

US009989529B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Koulchin et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,989,529 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 5, 2018**

(54) **METHOD FOR DETECTION OF
LEGIONELLA BACTERIA EMPLOYING
PURIFIED ANTIGEN-SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES**

(71) Applicant: **Alere Scarborough, Inc.**, Scarborough,
ME (US)

(72) Inventors: **Vladimir A. Koulchin**, Portland, ME
(US); **Norman J. Moore**, North
Berwick, ME (US); **Elena V.
Molokova**, Portland, ME (US)

(73) Assignee: **Alere Scarborough, Inc.**, Scarborough,
ME (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days. days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/828,823**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 18, 2015**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0047807 A1 Feb. 18, 2016

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/139,720, filed on
Aug. 25, 1998, now Pat. No. 9,134,303.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
C12Q 1/68 (2018.01)
G01N 33/569 (2006.01)
(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **G01N 33/56911** (2013.01); **C07K 16/126**
(2013.01); **G01N 21/78** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC ... C12Q 1/00; C12Q 1/02; C12Q 1/06; C12Q
2537/125; G01N 33/53; G01N 33/5302;
(Continued)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,206,094 A 6/1980 Yen et al.
4,373,932 A 2/1983 Gribnau et al.
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 497524 A2 8/1992
JP 1032169 8/1977
(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Kazandjian et al., (1997. J. Clin. Microbio. vol. 35(4): 954-956).*
(Continued)

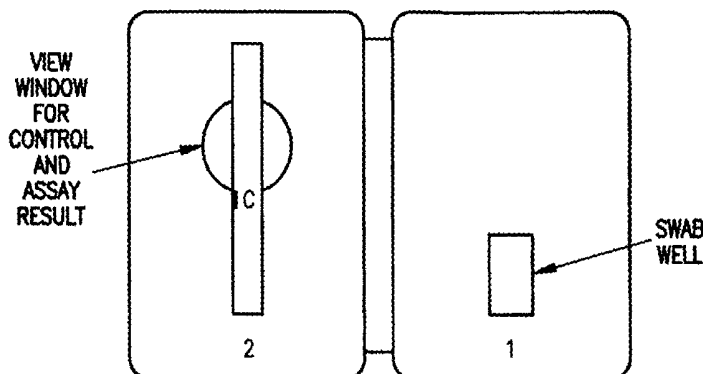
Primary Examiner — Jana A Hines

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Foley Hoag LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention involves extracting from *Legionella* bacteria, particularly *L. pneumophila* bacteria, an essentially protein-free O-polysaccharide or carbohydrate antigen, coupling this antigen to an activated chromatographic column through a protein space molecule which is first conjugated to the antigen, utilizing the column thus prepared for the affinity purification of raw polyvalent antibodies to the same *Legionella* bacterium from which the O-polysaccharide or carbohydrate antigen was separated—thereby obtaining antigen-specific antibodies which are useful for the rapid detection of the corresponding *Legionella* bacterium or its antibody in human bodily fluids such as urine, sputum, blood and the like or in environmental samples suspected of harboring the *Legionella* bacterium.

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



- (51) **Int. Cl.**
C07K 16/12 (2006.01)
G01N 33/53 (2006.01)
G01N 21/78 (2006.01)
G01N 21/75 (2006.01)
G01N 21/77 (2006.01)

- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
 CPC **G01N 33/53** (2013.01); **G01N 2021/752** (2013.01); **G01N 2021/757** (2013.01); **G01N 2021/7759** (2013.01); **G01N 2400/10** (2013.01); **G01N 2469/10** (2013.01)

- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
 CPC G01N 33/54306; G01N 33/54366; G01N 33/558; G01N 33/566; G01N 33/569; G01N 33/6854; G01N 33/33
 USPC 435/4, 5, 7.1, 7.32, 69.3, 283.1, 286.5, 435/287.1, 287.2, 287.9, 288.3, 288.5, 435/288.7, 340; 424/234.1; 530/387, 530/388.4, 413, 417
 See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,411,832 A 10/1983 Cuatrecasas et al.
 4,514,509 A 4/1985 Kohler et al.
 4,703,017 A 10/1987 Campbell et al.
 4,751,190 A 6/1988 Chiapetta et al.
 4,780,407 A 10/1988 Strosberg et al.
 4,861,711 A 8/1989 Friesen et al.
 4,888,279 A 12/1989 Zeiger
 4,943,522 A 7/1990 Eisinger et al.
 4,954,449 A 9/1990 Hunter et al.
 5,059,591 A 10/1991 Janoff et al.
 5,098,827 A 3/1992 Boyle et al.
 5,139,933 A 8/1992 Green et al.
 5,149,622 A 9/1992 Brown et al.
 5,356,778 A 10/1994 Hansen et al.
 5,367,058 A 11/1994 Pitner et al.
 5,415,994 A * 5/1995 Imrich B01L 3/5023 435/5
 5,455,032 A 10/1995 Kenny et al.
 5,455,302 A 10/1995 Saito et al.
 5,536,646 A 7/1996 Sand et al.
 5,571,511 A 11/1996 Fischer
 5,602,040 A * 2/1997 May G01N 33/54386 422/401
 5,623,057 A 4/1997 Marburg et al.
 5,665,561 A 9/1997 Tuomanen et al.
 5,695,768 A 12/1997 Malcolm
 5,770,208 A 6/1998 Fattom et al.
 5,773,007 A 6/1998 Penney et al.
 5,798,273 A 8/1998 Shuler et al.
 5,807,715 A 9/1998 Morrison et al.
 5,847,112 A 12/1998 Kniskern et al.
 5,866,140 A 2/1999 Fattom et al.
 5,871,951 A 2/1999 Weiser
 5,879,881 A 3/1999 Rubenstein
 5,948,900 A 9/1999 Yother et al.
 5,978,273 A 11/1999 Shigemura
 5,989,542 A 11/1999 Pier et al.
 6,010,910 A 1/2000 Radcliffe et al.
 6,057,421 A 5/2000 Muller et al.
 6,168,796 B1 1/2001 Malcolm
 6,194,221 B1 2/2001 Rehg et al.
 6,217,866 B1 4/2001 Schlessinger et al.
 6,245,335 B1 6/2001 Masure et al.
 RE37,437 E 11/2001 Friesen et al.
 6,495,139 B2 12/2002 Tuomanen et al.
 6,566,500 B1 5/2003 Vitetta et al.
 6,610,293 B1 8/2003 Fischer et al.
 6,824,997 B1 11/2004 Moore et al.
 6,979,576 B1 12/2005 Cheng et al.

7,169,903 B2 1/2007 Schuman et al.
 7,635,483 B2 12/2009 Cleary et al.
 7,718,375 B2 5/2010 Piasio et al.
 8,252,546 B2 8/2012 Briles et al.
 8,313,955 B2 11/2012 Wu et al.
 9,310,369 B2 4/2016 Moore et al.
 2002/0015693 A1 2/2002 Metzger et al.
 2003/0157115 A1 8/2003 Bay et al.
 2004/0247605 A1 12/2004 Kokai-Kun et al.
 2006/0121058 A1 6/2006 Malley et al.
 2007/0265433 A1 11/2007 Moore et al.
 2009/0186368 A1 7/2009 Raven et al.
 2010/0227341 A1 9/2010 Briles et al.
 2015/0202309 A1 7/2015 Emini et al.
 2015/0219648 A1 8/2015 Moore et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 1503174 6/1981
 JP 3176659 7/1991
 JP 6508215 T 9/1994
 JP 2001502046 2/2001
 WO WO-88/08534 A1 11/1988
 WO WO-9210936 A1 7/1992
 WO WO-92/21977 A1 12/1992
 WO WO-9400149 A1 1/1994
 WO WO-9412641 A1 6/1994
 WO WO-96/28008 9/1996
 WO WO-00/16803 3/2000
 WO WO-2009/122714 A1 10/2009

