* with high avidity indicating a chronic infection before the first transplantation. Subsequently, serological diagnosis showed a rise in specific IgG antibodies, negative for IgM antibodies and with a constantly high IgG avidity, indicating a reactivation before the second transplantation. Serodiagnosis for *T. gondii* was negative for both donors. The presence of *T. gondii* DNA was shown by PCR in blood samples and liver biopsy prior to the death of this patient. Based on the results obtained, an avidity test for the serological status of *T. gondii* is therefore recommended if there are non-specific clinical symptoms of toxoplasmosis and it could be used for the diagnosis in differentiating recently acquired, chronic or secondary reactivation of latent toxoplasmosis in immunocompromised patients.

4. Conclusion

Estimation of the IgG avidity index is a classical serological method. Antibodies with low avidity are detectable at a very early stage of infection whereas high avidity antibodies indicate past infections. The measurement of IgG avidity has demonstrated its superior diagnostic values in serological interpretations of *Toxoplasma* infections in different clinical scenarios, particularly when timing between chronic and recently acquired infections or primary and secondary (reactivated) infections are required. The IgG avidity test represents an important addition to other first-line serological methods such as IgG, IgM and IgA specific antibodies against *T. gondii*. Above all, serological diagnosis should be performed in combination with culture based and molecular techniques to obtain the best and most accurate results.

5. Acknowledgement

The authors sincerely thank Dr. Brian Hodgson for his valuable comments and the University of Malaya Research Grant (UMRG 094/09HTM and UMRG 374/11HTM) for financial support.

6. References

Abdel Hameed, D.M. & Helmy, H. (2004). Avidity IgG: diagnosis of primary *Toxoplasma gondii* infection by indirect immunofluorescent test. *Journal of the Egyptian Society of Parasitology*, Vol. 34, No. 3, pp. 893-902, ISSN 0253-5890
Adurthi, S., Mahadevan, A., Bantwal, R., Satishchandra, P., Ramprasad, S., Sridhar, H., Shankar, S.K., Nath, A. & Jayshree, R.S. (2010). Utility of molecular and serodiagnostic tools in cerebral toxoplasmosis with and without tuberculous meningitis in AIDS patients: A study from South India. *Annals of Indian Academy of Neurology, Vol. 13, No. 4, pp. 263-270, ISSN 1998-3549*

Altcheh, J., Diaz, N.S., Pepe, C.M., Martin, V., Nigro, M., Freilij, H. & Angel, S.O. (2006). Kinetic analysis of the humoral immune response against three *Toxoplasma gondii*-recombinant proteins in infants with suspected congenital toxoplasmosis. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease, Vol. 56, No. 2, pp. 161-165, ISSN 0732-8893*

Aubert, D., Foudrinier, F., Villena, I., Pinon, J.M., Biava, M.F. & Renoul, E. (1996). PCR for diagnosis and follow-up of two cases of disseminated toxoplasmosis after kidney grafting. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 34, No. 5, pp. 1347, ISSN 0095-1137*

Aubert, D., Maine, G.T., Villena, I., Hunt, J.C., Howard, L., Sheu, M., Brojanac, S., Chovan, L.E., Nowlan, S.F. & Pinon, J.M. (2000). Recombinant antigens to detect *Toxoplasma gondii*-specific immunoglobulin G and immunoglobulin M in human sera by enzyme immunoassay. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 38, No. 3, pp. 1144-1150, ISSN 0095-1137*

Babaie, J., Zare, M., Sadeghian, G., Lorgard-Dezfuli, M., Aghighi, Z. & Golkar, M. (2009). Bacterial production of dense granule antigen GRA8 of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Iranian Biomedical Journal, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 145-151, ISSN 1028-852X*

Beghetto, E., Buffolano, W., Spadoni, A., Del Pezzo, M., Di Cristina, M., Minenkova, O., Petersen, E., Felici, F. & Gargano, N. (2003). Use of an immunoglobulin G avidity assay based on recombinant antigens for diagnosis of primary *Toxoplasma gondii* infection during pregnancy. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 41, No. 12, pp. 5414-5418, ISSN 0095-1137*

Béla, S.R., Oliveira Silva, D.A., Cunha-Junior, J.P., Pirovani, C.P., Chaves-Borges, F.A., Reis de Carvalho, F., Carrijo de Oliveira, T. & Mineo, J.R. (2008). Use of SAG2A recombinant *Toxoplasma gondii* surface antigen as a diagnostic marker for human acute toxoplasmosis: analysis of titers and avidity of IgG and IgG1 antibodies. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease, Vol. 62, No. 3, pp. 245-254, ISSN 0732-8893*

Bertozzi, L.C., Suzuki, L.A. & Rossi, C.L. (1999). Serological diagnosis of toxoplasmosis: usefulness of IgA detection and IgG avidity determination in a patient with a persistent IgM antibody response to *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Revista do Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo, Vol. 41, No. 3, pp. 175-177, ISSN 1678-9946*

Bobic, B., Sibalic, D. & Djurkovic-Djekovic, O. (1991). High levels of IgM antibodies specific for *Toxoplasma gondii* in pregnancy 12 years after primary toxoplasma infection. *Case report. Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation, Vol. 31, No. 3, pp. 182-184, ISSN 0378-7346*

