

APPENDIX 6

Formol-gel test

Add two drops of concentrated formalin solution (40 % w/v) to approximately 1 ml of serum. In a positive test the serum turns white and solidifies into a gel. In a negative test the serum remains unchanged or whitening and gelling only occur after some delay (30 minutes). Solidification of the serum without whitening is regarded as a negative test for VL.

The formol-gel test may also be performed with smaller quantities of serum on a slide. Mix one drop of serum and a small drop of concentrated formalin solution together and look for whitening and solidification of the serum into a gel.