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Bibb et al, (J. of Clin. Microbio. 1984. vol. 20(3):478-482).
 "Legionnaire's Disease," (excerpt from a textbook; author anonymous) (5 pages) (1993).
 AlonsoDeVelasco, et al. "Streptococcus pneumoniae: Virulence Factors, Pathogenesis, and Vaccines," Microbiological Reviews, 59(4): 591-603 (Dec. 1995).
 Au, C.C., et al. "Evaluation of the Role of the Pneumococcal forssman Antigen (F-Polysaccharide) in the Cross-Serotype Protection Induced by Pneumococcal Subcellular Preparations," 31(1): 169-173 (Jan. 1981).
 Author Anonymous, "Bacterial Pneumonia Part I. Issues on Prevention of Nosocomial Pneumonia, 1994,"—Excerpt from CDC On-Line Guidelines (15 pages entitled "Bacterial Pneumonia").
 Bangsberg, J. M., et al.; "Cross-reactive Legionella antigens and the antibody response during infection," APMIS 99:854-865 (Apr. 2, 1991).
 Barthe et al., "Common Epitope on the Lipopolysaccharide of Legionella pneumophila Recognized by a Monoclonal Antibody," Journal of Clinical Microbiology, 26(5):1 016-1023 (1988).
 Bennett, Larry G., et al.; "Binding studies with antibodies having phosphorylcholine specificity and fragments derived from their homologous streptococcus pneumoniae type 27 capsular polysaccharide," Journal of Immunology 122(6):2356-2362 (Jun. 1979).
 Benzing, et al. Specific Capsular Polysaccharide of Type 46 Streptococcus pneumoniae (American Type 73), Infection and Immunity, 32(3): 1024-1027 (Jun. 1981).
 Berdal et al., "Detection of Legionella pneumophila Antigen in Urine by Enzyme-Linked Immunospecific Assay," Journal of Clinical Microbiology, 9(6):575-578 (1979).
 Binax Legionella Urinary Antigen EIA, Product Instructions.
 Binax NOW Legionella Urinary Antigen Test, Product Instructions.
 Bosshardt, Stephen C., et al.; "Flagella are a positive predictor for virulence in Legionella," Microbial Pathogenesis 23:107-112 (1997).
 Bromberg, K, et al.; "Pneumococcal C and type polysaccharide detection in the concentrated urine of patients with bacteremia," Med Microbiol Immunol 179:335-338 (1990).
 Brundish, et al. "Pneumococcal C-Substance, a Ribitol Teichoic Acid Containing Choline Phosphate," Biochemical Journal, 110: 573-582 (1968).

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Brundish, et al.; "The Characterization of Pneumococcal C-Polysaccharide as a Ribitol Teichoic Acid," *Biochem. J.* 105:30c-31c (1967).
- Canadian Office Action for 2,427,693 dated Jul. 4, 2011.
- Canadian Office Action for 2,427,693 dated May 23, 2013.
- Carratala et al., "Risk Factors for Nosocomial *Legionella pneumophila* Pneumonia," *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.*, 149:625-629 (1994).
- Chinese Office Action for Application No. 200510084709.5 dated Jul. 31, 2009.
- Chinese Office Action for Application No. 200520084709.5 dated Jan. 5, 2007.
- Chu, C, et al.; "Further Studies on the Immunogenicity of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b and Pneumococcal Type 6A Polysaccharide-Protein Conjugates," *Infection and Immunity* 40(1):245-256 (Apr. 1983).
- Ciesielski et al., "Serogroup Specificity of *Legionella pneumophila* Is Related to Lipopolysaccharide Characteristics," *Infection and Immunity*, 51(2):397-404 (1986).
- Clinical Microbiology*, 25(1):29-33 (1998).
- Coligan, John, E., et al. "A Disaccharide Hapten From *Streptococcal* Group C Carbohydrate That Cross-React With the Forsman Glycolipid," *The Journal of Immunology*, 118(1): 6-11 (Jan. 1977.)
- Dominguez et al., "Comparison of the Binax *Legionella* Urinary Antigen Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) with the Biotest *Legionella* Urin Antigen EIA for Detection of *Legionella* Antigen in both Concentrated and Nonconcentrated Urine Samples," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 36(9):2718-2722 (1998).
- Dowson et al., "Penicillin-resistant viridans *streptococci* have obtained altered penicillin-binding protein genes from penicillin-resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*," *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 87: 5858-5862 (Aug. 1990), *Microbiology*.
- Edelstein, P.H., "Laboratory Diagnosis of Legionnaires Disease: an Update from 1984," State of the Art Lecture; journal unknown (1993).
- Edelstein, P.H., "State-of-the-Art Clinical Article," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 16:741-749 (1993).
- Examiner's Decision of Rejection dated Jan. 13, 2015, from JP 2011-151090.
- Fischer et al. "Teichoic acid and lipoteichoic acid of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* possess identical chain structures. A reinvestigation of teichoic acid (C polysaccharide)," *European Journal of Biochemistry*, 215(3): 851-857 (1993).
- Flesher et al., "Isolation of a Serogroup 1-Specific Antigen from *Legionella pneumophila*," *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 145(2):224-233 (1982).
- Fraser et al., "Legionnaires' Disease," *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 297(22):1189-1197 (1977).
- Gillespie, SH et al., "Diagnosis of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* by quantitative enzyme linked immunosorbent assay of C-polysaccharide antigen," *J. Clinical Pathology*, 47:749-751 (Aug. 1994).
- Gillespie, SH et al., "Detection of C-polysaccharide in serum of patients with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteraemia," *J. Clin. Pathol.* 48:803-806 (1995).
- Gillespie, SH, "The diagnosis of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infections," *Reviews in Medical Microbiology* 5(4):224-232 (1994).
- Gotschlich, Emily C. et al., "Structural and Immunological Studies on the Pneumococcal C Polysaccharide," *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* 242(3):463-470 (Feb. 10, 1967).
- Guillet et al., "Characterization, Serological Specificity, and Diagnostic Possibilities of Monoclonal Antibodies Against *Legionella pneumophila*," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 18(4):793-797 (1983).
- Hackman et al., "Comparison of Binax *Legionella* Urinary Antigen EIA Kit with Binax RIA Urinary Antigen Kit for Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup 1 Antigen," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 34(6):1579-1580 (1996).
- Havas, H. Francis, et al.; "Effect of TEPC-183 Plasmacytoma on Resistance of Passively or Actively Immunized BALB/c Mice to Infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae*," *Cancer Research* 44:3299-3302 (Aug. 1984).
- Helbig et al., "Antigenic Lipopolysaccharide Components of *Legionella pneumophila* Recognized by Monoclonal Antibodies: Possibilities and Limitations for Division of the Species into Serogroups," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 35(11):2841-2845 (1997).
- Helbig et al., "Diagnostik von Legionella-Pneumonien durch Nachweis der Antigenurie mittels Enzymimmunoassay unter Verwendung von 6 unterschiedlichen Antikorperspezifitäten," *Z. Gesamte Hug.* 35:591-593 (1989) [in German with English Abstract].
- Heymann, H., et al., "Structure of *Streptococcal* Cell Walls," *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* 238(2):502-509 (Feb. 1963).
- Hogg, Stephen D., et al. "Occurrence of Lipoteichoic Acid in Oral *Streptococci*," *Int'l Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*, 47(1): 62-66 (Jan. 1997).
- Holmberg, H et al., "Detection of C Polysaccharide in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in the Sputa of Pneumonia Patients by an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay," *J. Clinical Microbiology* 22(1):111-115 (Jul. 1985).
- Horwitz et al., "Prospects for Vaccine Development," Presented at 4th International Symposium on *Legionella*, In Barbaree, J.M., Breiman, R.F. & DuPour, A.P. (Eds.) *Legionella*, 2 pages (1993).
- Japanese Office Action for Application No. 2000-565904 dated Jul. 28, 2009.
- Japanese Office Action for Application No. 2001-563134 dated Aug. 17, 2010.
- Japanese Office Action for Application No. 2001-563134 dated Mar. 15, 2011.
- Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-573764 Office Action dated Mar. 8, 2011.
- Jikkenhou, Seibutsukagaku 20; Methods for isolation, Purification of Polysaccharides, *Experimental Methods in Biochemistry*, Gakkai Syuppan Center, 1087, pp. 19-35. (1987).
- Jurgens et al., "Cross-Reacting Lipopolysaccharide Antigens in *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroups 1 to 14," *Infection and Immunity*, 63(6):2180-2184 (1995).
- Jurgens, D. et al., "Identification of *Legionella* Species by Lipopolysaccharide Antigen Pattern," *J. Clin. Microbiol.*, 35(12):3054-3057 (1997).
- Kasahara, Y., et al., "Simple devices and their possible application in clinical laboratory downsizing," *Clinica Chimica Acta* 267(1):87-102 (1997).
- Keller et al., "Community Outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease: An Investigation Confirming the Potential for Cooling Towers to Transmit *Legionella* Species," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 22:257-261 (1996).
- Klein, Roger A., et al. "The aqueous solution structure of the tetrasaccharide-ribitol repeat-unit from the lipoteichoic acid of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strain R6 determined using a combination of NMR spectroscopy and computer calculations," 256: 189-222 (1994).
- Knirel et al., "The structure of the O-specific chain of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 lipopolysaccharide," *Eur. J. Biochem.*, 221(1):239-245 (1994).
- Kohler et al., "Antigen Detection for the Rapid Diagnosis of Mycoplasma and *Legionella pneumoniae*," *Diagnosis Microbiol. Infect. Disease*, 4:47S-59S (1986).
- Kohler et al., "Onset and Duration of Urinary Antigen Excretion in Legionnaires Disease," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 20(4):605-607 (1984).
- Kohler et al., "Rapid Radioimmunoassay Diagnosis of Legionnaires' Disease," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 94(5):601-605 (1981).
- Kolkman, et al. "Carbohydrates, Lipids, and Other Natural Products: Functional Analysis of Glycosyltransferases Encoded by the Capsular Polysaccharide Biosynthesis Locus of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Serotype 14," *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 272(31): 19502-19508 (1997).