Bradley, P.J., Ward, C., Cheng, S.J., Alexander, D.L., Coller, S., Coombs, G.H., Dunn, J.D., Ferguson, D.J., Sanderson, S.J., Wastling, J.M. & Boothroyd, J.C. (2005). Proteomic analysis of rhoptry organelles reveals many novel constituents for host-parasite interactions in *Toxoplasma gondii*. *The Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. 280, No. 40, pp. 34245-34258, ISSN 0021-9258*
Brinkmann, V., Remington, J.S. & Sharma, S.D. (1993). Vaccination of mice with the protective F3G3 antigen of *Toxoplasma gondii* activates CD4+ but not CD8+ T cells and induces *Toxoplasma* specific IgG antibody. *Molecular Immunology*, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 353-358, ISSN 0161-5890

Brooks, R.G., McCabe, R.E. & Remington, J.S. (1987). Role of serology in the diagnosis of toxoplasmic lymphadenopathy. *Reviews of Infectious Diseases*, Vol.9, No.5, pp. 1055-1062, ISSN 0162-0886

Buffolano, W., Lappalainen, M., Hedman, L., Ciccimarra, F., Del Pezzo, M., Rescaldani, R., Gargano, N. & Hedman, K. (2004). Delayed maturation of IgG avidity in congenital toxoplasmosis. *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 23, No. 11, pp. 825-830, ISSN 0934-9723

Candolfi, E., Pastor, R., Huber, R., Filisetti, D. & Villard, O. (2007). IgG avidity assay firms up the diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis on the first serum sample in immunocompetent pregnant women. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, Vol. 58, No. 1, pp. 83-88, ISSN 0732-8893

Carruthers, V.B. & Sibley, L.D. (1997). Sequential protein secretion from three distinct organelles of *Toxoplasma gondii* accompanies invasion of human fibroblasts. *European Journal of Cell Biology*, Vol. 73, No. 2, pp. 114-123, ISSN 0171-9335

Carruthers, V.B. & Tomley, F.M. (2008). Microneme proteins in apicomplexans. *Sub-cellular Biochemistry*, Vol. 47, pp. 33-45, ISSN 0306-0225

Chang, P.Y., Fong, M.Y., Nissapatorn, V. & Lau, Y.L. (2011). Evaluation of *Pichia pastoris*-expressed recombinant rhoptry protein 2 of *Toxoplasma gondii* for its application in diagnosis of toxoplasmosis. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, Vol. 85, No. 3, pp. 485-489, ISSN 1476-1645

Chumpitazi, B.F., Boussaid, A., Pelloux, H., Racinet, C., Bost, M. & Goullier-Fleuret, A. (1995). Diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis by immunoblotting and relationship with other methods. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 33, No. 6, pp. 1479-1485, ISSN 0099-1137

Cóceres, V.M., Becher, M.L., De Napoli, M.G., Corvi, M.M., Clemente, M. & Angel, S.O. (2010). Evaluation of the antigenic value of recombinant *Toxoplasma gondii* HSP20 to detect specific immunoglobulin G antibodies in *Toxoplasma* infected humans. *Experimental Parasitology*, Vol. 126, No. 2, pp. 263-266, ISSN 1090-2449

Couvreur, G., Sadak, A., Fortier, B. & Dubremetz, J.F. (1988). Surface antigens of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Parasitology*, Vol. 97 (Pt 1), pp. 1-10, ISSN 0031-1820

Cozon, G.J., Ferrandiz, J., Nebhi, H., Wallon, M. & Peyron, F. (1998). Estimation of the avidity of immunoglobulin G for routine diagnosis of chronic *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in pregnant women. *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 32-36, ISSN 0934-9723

Daffos, F., Forestier, F., Capella-Pavlovsky, M., Thulliez, P., Aufrant, C., Valenti, D. & Cox, W.L. (1988). Prenatal management of 746 pregnancies at risk for congenital toxoplasmosis. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 318, No. 5, pp. 271-275, ISSN 0028-4793

de Jong, P.T. (1989). Ocular toxoplasmosis; common and rare symptoms and signs. *International Ophthalmology*, Vol. 13, No. 6, pp. 391-397, ISSN 0165-5701

Desmonts, G. (1979). [*Toxoplasma, mother and child* (author's transl)]. *Revista Médica de Chile*, Vol. 107, No. 1, pp. 42-50, ISSN 0034-9887
Desmonts, G., Daffos, F., Forestier, F., Capella-Pavlovsky, M., Thulliez, P. & Chartier, M. (1985). Prenatal diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis. *Lancet*, Vol. 1, No. 8427, pp. 500-504, ISSN 0140-6736

Dubremetz, J.F. (2007). Rhoptries are major players in *Toxoplasma gondii* invasion and host cell interaction. *Cellular Microbiology*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 841-848, ISSN 1462-5814

Ferrandiz, J., Mercier, C., Wallon, M., Picot, S., Cesbron-Delauw, M.F. & Peyron, F. (2004). Limited value of assays using detection of immunoglobulin G antibodies to the two recombinant dense granule antigens, GRA1 and GRA6 Nt of *Toxoplasma gondii*, for distinguishing between acute and chronic infections in pregnant women. *Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology*, Vol. 11, No. 6, pp. 1016-1021, ISSN 1071-412X

