



# WASPS

Welsh Assessment Of Serological Proficiency Scheme  
Cynllun Aseiad Hyfedredd Serolegol Cymru

<http://www.waspsqa.org.uk>



Accredited EQA scheme  
Reference No: 103/0205

## **WASP EXERCISE W01/08 - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

Part of this exercise aimed to show participants a mixed-field reaction, this has been demonstrated in previous NEQAS exercises to be poorly detected. Unfortunately the use of ABO incompatibility to demonstrate this failed to take into account the variability of column technologies [1, 2, & 3], as such serum 4 will be considered non-scoring for this exercise and will not be assessed for outside consensus performance on a laboratory or individual basis. Preliminary testing suggested that the exercise materials were suitable, however, mid-exercise and post-expiry testing both in-house and by independent confirmatory laboratories failed to show a mixed-field reaction.

### **FORMULATION OF EXERCISE W01/08**

SERUM 4	CELL Z
Anti-A	50% O / A

### **OVERALL DETECTION RATE**

\* The anti-A v O/A cell mixture was detected in 117/552 instances (21.2%).

### **DETECTION RATE BY TECHNIQUE**

TUBE LISS	34/34 (100%)
GEL TECHNIQUE	20/417 (4.8%)
BEAD TECHNIQUE	62/101 (61.4%)

Strong reactions throughout the period of the exercise were demonstrated by participants using low-ionic strength tube techniques. Some individual participants using column technologies detected weak reactions only (+/-).

WASPS Steering Committee / Pwyllgor Llywio

J.Jones (Chairman/Cadeirydd), C. Cox, S. Lees, M.Goodrick (Scheme Organiser / Trefnydd Cynllunio)  
G.Nottage (Scheme Manager / Rheolwr Cynllun), L. Richards, H.Davies, T.Allen, H. Peregrine, P. Turner

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The Steering Committee feels that this has still been a useful exercise in terms of its educational value, serving to reinforce to all participating laboratories that some modern technologies are not recommended for the reliable detection of ABO incompatibilities. Laboratories that use a column technology IAT as their sole means of compatibility testing should be mindful of this limitation.

## REFERENCES

1. Boulton, F & Nightingale, M. (1994) Failure of Diamed-ID microtyping system to detect major ABO incompatibility. *Lancet*; 343(8913):1649-50.
2. Phillips *et al.* (1997) An explanation and the clinical significance of the failure of microcolumn tests to detect weak ABO and other antibodies. *Transfusion Medicine*; 7:47-53.
3. Voak, D. (1999) New Developments in Blood Group Serology. *Infusion Therapy & Transfusion Medicine*; 26:258-260.

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