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Koskela, M., et al., "Enzyme Immunoassay for Detection of Immunoglobulin G (IgG), IgM, and IgA Antibodies against Type 6B Pneumococcal Capsular Polysaccharide and Cell Wall C Polysaccharide in Chinchilla Serum," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 30(6):1485-1490 (Jun. 1992).
- Kouza, Shin-Seikagaku Jikken, Protein I "Isolation, Purification, Nature," (Modern Experimental Biochemistry), pp. 214-216 (1990).
- Kovacs, et al. "A Functional dlt Operon, Encoding Proteins Required for Incorporation of D-Alanine in Teichoic Acides in Gram-Positive Bacteria, Confers Resistance to Cationic Antimicrobial Peptides in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*," *Journal of Bacteriology*, 188(16): 5797-5805 (Aug. 2006).
- Krook, Aud et al, "Pneumococcal Antigens in Sputa: ELISA for the Detection of Pneumococcal C-Polysaccharide in Sputa from Pneumonia Patients," *Diagn. Microbiol. Infect. Dis.* 7:73-75 (1987).
- Laferriere, CA et al, "The synthesis of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* polysaccharide-tetanus toxoid conjugates and the effect of chain length on immunogenicity," *Vaccine* 15(2):179-186 (Feb. 1997).
- Leibl et al., "Separation of polysaccharide-specific human immunoglobulin G subclasses using a Protein A Superose column with a pH gradient elution system," *Journal of Chromatography*, 639:51-56 (1993).
- Leland et al., "Evaluation of the L-CLONE *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup I Urine Antigen Latex Test," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 29(10):2220-2223 (1991).
- Liu, TY, et al., "The Chemical Composition of Pneumococcal C-Polysaccharide," *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* 238(6):1928-1934 (Jun. 1963).
- Mangiafico et al., "Rapid and Sensitive Method for Quantitation of *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup I Antigen from Human Urine," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 13(5):843-845 (1981).
- Manjula, B.N. et al: "Affinity of horse anti-phosphorylcholine antibodies for some pneumococcal polysaccharides, contribution of the polysaccharide backbone"; *Immunochemistry*, 15: 269-271 (1978).
- Manning, James. M. "Chemistry and Metabolism of Macromolecules: Chromatographic Determination of the d- and l-Amino Acid Residues in Pneumococcal C-Polysaccharide," *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 246(9): 2926-2929 (May 10, 1971).
- Marston et al, "Surveillance for Legionnaires' Disease," *Arch. Intern. Med.*, 154:2417-2422 (1994).
- Moore et al., "Development of an Immunochromatographic (ICT) Assay for Identification of *Legionella Pneumophila*," Abstract C4-33, American Society for Microbiology Meeting, May 17-21, 1998.
- Moore et al., "Development of Immunosorbent (ELISA) and Immunochromatographic (ICT) Assays for the Detection of Food-Borne Pathogen *E. coli* 0157:H7," Abstract, Poster presented at American Society of Microbiology Meeting, New Orleans (1996).
- More et al., "Development of an Immunochromatographic (ICT) Assay for the Detection of *Legionella Pneumophila*," Abstract, Gen. Meet. Am. Soc. Microbiol., p. 203; (1998).
- Murdoch et al., "Use of the Polymerase Chain Reaction to Detect *Legionella* DNA in Urine and Serum Samples from Patients with Pneumonia," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 23:475-480 (1996).
- Nagel, et al. "Teichoic Acids in Pathogenic *Staphylococcus aureus*," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 6(3): 233-237 (Sep. 1977).
- Nolte et al., "Electrophoretic and Serological Characterization of the Lipopolysaccharides of *Legionella pneumophila*," *Infection and Immunity*, 52(3):676-681 (1986).
- Nowinski, et al. "Human Monoclonal Antibody Against Forssman Antigen," *Science*, 210: 537-539 (Oct. 31, 1980).
- Office Action for U.S. Appl. No. 11/982,410 dated Aug. 30, 2013.
- Office Action for U.S. Appl. No. 11/982,410 dated Feb. 14, 2014.
- Office Action for Japanese Application No. 2011-031137 dated Oct. 30, 2012.
- Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/761,255 dated Jun. 18, 2013.
- Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/761,255 dated Dec. 23, 2010.
- Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/982,400 dated Jun. 20, 2013.
- Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/982,410 dated Apr. 10, 2013.
- Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/982,410 dated Jan. 31, 2012.
- Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/982,410 dated Sep. 26, 2012.
- Otten et al., "Serospecific Antigens of *Legionella pneumophila*," *Journal of Bacteriology*, 167(3):893-904 (1986).
- Parkinson, Alan J., et al., "Quantitation of Pneumococcal C Polysaccharide in Sputum Samples from Patients with Presumptive Pneumococcal Pneumonia by Enzyme Immunoassay," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 30(2):318-322 (Feb. 1992).
- Pavlova et al., "Non-Instrumental Immunoassay Based on Coloured Polyacrolein Latex: Application to Group-Specific Polysaccharide of *Streptococcus pyogenes*," Article, *Biorganicheskoe Kaya Khimiya*, 20(7):731-739 (1994) (in Russian language with English abstract on p. 739).
- Pavlova et al., "Non-Instrumental immunoassay based on coloured polyacrolein latex: application to group-specific polysaccharide of *Streptococcus pyogenes*," *J. Immunoassay*, 16(2):199-212 (1995).
- Petitjean, F. et al., "Isolation, Purification and partial Analysis of the Lipopolysaccharide Antigenic Determinant Recognized by a Monoclonal Antibody to *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup 1," *Res. Microbiol.*, 141(9):1077-1094 (1990).
- Plouffe et al., "Reevaluation of the Definition of Legionnaires' Disease: Use of the Urinary Antigen Assay," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 20:1286-1291 (1995).
- Poxton, Ian R., et al., "The Structure of C-Polysaccharide from the Walls of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*," *Biochem. J.* 175:1033-1042 (1978).
- Ramirez et al., "Rapid Tests for the Diagnosis of *Legionella* Infections," *KMA Journal*, 92:62-65 (1994).
- Reingold et al., "Legionella pneumonia in the United States: The Distribution of Serogroups and Species Causing Human Illness," *The Journal of Infectious Disease*, 149(5):819 (1984).
- Roig et al., "Comparative Study of *Legionella pneumophila* and Other Nosocomial-Acquired Pneumonias," *Chest*, 99:344-350 (1991).
- Rosen, IA et al, "Antibodies to pneumococcal polysaccharides in human milk: lack of relationship to colonization and acute otitis media," *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 15(6):498-507 (Jun. 1996).
- Ruf et al., "Prevalence and Diagnosis of *Legionella* Pneumonia: A 3-Year Prospective Study with Emphasis on Application of Urinary Antigen Detection," *Journal of Infectious Disease*, 162:1341-1348 (1989).
- Sathapatayavongs et al., "Rapid Diagnosis of Legionnaires' Disease by Urinary Antigen Detection," *the American Journal of Medicine*, 72:576-582 (1982).
- Schwab, John H., et al., "Immunological Studies on a C polysaccharide Complex of Group A *Streptococci* Having a Direct Toxic Effect on Connective Tissue," *J. of Experimental Medicine*, pp. 295-307 (1959).
- Sippel, JE et al, "Detection of *Neisseria meningitidis* Group A, Haemophilus influenzae Type b, and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Antigens in Cerebrospinal Fluid Specimens by Antigen Capture Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays," *J. Clin. Microbiology* 20(2):259-265 (Aug. 1984).
- Sjogren, AM et al, "Etiologic Diagnosis of Pneumonia by Antigen Detection: Crossreactions Between Pneumococcal C-Polysaccharide and Oral Microorganisms," *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease* 6(3):239-248 (Mar. 1987).
- Sjogren, AnnMargaret, et al. "Demonstration of Cross-reactions between Pneumococci and α -*Streptococci* Using Gold-labelled Mono- and Polyclonal Antibodies and Electron Microscopy," *Diagn. Microbiol. Infect. Dis.*, 10: 7-21 (1988).
- Sjogren, et al.; "A highly specific two-site ELISA for pneumococcal C-polysaccharide using monoclonal and affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies," *J Immunol Methods* 102(1):93-100 (Aug. 24, 1987).
- Skerra, A, et al., "Assembly of a Functional Immunoglobulin FV Fragment in *Escherichia coli*," *Science* 240:1038-1041 (May 20, 1988).
- Skov Sorensen, "Monoclonal Phosphorylcholine Antibody Binds to Beta-Lipoprotein from Different Animal Species," *Infection and Immunity* 53(2): 264-266 (Aug. 1986).
- Skov Sorensen, et al., "Cross-Reactions between Pneumococci and Other *Streptococci* Due to C Polysaccharide and F Antigen," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 25(10):1854-1859 (Oct. 1987).