Fleck, D.G. & Kwantes, W. (1980). *The laboratory diagnosis of toxoplasmosis*. Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph Series 13, H.M.S.O., ISBN 0118871048, London

Flori, P., Tardy, L., Natural, H., Bellete, B., Varlet, M.N., Hafid, J., Raberin, H. & Sung, R.T. (2004). Reliability of immunoglobulin G antitoxoplasma avidity test and effects of treatment on avidity indexes of infants and pregnant women. *Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology*, Vol. 11, No. 4, pp. 669-674, ISSN 1071-412X

Garweg, J.G., Jacquier, P. & Fluckiger, F. (1998). [Current limits in diagnosis of ocular toxoplasmosis]. *Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde*, Vol. 212, No. 5, pp. 330-333, ISSN 0023-2165

Garweg, J.G., Jacquier, P. & Boehnke, M. (2000). Early aqueous humor analysis in patients with human ocular toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 38, No. 3, pp. 996-1001, ISSN 0095-1137

Gatkowska, J., Hiszczynska-Sawicka, E., Kur, J., Holec, L. & Dlugonska, H. (2006). *Toxoplasma gondii*: an evaluation of diagnostic value of recombinant antigens in a murine model. *Experimental Parasitology*, Vol. 114, No. 3, pp. 220-227, ISSN 0014-4894

Gatkowska, J., Dziadek, B., Brzostek, A., Dziadek, J., Dzitko, K. & Dlugowska, H. (2010). Determination of diagnostic value of *Toxoplasma gondii* recombinant ROP2 and ROP4 antigens in mouse experimental model. *Polish Journal of Microbiology*, Vol. 59, No. 2, pp. 137-141, ISSN 1733-1331

Golkar, M., Rafati, S., Abdel-Latif, M.S., Brenier-Pinchart, M.P., Fricker-Hidalgo, H., Sima, B.K., Babaie, J., Pelloux, H., Cesbron-Delauw, M.F. & Mercier, C. (2007). The dense granule protein GRA2, a new marker for the serodiagnosis of acute *Toxoplasma* infection: comparison of sera collected in both France and Iran from pregnant women. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, Vol. 58, No. 4, pp. 419-426, ISSN 0732-8893

Golkar, M., Azadmanesh, K., Khalili, G., Khoshkolgh-Sima, B., Babaie, J., Mercier, C., Brenier-Pinchart, M.P., Fricker-Hidalgo, H., Pelloux, H. & Cesbron-Delauw, M.F. (2008). Serodiagnosis of recently acquired *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in pregnant women using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays with a recombinant dense granule GRA6 protein. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, Vol. 61, No. 1, pp. 31-39, ISSN 0732-8893
Grimwood, J. & Smith, J.E. (1996). *Toxoplasma gondii*: the role of parasite surface and secreted proteins in host cell invasion. *International Journal for Parasitology*, Vol. 26, No. 2, pp. 169-173, ISSN 0020-7519

Gross, U., Bohne, W., Soete, M. & Dubremetz, J.F. (1996). Developmental differentiation between tachyzoites and bradyzoites of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Parasitology Today*, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 30-33, ISSN 0169-4758

Gross, U., Lüder, C.G., Hendgen, V., Heeg, C., Sauer, I., Weidner, A., Krčzal, D. & Enders, G. (2000). Comparative immunoglobulin G antibody profiles between mother and child (CGMC test) for early diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 38, No. 10, pp. 3619-3622, ISSN 0095-1137

Hedman, K., Lappalainen, M., Seppääiä, I. & Mäkelä, O. (1989). Recent primary toxoplasma infection indicated by a low avidity of specific IgG. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 159, No. 4, pp. 736-740, ISSN 0022-1899

Herold, M.A., Kuhne, R., Vosberg, M., Ostheeren-Michaelis, S., Vogt, P. & Karrer, U. (2009). Disseminated toxoplasmosis in a patient with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. *Infection*, Vol. 37, No. 6, pp. 551-554, ISSN 1439-0973

Holec-Gąsior, L., Gasior, A., Brillowska-Dabrowska, A., Dabrowski, S., Pietkiewicz, H., Myjak, P. & Kur, J. (2008). *Toxoplasma gondii*: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay using different fragments of recombinant microneme protein 1 (MIC1) for detection of immunoglobulin G antibodies. *Experimental Parasitology*, Vol. 119, No. 1, pp. 1-6, ISSN 1090-2449

Holec-Gąsior, L., Kur, J. & Hiszczynska-Sawicka, E. (2009). GRA2 and ROP1 recombinant antigens as potential markers for detection of *Toxoplasma gondii*-specific immunoglobulin G antibodies in humans with acute toxoplasmosis. *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology*, Vol. 16, No. 4, pp. 510-514, ISSN 1556-679X

Holec-Gąsior, L. & Kur, J. (2010). *Toxoplasma gondii*: Recombinant GRA5 antigen for detection of immunoglobulin G antibodies using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. *Experimental Parasitology*, Vol. 124, No. 3, pp. 272-278, ISSN 1090-2449