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Skov Sorensen, et al., "Ultrastructural Localization of Capsules, Cell Wall Polysaccharide, Cell Wall Proteins, and F Antigen in Pneumococci," *Infection and Immunity* 56(8):1890-1896 (1988).
- Skov Sorensen, U. B., et al. "Covalent linkage between the capsular polysaccharide and the cell wall peptidoglycan of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* revealed by immunochemical methods," *Microbial Pathogenesis* 8: 325-334 (1990).
- Stout et al., "Legionellosis," *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 337:682-687 (1997).
- Stout et al., "Potable Water as a Cause of Sporadic Cases of Community-Acquired Legionnaires' Disease," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 326:151-155 (1992).
- Stroop, Corne J.M., et al., "Structural analysis and chemical depolymerization of the capsular polysaccharide of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* type 1," *Carbohydrate Research*, 337: 335-344 (2002).
- Stuertz, K et al, "Enzyme Immunoassay Detecting Teichoic and Lipoteichoic Acids versus Cerebrospinal Fluid Culture and Latex Agglutination for Diagnosis of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Meningitis," *J. Clinical Microbiology* 36(8):2346-2348 (Aug. 1998).
- Sundberg-Kovamees, M., et al., "Interaction of the C-polysaccharide of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* with the receptor asialo-GM1," *Microbial Pathogenesis* 21:223-234 (1996).
- Szu, S.C., et al, "Protection Against Pneumococcal Infection in Mice Conferred by Phosphocholine-Binding Antibodies: Specificity of the Phosphocholine Binding and Relation to Several Types," *Infection and Immunity* 39(2):993-999 (Feb. 1983).
- Szu, S.C., et al., "Rabbit antibodies to the cell wall polysaccharide of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* fail to protect mice from lethal challenge with encapsulated pneumococci," *Infection and Immunity* 54(2):448-455 (Nov. 1986).
- Ta et al., "Comparison of Culture Methods for Monitoring *Legionella* Species in Hospital Potable Water Systems and Recommendations for Standardization of Such Methods," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 33(8):2118-2123 (1995).
- Tang et al., "Broad-Spectrum Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Detection of *Legionella* Soluble Antigens," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 24(4):556-558 (1986).
- Tang et al., "Detection of *Legionella* Antigenuria by Reverse Passive Agglutination," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 15(6):998-1000 (1982).
- Tang et al., "*Legionella* Antigenuria: Six-Year Study of Broad-Spectrum Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay as a Routine Diagnostic Test," (*Journal Unknown*), 12-13 (1986).
- Thacker et al., "Comparison of Slide Agglutination Test and Direct Immunofluorescence Assay for Identification of *Legionella* Isolates," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 18(5):1113-1118 (1983).
- Tilton et al., "Legionnaires' Disease Antigen Detected by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 90:697-698 (1979).
- Waltman, II, W.D., et al. "Cross-Reactive Monoclonal Antibodies for Diagnosis of Pneumococcal Meningitis," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 26(9): 1635-1640 (Sep. 1988).
- Weiner et al., "Immunodiagnosis of systemic aspergillosis. I. Antigenemia detected by radioimmunoassay in experimental infection," *J. Lab. Clin. Med.*, Abstract, 93:111-119 (1979).
- Westphal, O. et al, "Bacterial Lipopolysaccharides," *Method Carbohydrate Chemistry* vol. 5, pp. 83-91 (1965).
- Wetherall, B., et al.; "Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Detection of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b Antigen," *J Clin Microbiol* 11(6):573-580 (Jun. 1980).
- Yang, et al. "Comparative Structural and Molecular Characterization of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Capsular Polysaccharide Serotype 10*," *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 286(41): 35813-35822 (Oct. 14, 2011).
- Yolken, RH et al., "Enzyme Immunoassay for Detection of Pneumococcal Antigen in Cerebrospinal Fluid," *J. of Clinical Microbiology* 20(4):802-805 (Oct. 1984).
- Yother, J., et al., "Protection of Mice from Infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* by Anti-Phosphocholine Antibody Infection and Immunity," 36(1): 184-188 (Apr. 1982).
- Yother, Janet, et al. "Generation and Properties of a *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Mutant Which Does Not Require Choline or Analogs for Growth," 180(8): 2093-2101 (1998).

* cited by examiner

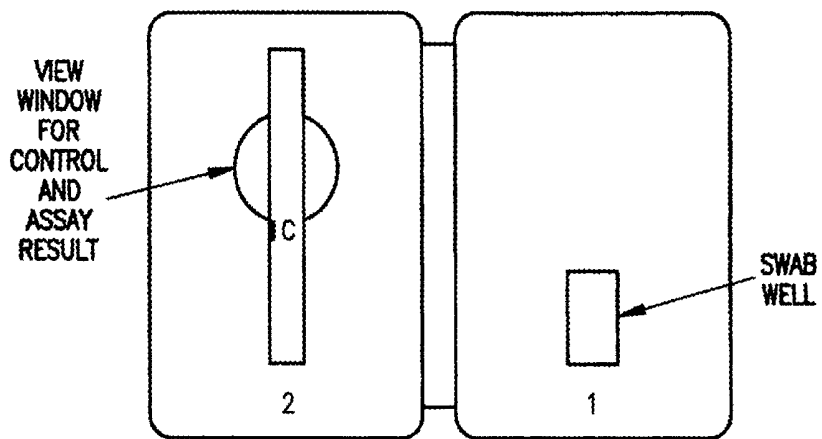


FIG. 1

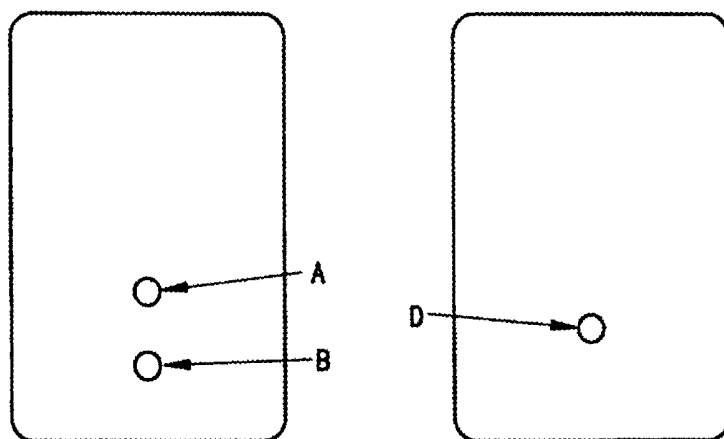


FIG. 1A

FIG. 1B

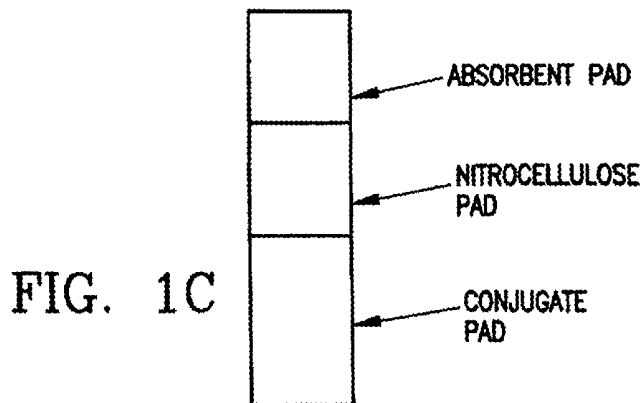


FIG. 1C



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

FIG. 2

METHOD FOR DETECTION OF LEGIONELLA BACTERIA EMPLOYING PURIFIED ANTIGEN-SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation application of U.S. application Ser. No. 09/139,720, filed on Aug. 25, 1998; the contents of which is specifically incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

This invention relates to essentially protein-free carbohydrate including polysaccharide, antigens separated from bacteria of the genus *Legionella*, and especially from serogroups and/or strains of *Legionella pneumophila*, including the O-polysaccharide antigen of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1, and to the use of these antigens in the affinity purification of poly-valent antibodies to corresponding *Legionella* organisms. More particularly, the invention encompasses coupling the carbohydrate or polysaccharide antigen separated from a *Legionella bacterium* to an activated chromatographic column and using that column for affinity purification of the polyclonal antibodies to the same species, or the same serogroup of a species, of *Legionella*. The invention further encompasses the use of the affinity-purified polyvalent antibodies produced in immunochemical assays for the detection of *Legionella*-caused diseases such as Legionnaires disease and Pontiac fever in human patients and for the detection of environmental sources of *Legionella* infectious agents.

BACKGROUND

Legionnaires' disease, a pneumonia-like human infection caused by gram-negative bacteria of the genus *Legionella*, is virtually impossible to differentiate on a reliable clinical basis (involving assessment of patient symptoms without laboratory tests) from pneumonia and other similar lung infections. Because the disease may produce lung abscesses, infections in other bodily organs or bacteremia, and its mortality rate is significantly increased by delay in commencing appropriate therapy, there is a need for rapid and reliable diagnostic tests which has to date been only partially met. Stout, J. E. and Yu, V. L., "Legionellosis", 337, N. Eng. J. Med. 682-687 (1997). Efforts to develop such tests have been hampered by the fact that there are a number of *Legionella* species, at least some of which are known to have a number of distinct serogroups.

Legionnaires' disease was first recognized in the summer of 1976 and a number of techniques for detecting *Legionella* ("L.") *pneumophila*, which is now known to account for some 90% of cases (Stout and Yu, supra), have been developed in the interim. In general, these tests are time-consuming and incapable of identifying more than one serogroup of the 15 serogroups known so far to fall within the *L. pneumophila* species. It should be noted, however, that, as reported by Stout and Yu, supra, more than 80% of reported cases of Legionnaires' disease are attributable to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1—a fact which makes the development of a rapid, reliable immunoassay for that entity of particular importance and has led researchers to focus on this as a priority.

The early efforts to establish the identity of the causative agent of Legionnaires' disease depended largely upon culturing the bacteria for 5 to 6 days and examining the culture microscopically. Efforts to speed up the identification process led to numerous immunochemical tests of varying

sensitivity and specificity including, inter alia, the presently commercially available EQUATE' radioimmunoassay ("RIA"), and the Binax enzyme immunoassay ("EIA"), both of which are sold in kit form by applicants' assignee, Binax, Inc. As indicated by Hackman, B. A. et al. in "Comparison of Binax *Legionella* Urinary Antigen EIA Kit with Binax RIA Urinary Antigen Kit for Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup I Antigen", 34 *J. Clin. Microbiol.* 1579-1580 (1996), both of these assays were found to be specific for *L. pneumophila* Serogroup I antigen. The reported sensitivity of the EIA was 77%; that of the RIA was higher. The article indicates that each can be performed within "less than 3 h[ours] from beginning to end"; in Binax's own tests each requires at least 2½ hours to perform. More information about this EIA assay appears in Kazandjian, D. et al., "Rapid Diagnosis of *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup I Infection with Binax Enzyme Immunoassay Urinary Antigen Test", 35 *J. Clin. Immunobiol.* 954-956 (1997).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Perhaps the most significant advantage of the immunochromatographic test ("ICT") described herein is its ability to give a test result within a 15-minute time span for the presence or absence of *L. pneumophila* Serogroup I (or its antigen), which result is of high specificity and sensitivity. The speed with which this test can be reliably conducted to yield a result of high specificity and sensitivity is believed to be due to the strongly reactive nature of the affinity purified antibodies prepared in accordance with this invention. The superior reactive properties of these antibodies, in turn, is believed to be attributable to the use for affinity purification of the novel, essentially protein-free O-polysaccharide antigen of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 which is also a part of this invention.

Another ICT test has been made possible by the separation, according to this invention, of an antigen of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 which is of non-proteinaceous, carbohydrate nature and is common to multiple serogroups of *L. pneumophila*. The presence of such a common antigen has been suggested in the scientific literature; see e.g., Nolte, F. S. et al., "Electrophoretic and Serological Characterization of the Lipopolysaccharides of *Legionella pneumophila*", 52 *Infection and Immunity* 676-681 (1986); Otten, S. et al., "Serospecific Antigens of *Legionella pneumophila*", 167 *J. Bacteriol.* 893-904 (1986); Barthe, C. et al., "Common Epitope on the Lipopolysaccharide of *Legionella pneumophila* Recognized by a Monoclonal Antibody", 26 *J. Clin. Microbiol.* 1016-1023 (1988); Knirel, Y. A. et al., "The Structure of the O-specific Chain of *Legionella pneumophila* Serogroup I", 227 *Eur. J. Biochem.* 239-245 (1994). Heretofore there has been no clear report of any separation of such an antigen for use in developing a useful broad spectrum immuno-chemical assay.

This invention comprises the extraction from any *Legionella* bacterium, and especially from a bacterium of any of the serogroups of *L. pneumophila* of an essentially protein-free carbohydrate antigen, the preparation of a conjugate of this antigen with a spacer protein, the coupling of the conjugate to an affinity column, the use of that column for the purification of polyvalent antibodies to the corresponding *Legionella* bacterium, such as a bacterium of a serogroup of *L. pneumophila* and the use of the antibodies thus purified in an ICT immunoassay for detecting *Legionella* bacteria or their antigens, including antigens of *L. pneumophila* serogroups or their corresponding bacteria, as more specifically described hereinafter.

In particular, the invention includes the separation of an essentially protein-free O-polysaccharide antigen specific to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1, its use in the affinity purification of the polyvalent antibody specific to the same micro-organism and the use of that affinity purified antibody in an ICT immunoassay of high specificity and high sensitivity that is performable within 15 minutes.