Holec-Gąsior, L., Drapala, D., Lautenbach, D. & Kuri, J. (2009a). *Toxoplasma gondii*: usefulness of ROP1 recombinant antigen in an immunoglobulin G avidity assay for diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis in humans. *Polish Journal of Microbiology*, Vol. 59, No. 4, pp. 307-310, ISSN 1733-1331
toxoplasmosis and prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection among pigs in Poland. *Polish Journal of Veterinary Sciences*, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 457-464, ISSN 1505-1773

Holliman, R.E., Stevens, P.J., Duffy, K.T. & Johnson, J.D. (1991). Serological investigation of ocular toxoplasmosis. *The British Journal of Ophthalmology*, Vol. 75, No. 6, pp. 353-355, ISSN 0007-1161

Holliman, R.E., Raymond, R., Renton, N. & Johnson, J.D. (1994). The diagnosis of toxoplasmosis using IgG avidity. *Epidemiology and Infection*, Vol. 112, No. 2, pp. 399-408, ISSN 0950-2688

Hurt, C. & Tammaro, D. (2007). Diagnostic evaluation of mononucleosis-like illnesses. *American Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 120, No. 10, pp. e911-e918, ISSN 1555-7162

Jacobs, D., Dubremetz, J.F., Loyens, A., Bosman, F. & Saman, E. (1998). Identification and heterologous expression of a new dense granule protein (GRA7) from *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, Vol. 91, No. 2, pp. 399-408, ISSN 0166-6851

Jenum, P.A., Stray-Pedersen, B. & Gundersen, A.G. (1997). Improved diagnosis of primary *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in early pregnancy by determination of antitoxoplasma immunoglobulin G avidity. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 35, No. 8, pp. 1972-1977, ISSN 0095-1137

Jenum, P.A., Holberg-Petersen, M., Melby, K.K. & Stray-Pedersen, B. (1998). Diagnosis of congenital *Toxoplasma gondii* infection by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on amniotic fluid samples. *Acta Pathologica, Microbiologica, et Immunologica Scandinavica*, Vol. 106, No. 7, pp. 680-686, ISSN 0903-4641

Joynson, D.H., Payne, R.A. & Rawal, B.K. (1990). Potential role of IgG avidity for diagnosing toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, Vol. 43, No. 12, pp. 1032-1033, ISSN 0021-9746

Kijlstra, A., Luyendijk, L., Baarsma, G.S., Rothova, A., Schweitzer, C.M., Timmerman, Z., de Vries, J. & Breebaart, A.C. (1989). Aqueous humor analysis as a diagnostic tool in toxoplasma uveitis. *International Ophthalmology*, Vol. 13, No. 6, pp. 383-386, ISSN 0165-5701

Klaren, V.N., van Doornik, C.E., Ongkosuwito, J.V., Feron, E.J. & Kijlstra, A. (1998). Differences between intraocular and serum antibody responses in patients with ocular toxoplasmosis. *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Vol. 126, No. 5, pp. 698-706, ISSN 0002-9394

Knoll, L.J. & Boothroyd, J.C. (1998). Molecular biology’s lessons about *Toxoplasma* development: Stage-specific homologs. *Parasitology Today*, Vol. 14, No. 12, pp. 490-493, ISSN 0169-4758

Kotresha, D. & Noordin, R. (2010). Recombinant proteins in the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis. *Acta Pathologica, Microbiologica, et Immunologica Scandinavica*, Vol. 118, No. 8, pp. 529-542, ISSN 1600-0463

Lappalainen, M., Koskela, P., Koskiniemi, M., Ammala, P., Hiilesmaa, V., Teramo, K., Raivio, K.O., Remington, J.S. & Hedman, K. (1993). Toxoplasmosis acquired during pregnancy: improved serodiagnosis based on avidity of IgG. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 167, No. 3, pp. 691-697, ISSN 0022-1899

Lappalainen, M., Koskiniemi, M., Hiilesmaa, V., Ammala, P., Teramo, K., Koskela, P., Lebech, M., Raivio, K.O. & Hedman, K. (1995). Outcome of children after maternal primary *Toxoplasma* infection during pregnancy with emphasis on avidity of
specific IgG. The Study Group. The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal, Vol. 14, No. 5, pp. 354-361, ISSN 0891-3668

Lappalainen, M., Jokiranta, T.S., Halme, L., Tynninen, O., Lautenschlager, I., Hedman, K., Hockerstedt, K. & Meri, S. (1998). Disseminated toxoplasmosis after liver transplantation: case report and review. Clinical Infectious Diseases, Vol. 27, No. 5, pp. 1327-1328, ISSN 1058-4838

Lappalainen, M. & Hedman, K. (2004). Serodiagnosis of toxoplasmosis. The impact of measurement of IgG avidity. Annali dell’Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Vol. 40, No. 1, pp. 81-88, ISSN 0021-2571

Lappin, M.R., Burney, D.P., Hill, S.A. & Chavkin, M.J. (1995). Detection of Toxoplasma gondii-specific IgA in the aqueous humor of cats. American Journal of Veterinary Research, Vol. 56, No. 6, pp. 774-778, ISSN 0002-9645

Lau, Y.L. & Fong, M.Y. (2008). Toxoplasma gondii: serological characterization and immunogenicity of recombinant surface antigen 2 (SAG2) expressed in the yeast Pichia pastoris. Experimental Parasitology, Vol. 119, No. 3, pp. 373-378, ISSN 1090-2449