In another embodiment, the invention includes the separation from *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 of an essentially protein-free carbohydrate antigen, and its use in the affinity purification of the polyclonal antibody specific to the *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 antigen (i.e., an antibody that was obtained from a rabbit immunized with the said antigen); this antibody showed an ability to cross-react with antigens of the *L. pneumophila* serotypes 1, 2 and 4 in addition to the antigen of serotype 5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 and its related FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C hereof show the structure of a typical ICT device which is suitably adapted to perform the *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 specific assay, as described in Examples VII, VIII and IX hereof

FIG. 2 hereof shows the results of Western blot analyses of phosphate-buffered saline extracts of *L. pneumophila* serogroups 1, 2, 4 and 5 with *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5, essentially protein-free carbohydrate antigen-affinity-purified polyclonal antibody specific to serogroup 5 antigen, which analysis is described in Example X hereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Previous experience in the art, including experience with the Binax RIA assay for *L. pneumophila* Serogroup 1 antigen sold under the trademark EQUATE and the Binax EIA assay for the same antigen, has shown that antigens of the *Legionella* species, including antigens of various *L. pneumophila* serogroups, are more conveniently detectable in specimens from the urine of patients infected with a *Legionella* microorganism than in specimens of blood, sputum or other fluids. This is in part because the *Legionella* antigens usually appear in urine within 1-3 days after infection of a human patient whereas their appearance at a detectable level in blood may occur later, and also in part because patients infected with Legionnaires' disease often do not produce much sputum. The ICT test which forms a part of this invention can be configured to run on blood, sputum or some other fluid such as cerebrospinal fluid, or on aqueous samples of environmental origin. It is noted that urine is generally the preferred sample fluid for diagnosis of human patients because it can be obtained non-invasively and easily, even in the doctor's office, and it is not as readily contaminated with other micro-organisms, e.g., oral microflora present in sputum, which are innocuous but may affect the results obtained.

Broadly speaking, the ICT test for *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen that is specifically a part of the present invention may be designed to be run in any known disposable ICT device disclosed in the art. Preferably, the test is conducted using an ICT device of the type disclosed in copending U.S. application Ser. No. 07/706,639 of Howard Chandler, or one of its continuation-in-part applications, all assigned to Smith-Kline Diagnostics, Inc. but exclusively licensed to Binax, Inc. in a wide area of applications that includes the present diagnostic field—i.e., diseases of the respiratory system. The device is suitably impregnated with

the affinity purified polyvalent antibodies herein disclosed which are specific to the antigen of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen. Positive results of the assay are shown by the appearance of a color upon reaction of suitably labeled antibodies with the antigen. Suitable labels may be any of those known in the art to produce visible color when antibodies conjugated thereto react with antigen, including finely divided metallics and various other labeling materials. Colloidal gold is the preferred label.

The invention contemplates that essentially protein free carbohydrate antigens may similarly be separated from each of the *Legionella* bacteria, including from bacteria of other *Legionella* species and from bacteria of other serogroups of *L. pneumophila*, that such antigens may similarly be utilized in the affinity purification of polyvalent antibodies to the corresponding *Legionella* species or serogroup bacteria and its antigen, and that these affinity-purified antibodies may be utilized in ICT and other immunoassays as specifically disclosed herein for affinity-purified antibodies to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1.

Preliminary to the preparation of the device is obtaining the antibodies and effecting their affinity purification. The antibodies that may be used in this invention are conventional polyvalent (also called "polyclonal") antibodies obtained by the well-known process of immunizing a rabbit, goat or other animal to a *Legionella* antigen, e.g., *L. pneumophila* antigen of known serogroup and bleeding the animal after the passage of an appropriate time period to obtain serum containing the desired antibodies. See, e.g., Cherry, U. B. and McKinney, R. M., pp. 91-104 in Jones, G. L. and Herbert, G. A. (Eds.), "*Legionnaires' the disease, the bacterium and the methodology*", (Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, 1979). In this invention, relative to the ICT immunoassay for *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 disclosed herein, the rabbit or other animal is immunized to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen and the polyvalent antibodies recovered from its blood are antibodies to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1.

The polyvalent antibodies to be used in this invention are further subjected to affinity purification on a specially prepared chromatographic column which employs the essentially protein-free carbohydrate, including polysaccharide, antigen of the same bacterium against which the antibodies are reactive as the purifying agent for them.

Preliminary to the affinity purification of the antibodies, it is therefore necessary according to this invention to prepare an essentially protein free purified carbohydrate antigen from a culture of known *Legionella* bacteria of the desired species or serogroup of a species.

The following examples I and II explain how the purified protein free carbohydrate antigen is obtained.

Example I

Bacteria of *L. pneumophila* Serogroup 1 (strain Philadelphia-1) were obtained from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, Ga.) and cultured on charcoal-yeast extract agar plates obtained from Northeast Laboratory (Waterville, Me.) for a period of 72 hours at 37° C. Cells were harvested with phosphate-buffered saline ("PBS") at pH 7.2 containing 0.2% of Na₃N and collected by centrifugation at 8000 rpm for 25 minutes. The resulting cell pellet was stored at -20° C. until used.

Wet cells from this pellet were suspended in 20 ml. 0.1 M NaOH per gram of wet cells and stirred at room temperature for 45 minutes. The pH of the solution was then adjusted with concentrated acetic acid to 3.0 and the solution was

5

subjected to centrifugation at 8000 rpm for 20 minutes. The supernatant from this step was then neutralized with aqueous NaOH and dialyzed against distilled water.

The resulting dialyzate was concentrated 10 times on a rotary vacuum evaporator and then sonicated for 5 minutes in an ultrasonic bath.

Proteinase K, in a concentration of 0.2 mg. per ml. of the concentrated product, was added to digest the remaining proteins and the mixture was incubated at 40° C. overnight. The next step was the addition of further Proteinase K, in a concentration of 0.1 mg. per ml., to the mixture, followed by further overnight incubation at 40° C. This second incubation was followed by concentration of the product on a rotary evaporator to a small volume, adjustment of its pH to 10-11 with 0.2% triethylamine and application of the thus-treated mixture to a column of Sephacryl S-200 from Pharmacia, equilibrated with 0.02% triethylamine. Material eluted in the first peak was pooled, adjusted with 0.1 N HCl to approximately neutral pH and dialyzed against distilled water for 18 hours, followed by lyophilization.

The yield of O-polysaccharide antigen from 16.5 grams of wet cells of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 strain Philadelphia-1 was 62 mg.

It should be noted that in place of Proteinase K, any broad spectrum protease enzyme preparation may be used. What is important in this procedure is the elimination of protein from the antigen to the maximum possible extent within reasonable limits of time feasibility.

Example II

Example I was repeated using *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 strain Dallas IE as the bacteria in the culture step. 11.5 wet grams yielded 21 mg. of a carbohydrate antigen. At a later time, the procedure was again repeated, this time using *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 (strain U8W) as the bacteria in the culture step.

It is within the scope of this invention to repeat the culturing and extraction steps as herein described on any other *Legionella bacterium* and especially on bacteria of any other of the serogroups of *L. pneumophila*, i.e., on any of serogroups 2, 3, 4 and 6-15 inclusive, to obtain a carbohydrate antigen essentially free of proteinaceous material.

In order to couple the essentially protein free O-polysaccharide product of Example I or the carbohydrate of Example II to a chromatographic column for use in affinity purification of polyvalent antibodies to the corresponding bacterium from which the carbohydrate antigen was extracted, it is necessary to complex it with a protein spacer molecule suitably prepared to ensure that it will stably bond to both the carbohydrate antigen and the column and will itself remain inert during the affinity purification step. A modified bovine serum albumin ("BSA") was chosen as the preferred spacer molecule and was prepared as in Example III:

Example III—Preparation of Protein Spacer Molecule

An 0.5 M aqueous solution of hydrazine dihydrochloride from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc. (Milwaukee, Wis.) was prepared and its pH was adjusted to 5.2 with dry NaOH. The solution was then mixed with dry BSA from Sigma Chemical Co. to a final concentration of 25 mg. per ml. of BSA. After the BSA was completely dissolved, N-(dimethylamino-propyl)-N¹-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride obtained from Fluka Chemical Co. (St. Louis, Mo.) was added to a

6

final concentration of 2.5 mg. per ml. The mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature and then dialyzed for a period of about five days against distilled water at 4° C., with daily changes of the water.