Lecolier, B. & Pucheu, B. (1993). [Value of the study of IgG avidity for the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis]. Pathologie-Biologie, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 155-158, ISSN 0369-8114

Lecordier, L., Fourmaux, M.P., Mercier, C., Dehecq, E., Masy, E. & Cesbron-Delauw, M.F. (2000). Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays using the recombinant dense granule antigens GRA6 and GRA1 of Toxoplasma gondii for detection of immunoglobulin G antibodies. Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology, Vol. 7, No. 4, pp. 607-611, ISSN 1071-412X

Lekutis, C., Ferguson, D.J. & Boothroyd, J.C. (2000). Toxoplasma gondii: identification of a developmentally regulated family of genes related to SAG2. Experimental Parasitology, Vol. 96, No. 2, pp. 89-96, ISSN 0014-4894

Li, S., Galvan, G., Araujo, F.G., Suzuki, Y., Remington, J.S. & Parmley, S. (2000). Serodiagnosis of recently acquired Toxoplasma gondii infection using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay with a combination of recombinant antigens. Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology, Vol. 7, No. 5, pp. 781-787, ISSN 1071-412X

Liesenfeld, O., Press, C., Montoya, J.G., Gill, R., Isaac-Renton, J.L., Hedman, K. & Remington, J.S. (1997). False-positive results in immunoglobulin M (IgM) toxoplasma antibody tests and importance of confirmatory testing: the Platelia Toxo IgM test. Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 174-178, ISSN 0095-1137

Liesenfeld, O., Montoya, J.G., Kinney, S., Press, C. & Remington, J.S. (2001). Effect of testing for IgG avidity in the diagnosis of Toxoplasma gondii infection in pregnant women: experience in a US reference laboratory. The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Vol. 183, No. 8, pp. 1248-1253, ISSN 0022-1899

Luft, B.J. & Remington, J.S. (1988). AIDS commentary. Toxoplasmic encephalitis. The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Vol. 157, No. 1, pp. 1-6, ISSN 0022-1899

Martin, V., Arcavi, M., Santillan, G., Amendoeira, M.R., De Souza Neves, E., Griemberg, G., Guarnera, E., Garberi, J.C. & Angel, S.O. (1998). Detection of human Toxoplasma-specific immunoglobulins A, M, and G with a recombinant Toxoplasma gondii rop2 protein. Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology, Vol. 5, No. 5, pp. 627-631, ISSN 1071-412X
McCabe, R.E., Brooks, R.G., Dorfman, R.F. & Remington, J.S. (1987). Clinical spectrum in 107 cases of toxoplasmic lymphadenopathy. *Reviews of Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 754-774, ISSN 0162-0886

Meek, B., van Gool, T., Gilis, H. & Peek, R. (2001). Dissecting the IgM antibody response during the acute and latent phase of toxoplasmosis. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, Vol. 41, No. 3, pp. 131-137, ISSN 0732-8893

Meganathan, P., Singh, S., Ling, L.Y., Singh, J., Subrayan, V. & Nissapatorn, V. (2010). Detection of *Toxoplasma gondii* DNA by PCR following microwave treatment of serum and whole blood. *The Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health*, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 265-273, ISSN 0125-1562

Michelin, A., Bittame, A., Bordat, Y., Travier, L.,Mercier, C., Dubremetz, J.F. & Lebrun, M. (2009). GRA12, a *Toxoplasma* dense granule protein associated with the intravacuolar membranous nanotubular network. *International Journal for Parasitology*, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 299-306, ISSN 1879-0135

Mineo, J.R., Camargo, M.E. & Ferreira, A.W. (1980). Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii* polysaccharides in human toxoplasmosis. *Infection and Immunity*, Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 283-287, ISSN 0019-9567

Mineo, J.R. & Kasper, L.H. (1994). Attachment of *Toxoplasma gondii* to host cells involves major surface protein, SAG-1 (P30). *Experimental Parasitology*, Vol. 79, No. 1, pp. 11-20, ISSN 0014-4894

Montoya, J.G. & Remington, J.S. (1996). Toxoplasmic chorioretinitis in the setting of acute acquired toxoplasmosis. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 277-282, ISSN 1058-4838

Montoya, J.G. (2002). Laboratory diagnosis of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection and toxoplasmosis. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 185, Suppl 1, pp. S73-S82, ISSN 0022-1899

Montoya, J.G., Liesenfeld, O., Kinney, S., Press, C. & Remington, J.S. (2002). VIDAS test for avidity of *Toxoplasma*-specific immunoglobulin G for confirmatory testing of pregnant women. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 40, No. 7, pp. 2504-2508, ISSN 0095-1137

Montoya, J.G. & Liesenfeld, O. (2004). Toxoplasmosis. *Lancet*, Vol. 363, No. 9425, pp. 1965-1976, ISSN 1474-547X

Montoya, J.G., Huffman, H.B. & Remington, J.S. (2004). Evaluation of the immunoglobulin G avidity test for diagnosis of toxoplasmic lymphadenopathy. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 42, No. 10, pp. 4627-4631, ISSN 0095-1137

Murray, A., Mercier, C., Decoster, A., Lecordier, L., Capron, A. & Cesbron-Delauw, M.F. (1993). Multiple B-cell epitopes in a recombinant GRA2 secreted antigen of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Applied Parasitology*, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 235-244, ISSN 0943-0938

Naessens, A., Jenum, P.A., Pollak, A., Decoster, A., Lappalainen, M., Villena, I., Lebech, M., Stray-Pedersen, B., Hayde, M., Pinon, J.M., Petersen, E. & Foulon, W. (1999). Diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis in the neonatal period: A multicenter evaluation. *Journal of Pediatrics*, Vol. 135, No. 6, pp. 714-719, ISSN 0022-3476

Nam, H.W. (2009). GRA proteins of *Toxoplasma gondii*: maintenance of host-parasite interactions across the parasitophorous vacuolar membrane. *The Korean Journal of Parasitology*, Vol. 47 Suppl, pp. S29-37, ISSN 1738-0006
Toxoplasmosis: IgG Avidity and Its Implication in Serodiagnosis

National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standard. (2004). *Clinical use and interpretation of serologic tests for Toxoplasma gondii*. Approved guideline M36-A, NCCLS, ISBN 1-56238-523-2, Wayne, Pennsylvania

Nielsen, H.V., Schmidt, D.R. & Petersen, E. (2005). Diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis by two-dimensional immunoblot differentiation of mother and child immunoglobulin G profiles. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 43, No. 2, pp. 711-715, ISSN 0095-1137

Nigro, M., Gutierrez, A., Hoffer, A.M., Clemente, M., Kaufer, F., Carral, L., Martin, V., Guarnera, E.A. & Angel, S.O. (2003). Evaluation of *Toxoplasma gondii* recombinant proteins for the diagnosis of recently acquired toxoplasmosis by an immunoglobulin G analysis. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, Vol. 47, No. 4, pp. 609-613, ISSN 0732-8893

Nissapatorn, V., Lee, C., Quek, K.F., Leong, C.L., Mahmud, R. & Abdullah, K.A. (2004). Toxoplasmosis in HIV/AIDS patients: a current situation. *Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 57, No. 4, pp. 160-165, ISSN 1344-6304

Nissapatorn, V., Suwanrath, C., Sawangjaroen, N., Ling, L.Y. & Chandeying, V. (2011). Toxoplasmosis-serological evidence and associated risk factors among pregnant women in southern Thailand. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, Vol. 85, No. 2, pp. 243-247, ISSN 1476-1645

Oksenhendler, E., Charreau, I., Tournerie, C., Azihary, M., Carbon, C. & Aboulker, J.P. (1994). *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in advanced HIV infection. *AIDS*, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 483-487, ISSN 0269-9370

Olariu, T.R., Cretu, O., Koreck, A. & Petrescu, C. (2006). Diagnosis of toxoplasmosis in pregnancy: importance of immunoglobulin G avidity test. *Roumanian Archives of Microbiology and Immunology*, Vol. 65, No. 3-4, pp. 131-134, ISSN 1222-3891

Parmley, S.F., Sgarlato, G.D., Mark, J., Prince, J.B. & Remington, J.S. (1992). Expression, characterization, and serologic reactivity of recombinant surface antigen P22 of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 30, No. 5, pp. 1127-1133, ISSN 0095-1137

Partanen, P., Turunen, H.J., Paasivuo, R.T. & Leinikki, P.O. (1984). Immunoblot analysis of *Toxoplasma gondii* antigens by human immunoglobulins G, M, and A antibodies at different stages of infection. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 133-135, ISSN 0095-1137

Paul, M. (1999). Immunoglobulin G avidity in diagnosis of toxoplasmic lymphadenopathy and ocular toxoplasmosis. *Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology*, Vol. 6, No. 4, pp. 514-518, ISSN 1071-412X

Perkins, E.S. (1973). Ocular toxoplasmosis. *The British Journal of Ophthalmology*, Vol. 57, No. 1, pp. 1-17, ISSN 0007-1161

Petersen, E., Borobio, M.V., Guy, E., Liesenfeld, O., Meroni, V., Naessens, A., Spranzi, E. & Thulliez, P. (2005). European multicenter study of the LIAISON automated diagnostic system for determination of *Toxoplasma gondii*-specific immunoglobulin G (IgG) and IgM and the IgG avidity index. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 43, No. 4, pp. 1570-1574, ISSN 0095-1137

Pfrepper, K.I., Enders, G., Gohl, M., Krczal, D., Hlobil, H., Wassenberg, D. & Soutschek, E. (2005). Seroreactivity to and avidity for recombinant antigens in toxoplasmosis.
Pietkiewicz, H., Hiszczynska-Sawicka, E., Kur, J., Petersen, E., Nielsen, H.V., Stankiewicz, M., Andrzejewska, I. & Myjak, P. (2004). Usefulness of Toxoplasma gondii-specific recombinant antigens in serodiagnosis of human toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol.42, No.4, pp. 1779-1781, ISSN 0095-1137

Pietkiewicz, H., Hiszczynska-Sawicka, E., Kur, J., Petersen, E., Nielsen, H.V., Paul, M., Stankiewicz, M. & Myjak, P. (2007). Usefulness of Toxoplasma gondii recombinant antigens (GRA1, GRA7 and SAG1) in an immunoglobulin G avidity test for the serodiagnosis of toxoplasmosis. *Parasitology Research*, Vol. 100, No. 2, pp. 333-337, ISSN 0932-0113