In lieu of this modified BSA, it is contemplated that other appropriate spacer molecules may be used.

The conjugation of the O-polysaccharide antigen from serogroup 1 of *L. pneumophila* to the spacer molecule was conducted as follows:

Example IV—Conjugation of O-polysaccharide Antigen to Spacer Molecules

L. pneumophila serogroup 1 essentially protein-free O-polysaccharide antigen was dissolved in distilled water in a concentration of 4-5 mg/ml and the pH was adjusted to 5.0 with 1 M HCl. The modified BSA solution prepared as in Example III was adjusted to pH 5.0 with 1 M HCl and slowly added, in a weight ratio of 4-to-1 of the O-polysaccharide antigen solution, to the latter. After 5 minutes of stirring, about 100-200 mcl of distilled water containing the N-(dimethylamino-propyl)-N¹-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride referred to in Example III was added in a weight ratio of 1:2 to the O-polysaccharide antigen/BSA solution. The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature overnight.

To separate the conjugate of the O-polysaccharide antigen with modified BSA from any unreacted materials present, the reaction mixture was chromatographed on a Sepharose CL-4B column equilibrated with a buffer of 0.1 M NaH₂PO₄:0.5 M NaCl. All of the chromatography fractions were subjected to testing for antigen activity using the commercial Binax EIA test referred to above. All fractions that showed antigen activity in the tested were pooled in and used for affinity column preparation as shown in Example V.

Example V—Coupling of Conjugate to Activated Chromatographic Column

An immunoabsorbent gel was prepared by conventionally activating Sepharose CL-4B with cyanogen bromide. The ligand of O-polysaccharide antigen with modified BSA, prepared as in Example IV, was coupled to it using procedures known in the art, e.g., as described in Hermanson, G. T., et al. in *Immobilized Affinity Ligand Techniques*, 53-56 (Academic Press, Inc. 1992). The gel was then packed in a column and washed successively with 5-10 volumes per volume of gel with PBS of pH 7.2, triple strength PBS of pH 7.2 and 0.2 M glycine-HCl of pH 2.5. The resulting activated column was used, as described below, for affinity purification of polyvalent antibodies to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen. The column after elution should be stored in PBS or another neutral buffer until used.

Instead of cyanogen-bromide activated Sepharose, spherulose and various commercially available activated columns could be used in this step.

Example VI—Affinity Purification of Antibodies

The activated column described in Example V was used for the affinity chromatography of rabbit-anti-*L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 polyvalent antibodies to *L. pneumophila* serotype 1 antigen according to the method described by Harlow E. and Lane, D. in *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* at 313-315 (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988). Elution of the antibodies from the column was effected with 0.2M

glycine-HCl buffer of pH 2.5. Alternative eluants such as 3 M NaSCN or 0.1 M Et₃N could be substituted.

These affinity-purified antibodies were utilized in an ICT test specific to *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 as described in the following example.

Example VII—ICT Device and Its Preparation

A. Preparation of Test Device:

A test device comprising a hinged cardboard housing equipped with a window to allow the viewing of both the test results and control results was prepared as shown in FIG. 1. The device has a recess into which is placed a preformed plastic swab well for receiving the sample-wetted swab on the right-hand (labeled 1 in the drawing). An overlabel shown in FIG. 1A is then placed over the entire right-hand side of the device. The overlabel has been equipped with two holes—a lower one (marked B on FIG. 1A) into which the saturated swab is to be inserted and an upper one (marked A on FIG. 1A) toward which the swab will be pushed after insertion thereof into the hole B. The position of the overlabel with its holes A and B, and the swab well cooperate to hold the swab in a proper position during the assay and to promote the expulsion of sorbed liquid from the swab.

A preassembled test strip (marked C on FIG. 1) described below, is inserted into the recess (labeled 2 on FIG. 1) and held in place by an adhesive applied to the bottom thereof. An overlabel shown in FIG. 1B is placed atop the left-hand side. It has been equipped with a single hole (marked D in FIG. 1B) which mates to the right-hand side hole A when the device is closed for performance of the assay.

The assembled device is stored in a sealed pouch with desiccant until it is used. Prior to sealing the pouch and storing, a lightly adhesive tape is placed on the outer edge of the right-hand half of the device.

B. Construction and Preparation of the Preassembled Test Strip

FIG. 1C shows the construction of the preassembled strip. It is comprised of a conjugate pad of sorbent material in which a conjugate of gold particles and the affinity-purified rabbit anti-*Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antibodies described above have been impregnated. In contact with this pad is a nitrocellulose pad onto which a capture line for the sample which reacts with the conjugate has been established by embedding a stripe of affinity-purified rabbit anti-*L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antibodies, prepared as described above. The nitrocellulose pad also has a downstream control line established by striping the pad with goat anti-rabbit immunoglobulin (IgG). Following the nitrocellulose pad, the strip is ended by an absorbent pad which serves as a reservoir for liquid. All of these pads are backed by an adhesive strip when the device is ready to ship.

The conjugate pad is normally made from non-woven polyester or extruded cellulose acetate. To prepare this pad for use in the assay, gold particles of 50 nm. diameter are conjugated to affinity-purified rabbit anti-*Legionella pneumophila* serotype 1 antibodies prepared as described above. The conjugation is effected using a known method such as that described by DeMay' in Polak, J. M. and Van Norden, S. (Eds.), *Immunochemistry: Modern Methods and Application*, (Wright, Bristol, England, 1986). The gold conjugate particles are mixed with a drying agent consisting of aqueous 5 mM sodium tetraborate of pH 8.0 containing 1.0% BSA, 0.1% Triton X-100, 2.0% Tween 20, 6.0% sucrose and 0.02% sodium azide. The pad is heated sufficiently to remove all of the liquid present and stored in a low-humidity environment pending, assembly of the test strip. These pads

and their treatment are especially chosen so that the pads will hold the dry conjugate and will release it only when later wetted by sample.

The nitrocellulose pad is first treated by embedding a stripe of affinity purified rabbit anti-*L. pneumophila* serotype 1 antibodies in a first portion thereof, using a carrier solution of phosphate buffered saline. These antibodies act as the capture line. In a second portion of the pad downstream of the first one in the assembled test device, the control line is established by striping goat anti-rabbit IgG in the same carrier solution on the surface of the pad. The nitrocellulose pad is then subjected to desiccation at 18-25° C. to promote permanent absorption of the protein stripes thereto.

The absorbent pad used is of a commercially available cellulosic material sold under the name Ahlstrom 939. This pad requires no special treatment.

C. Kit Preparation

As sold in commerce, the test device containing the finished test strip is assembled. In practice, a number of devices are packaged with a commensurate number of swabs fashioned from fibrous Dacron and a bottle of "Reagent A" equipped with a top adapted to deliver Reagent A dropwise. "Reagent A" is a solution of 2.0% Tween 20, 0.05% sodium azide and 0.5% sodium dodecyl sulfate in a 0.05 M sodium citrate-sodium phosphate buffer of pH 6.5. Positive and negative controls are also included in each kit.

The use of the finished test devices to identify *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide antigen is illustrated in the following example VIII:

Example VIII—Conducting the ICT Test for *L. pneumophila* Serogroup 1 O-Polysaccharide Antigen

In practice, the swab furnished with each device is dipped into the liquid sample, completely immersing the swab head. The use of the swab to act as a filter for undissolved solids, semisolids and colloids present in liquid biological samples such as urine, blood, lymph, etc. and also in liquid environmental samples is the subject of copending application Ser. No. 09/044,677 of Norman Moore and Vincent Sy filed Mar. 19, 1998. The swab is inserted into the hole at the bottom of the device (hole B of FIG. 1A) and gently pushed upward so that the swab tip is visible in the top hole (hole A of FIG. 1A). The Reagent A vial is held vertically above hole B and two drops of Reagent A are slowly added. The adhesive liner is then immediately peeled from the right edge of the device and the device is closed and securely sealed, thus pressing the swab in the swab well against the gold conjugate pad. After 15 minutes, the result can be read in the window of the device. A negative sample—i.e., one containing no *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide antigen—will exhibit only the control line in the top half of the window. A positive sample containing the target antigen will show two lines, the lower one of which is the patient (or sample) line; even a faint sample line indicates the presence of the target antigen in the sample. If no line appears in the window after 15 minutes, or only a sample line appears in the lower part of the window, the test is invalid and must be repeated.