Pinon, J.M., Dumon, H., Chemla, C., Franck, J., Petersen, E., Lebech, M., Zufferey, J., Bessieres, M.H., Marty, P., Holliman, R., Johnson, J., Luyasu, V., Lecolier, B., Guy, E., Joyson, D.H., Decoster, A., Enders, G., Pelloux, H. & Candolfi, E. (2001). Strategy for diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis: evaluation of methods comparing mothers and newborns and standard methods for postnatal detection of immunoglobulin G, M, and A antibodies. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 39, No. 6, pp. 2267-2271, ISSN 0095-1137

Porter, S.B. & Sande, M.A. (1992). Toxoplasmosis of the central nervous system in the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 327, No. 23, pp. 1643-1648, ISSN 0028-4793

Press, C., Montoya, J.G. & Remington, J.S. (2005). Use of a single serum sample for diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis in pregnant women and other adults. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 43, No. 7, pp. 3481-3483, ISSN 0095-1137

Prigione, I., Facchetti, P., Lecordier, L., Deslee, D., Chiesa, S., Cesbron-Delauw, M.F. & Pistoi, V. (2000). T cell clones rose from chronically infected healthy humans by stimulation with Toxoplasma gondii excretory-secretory antigens cross-react with live tachyzoites: characterization of the fine antigenic specificity of the clones and implications for vaccine development. *Journal of Immunology*, Vol.164, No.7, pp. 3741-3748, ISSN 0022-1767

Reis, M.M., Tessaro, M.M. & D’Azevedo, P.A. (2006). Toxoplasma-IgM and IgG-avidity in single samples from areas with a high infection rate can determine the risk of mother-to-child transmission. *Revista do Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo*, Vol.48, No.2, pp. 93-98, ISSN 0036-4665

Remington, J.S. & Desmonts, G. (1990). Toxoplasmosis. In: Remington, J.S. & Klein, J.O. (eds) *Infectious diseases of the fetus and newborn infant*, WB Saunders Company, Philadelphia, pp. 89-195, ISBN 0721667821

Remington, J.S., McLeod, R., Thulliez, P. & Desmonts, G. (2001). Toxoplasmosis. In: Remington, J.S. & Klein, J.O, eds, *Infectious diseases of the fetus and newborn infant*, 5th edn. WB Saunders Company, Philadelphia, pp. 205-346, ISBN 0721667821.

Remington, J.S., Thulliez, P. & Montoya, J.G. (2004). Recent developments for diagnosis of toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol.42, No.5, pp. 941-945, ISSN 0095-1137

Roberts, A., Hedman, K., Luyasu, V., Zufferey, J., Bessieres, M.H., Blatz, R.M., Candolfi, E., Decoster, A., Enders, G., Gross, U., Guy, E., Hayde, M., Ho-Yen, D., Johnson, J., Lecolier, B., Naessens, A., Pelloux, H., Thulliez, P. & Petersen, E. (2001). Multicenter...
evaluation of strategies for serodiagnosis of primary infection with *Toxoplasma gondii*. *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 20, No. 7, pp. 467-474, ISSN 0934-9723

Rome, M.E., Beck, J.R., Turetzky, J.M., Webster, P. & Bradley, P.J. (2008). Intercellular transport and unique topology of GRA14, a novel dense granule protein in *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Infection and Immunity*, Vol. 76, No. 11, pp. 4865-4875, ISSN 1098-5522

Ronday, M.J., Luyendijk, L., Baarsma, G.S., Bollemeijer, J.G., Van der Lelij, A. & Rothova, A. (1995). Presumed acquired ocular toxoplasmosis. *Archives of Ophthalmology*, Vol. 113, No. 12, pp. 1524-1529, ISSN 0003-9950

Rothova, A., van Knapen, F., Baarsma, G.S., Kruit, P.J., Loewer-Sieger, D.H. & Kijlstra, A. (1986). Serology in ocular toxoplasmosis. *The British Journal of Ophthalmology*, Vol. 70, No. 8, pp. 615-622, ISSN 0007-1161

Said, R.N., Zaki, M.M. & Abdelrazik, M.B. (2011). Congenital toxoplasmosis: evaluation of molecular and serological methods for achieving economic and early diagnosis among Egyptian preterm infants. *Journal of Tropical Pediatrics*, Vol. 57, No. 5, pp. 333-339, ISSN 1465-3664

Santoni, J.R. & Santoni-Williams, C.J. (1993). Headache and painful lymphadenopathy in extracranial or systemic infection: etiology of new daily persistent headaches. *Internal Medicine*, Vol. 32, No. 7, pp. 530-532, ISSN 0918-2918

Sensini, A. (2006). *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in pregnancy: opportunities and pitfalls of serological diagnosis. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, Vol. 12, No. 6, pp. 504-512, ISSN 1198-743X

Sharma, S.D., Mullenax, J., Araujo, F.G., Erlich, H.A. & Remington, J.S. (1983). Western Blot analysis of the antigens of *Toxoplasma gondii* recognized by human IgM and IgG antibodies. *Journal of Immunology*, Vol. 131, No. 2, pp. 977-983, ISSN 0022-1767

Sharma, S.D., Araujo, F.G. & Remington, J.S. (1984). *Toxoplasma* antigen isolated by affinity chromatography with monoclonal antibody protects mice against lethal infection with *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Journal of Immunology*, Vol. 133, No. 6, pp. 2818-2820, ISSN 0022-1767

Smith, J.E., McNeil, G., Zhang, Y.W., Dutton, S., Biswas-Hughes, G. & Appleford, P. (1996). Serological recognition of *Toxoplasma gondii* cyst antigens. *Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology*, Vol. 219, pp. 67-73, ISSN 0070-217X

Soldati, D., Dubremetz, J.F. & Lebrun, M. (2001). Microneme proteins: structural and functional requirements to promote adhesion and invasion by the apicomplexan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. *International Journal for Parasitology*, Vol. 31, No. 12, pp. 1293-1302, ISSN 0020-7519

Spausta, G., Ciarkowska, J., Wiczkowski, A., Adamek, B. & Beniowski, M. (2003). [Anti-*Toxoplasma gondii* IgG antibodies in HIV-infected patients]. *Polski Merkuriusz Lekarski*, Vol. 14, No. 81, pp. 233-235, ISSN 1426-9686

Sukthana, Y. (2006). Toxoplasmosis: beyond animals to humans. *Trends in Parasitology*, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 137-142, ISSN 1471-4922

Tabbara, K.F. (1994). A new era of infections. *Annals of Saudi Medicine*, Vol. 14, No. 5, pp. 365, ISSN 0256-4947
Tenter, A.M., Heckeroth, A.R. & Weiss, L.M. (2000). Toxoplasma gondii: from animals to humans. *International Journal for Parasitology*, Vol. 30, No. 12-13, pp. 1217-1258, ISSN 0020-7519

vanGelder, P., Bosman, F., de Meuter, F., van Heuverswyn, H. & Herion, P. (1993). Serodiagnosis of toxoplasmosis by using a recombinant form of the 54-kilodalton rhoptry antigen expressed in *Escherichia coli*. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 31, No. 1, pp. 9-15, ISSN 0095-1137

Vidal, J.E., Hernandez, A.V., de Oliveira, A.C., Dauar, R.F., Barbosa, S.P.Jr. & Focaccia, R. (2005). Cerebral toxoplasmosis in HIV-positive patients in Brazil: clinical features and predictors of treatment response in the HAART era. *AIDS Patient Care STDS*, Vol. 19, No. 10, pp. 626-634, ISSN 1087-2914

Villena, I., Aubert, D., Brodard, V., Quereux, C., Leroux, B., Dupouy, D., Remy, G., Foudrinier, F., Chemla, C., Gomez-Marìn, J.E. & Pinon, J.M. (1999). Detection of specific immunoglobulin E during maternal, fetal, and congenital toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 37, No. 11, pp. 3487-3490, ISSN 0095-1137

Weiss, L.M., Udem, S.A., Tanowitz, H. & Wittner, M. (1988). Western blot analysis of the antibody response of patients with AIDS and toxoplasma encephalitis: antigenic diversity among *Toxoplasma* strains. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 157, No. 1, pp. 7-13, ISSN 0022-1899

Wong, S.Y. & Remington, J.S. (1994). Toxoplasmosis in pregnancy. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 18, No. 6, pp. 853-861; quiz 862, ISSN 1058-4838

Wu, K., Chen, X.G., Li, H., Yan, H., Yang, P.L., Lun, Z.R. & Zhu, X.Q. (2009). Diagnosis of human toxoplasmosis by using the recombinant truncated surface antigen 1 of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, Vol. 64, No. 3, pp. 261-266, ISSN 1879-0070

Yamada, H., Nishikawa, A., Yamamoto, T., Mizue, Y., Yamada, T., Morizane, M., Tairaku, S. & Nishihira, J. (2011). Prospective study of congenital toxoplasmosis screening with use of IgG avidity and multiplex nested PCR methods. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Vol. 49, No. 7, pp. 2552-2556, ISSN 1098-660X
The book is coined to provide a professional insight into the different trends of immunoassay and related techniques. It encompasses 22 chapters which are grouped into two sections. The first section consists of articles dealing with emerging uni-and-multiplex immunolabelled methods employed in the various areas of research. The second section includes review articles which introduce the researchers to some immunolabelled techniques which are of vital significance such as the use of the conjugates of the Staphylococcus aureus protein "A" and the Streptococcus Spps. protein "G" in immunolabelled assay systems, the use of bead-based assays and an overview on the laboratory assay systems. The book provides technological innovations that are expected to provide an efficient channel for developments in immunolabelled and related techniques. It is also most useful for researchers and post-graduate students, in all fields, where immunolabelled techniques are applicable.

How to reference
In order to correctly reference this scholarly work, feel free to copy and paste the following:

Veeranoot Nissapatorn and Nongyao Sawangjareon (2012). Toxoplasmosis: IgG Avidity and Its Implication in Serodiagnosis, Trends in Immunolabelled and Related Techniques, Dr. Eltayb Abuelzein (Ed.), ISBN: 978-953-51-0570-1, InTech, Available from: http://www.intechopen.com/books/trends-in-immunolabelled-and-related-techniques/toxoplasmosis-igg-avidity-and-its-implication-in-serodiagnosis