Using the procedure described above, the devices prepared as described in Example VII were tested in the ICT procedure just described against 300 patient urine samples, 100 of which had been previously diagnosed as having *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 infection.

These ICT tests according to this invention were conducted under circumstances such that the previous diagnoses were unknown to personnel performing the ICT tests. Over-

all, 98% of the ICT tests agreed with the previous positive diagnoses. Also overall, 98% of the urine samples previously diagnosed as negative for *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide antigen gave results in agreement therewith when tested by the ICT procedure described herein, using the ICT device described in Example VII.

Example IX—Use of the ICT to Test Environmental Samples

Applicability' of this same test to environmental samples suspected of containing *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 was also investigated as follows:

Water was seeded with *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 bacteria obtained from a commercial source. The mixture was concentrated by filtering through a 0.22 μ m filter. A swab dipped in the sample was applied to the device, the device was closed and the assay was allowed to proceed. A positive result was observed within less than 15 minutes.

Example X—Western Blot Immunoassay for Detection of Cross-Reactive Carbohydrate Antigens of *L. pneumophila* Serogroups 1, 2, 4 and 5

In order to perform the Western Blot immunoassay using a kit purchased from Bio-Rad Laboratories, *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 cells were cultured as in Example II. A suspension of these cells was solubilized with 1% sodium dodecylsulfate in the presence of 10 mM mercaptoethanol at 100° C. for 5 minutes. The solubilized cells were treated with protease K and then subjected to electrophoretic separation of protein according to standard procedures provided by Bio-Rad.

The carbohydrate antigen from *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 was conjugated to the spacer molecule described in Example III hereof in the manner described in Example IV and applied to an activated Sepharose column as described in Example V. This column was then used for the affinity purification of polyvalent rabbit antibodies specific to the carbohydrate antigen of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 (which were conventionally obtained from serum of a rabbit previously injected with the protein-containing of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5) using the procedure of Example VI.

The Western immunoblot analysis was performed using a reagent kit from Bio-Rad and according to directions from this manufacturer. Briefly, the PBS extract of cells of *L. pneumophila* antigens 1, 2, 4 and 5 was subjected to the SDS-PAGE in 12% polyacrylamide gel blocked with 1% BSA with PBS transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane. After this step, the membrane was incubated with affinity purified antibodies specific to carbohydrate of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5. The membrane, washed as recommended by the manufacturer, and incubated with horseradish peroxidase conjugated to goat-anti-rabbit antibodies provided by Bio-Rad. After washing, the membrane was developed with a substrate system of 0.022 M 4-chloro-1 naphthol and 0.0012 M N; N-dimethyl-p-phenylene-diamine monohydrochloride in 0.1 M sodium citrate buffer of pH 6.9 containing 2.9 mM of hydrogen peroxide. FIG. 2 hereof shows the Western blot assay results compared with that of the prestained SDS-PAGE standard (in Lane 5) for the affinity purified antibodies of serogroup 5 of *L. pneumophila* against PBS extracts containing antigens of *L. pneumophila* as follows:

Lanes 1 and 7—*L. pneumophila* serogroup 2 (strain Togus-1)

Lanes 2 and 8—*L. pneumophila* serogroup 4 (strain Los Angeles-1)

Lanes 3 and 6—*L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 (strain Philadelphia-1)

Lanes 4 and 9—*L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 (strain U8W).

It is pointed out that the affinity purified antibodies for Lanes 1-4 were affinity purified on a column to which carbohydrate antigen from *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 (strain U8W) was attached while those for Lanes 6-9 were affinity purified in the same manner on a column having attached carbohydrate antigen of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 (strain Dallas IE).

FIG. 2 clearly demonstrates that affinity purified antibodies as herein disclosed of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 react with antigens of *L. pneumophila* serogroups 1, 2, and 4 in addition to those of serogroup 5.

An ICT assay as described above in which affinity purified antibodies from *L. pneumophila* serogroup 5 are substituted for affinity purified antibodies from *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 is contemplated.

Those skilled in the art of immunochemistry generally, and especially those skilled in immunoassays, will recognize that other materials and ingredients and at times, other procedural steps, can readily be substituted for those specifically recommended herein. A vast array of literature, both patent and non-patent, discusses the design and use of reliable, one-time-use, disposable immunoassay test devices that could be substituted for the preferred ICT device described and recommended herein. It is not intended that the present invention should be limited with respect to substitutable assay devices, materials, ingredients or process steps except insofar as the following claims may so limit it.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining the presence of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 in a liquid sample, the method comprising:

- (a) applying the liquid sample to a porous test strip, wherein the porous test strip defines a liquid flow path, the porous test strip comprising:
 - (i) a sample receiving zone for receiving the liquid sample;
 - (ii) multiple binding agents disposed in a dried state at a binding zone along the flow path of the test strip downstream from the sample receiving zone, each binding agent comprising:
 - antigen specific affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies conjugated to a detectable particle, wherein the antigen specific affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies specifically bind a *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide antigen,
 - and wherein the binding agents are essentially free of antibodies that bind proteins of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide;
 - (iii) multiple capture agents disposed in a dried state at a capture zone; and
 - (iv) said capture zone downstream from the sample receiving zone; and
- (b) allowing said sample to flow laterally along the flow path of the test strip, mobilizing the binding agents;
- (c) binding, in the presence of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide antigen, a complex comprising one of the binding agents bound to the antigen in the capture zone, wherein the formation of a detectable line is indicative of the presence of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 in the liquid sample.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the capture agents are antibodies.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the capture agents are polyclonal antibodies.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the detectable particle 5 is a color-producing particle.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the detectable particle is colloidal gold.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the detectable particle is a color-producing particle and the capture agents are 10 antibodies.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the presence of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 in a liquid sample is determined within fifteen minutes of applying the liquid sample to the device. 15

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid sample is urine, serum, sputum or cerebrospinal fluid.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the antigen specific polyclonal antibodies are affinity-purified.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the antigen-specific 20 polyclonal antibodies are affinity-purified with isolated and purified *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 O-polysaccharide antigen.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	使用纯化的抗原特异性抗体检测军团杆菌细菌的方法		
公开(公告)号	US9989529	公开(公告)日	2018-06-05
申请号	US14/828823	申请日	2015-08-18
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	了Alere SCARBOROUGH		
申请(专利权)人(译)	了Alere SCARBOROUGH INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	了Alere SCARBOROUGH INC.		
[标]发明人	KOULCHIN VLADIMIR A MOORE NORMAN J MOLOKOVA ELENA V		
发明人	KOULCHIN, VLADIMIR A. MOORE, NORMAN J. MOLOKOVA, ELENA V.		
IPC分类号	C12Q1/68 G01N33/569 C07K16/12 G01N33/53 G01N21/78 G01N21/75 G01N21/77 G01N33/531 C07K1/22 C12P19/04 C12R1/01 G01N30/06 G01N30/88 G01N33/543		
CPC分类号	G01N33/56911 C07K16/126 G01N21/78 G01N33/53 G01N2469/10 G01N2021/757 G01N2021/7759 G01N2400/10 G01N2021/752		
其他公开文献	US20160047807A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

本发明涉及从军团菌中提取细菌，特别是嗜肺军团菌，一种基本上不含蛋白质的O-多糖或碳水化合物抗原，通过蛋白质空间分子将该抗原与活化的色谱柱偶联，该蛋白质空间分子首先与抗原偶联，利用由此制备的柱用于亲和纯化来自相同的军团菌细菌的原始多价抗体，其中O-多糖或碳水化合物抗原被分离 - 从而获得抗原特异性抗体，其可用于快速检测相应的军团菌人体液中的细菌或其抗体，例如尿液，痰液，血液等，或怀疑携带嗜肺军团菌细菌的环境样品中的细菌或其抗体。

