# Separation of main proteins in plasma and serum

**EXPERIMENT 2** 

## The plasma proteins

#### The main plasma proteins are:

- albumin (36-50 g/l).
- globulins (18–32 g/l).
- fibrinogen (2-4 g/l).

- Generally the decrease in total protein is due to decrease in albumin fraction or increase in globulin components.
- Dehydration is one conditionin which the increase in total protein is due to increase in both albumin and globulin fractions because of haemoconcentration.
- In this case the A / G ratio remains unaltered.

## A low serum albumin may be due to:

- i. A heavy loss of albumin in urine
- ii. Loss of protein into alimentary tract.
- iii. Malabsorption of protein from the alimentary tract
- iv. Decreased formation by the liver due to defective liver and
- v. Increase catabolism of protein or due to insufficient intake of protein in diet.

- Total serum protein is appreciably reduced with low albumin in severe haemorrhage both acute and chronic, shock whether post operative following extensive burns or traumatic as in crush injuries, malignant disease of stomach, intestine and pancreas, peptic ulcer.
- In liver disease, particularly severe ones, Albumin is reduced and A/G ratio altered. Total protein may be reduced but more commonly it is found within normal limits.

Increase in globulin occurs most commonly in advanced liver disease, multiple myeloma and a number of chronic infections.

## fibrinogen

Add an equal volume of saturate sodium chloride solution to plasma. Fibrinogen precipitates.

- To fibrinogen precipitate:
- Redissolve in normal saline and divide into two portions.
- biuret test:

add an equal volume of biuret reagent mix and allow to stand in a water path at 37c. the development of a blue colour confirms the presence of protein (fibrinogen).

Clotting Test:

Add an equal volum of serum+CaCL2 Incubatie at 37c. In water bath for 10 min

Clotting occurs because serum contains active thrombin which converts fibrinogen to insoluble fibrin.

- Heat coagulation test:
- Add diluted acetic acid drop until the PH is between 5 6.
- Heat the contents of the tube.
- A cloudiness confirm the presence of protein (Fibrinogen).

#### Serum Proteins

Add an equal volume of saturated ammonium sulphate solution to serum.

filter off the precipitated globulin.

#### Globulin precipitate:

- Dissolve in saline solution.
- divide the solution into two and carry out the following confirmatory tests.

### Globulin precipitate

#### Biuret test:

- Add an equal volume of biuret reagent.
- mixed allow to stand in a water bath at 37c.
- the development of a blue colour confirms the presence of protein (globulin).
- \* Heat coagulation test:
- Add diluted acetic acid drop until the PH is between 5 – 6.
- Heat the contents of the tube.
- A cloudiness confirm the presence of protein (globulin).

#### To albumin filtrate:

#### Salting Out:

Add solid ammonium sulphate until albumin is precipitated.

Heat coagulation test

Add diluted acetic acid drop until the PH is between 5 – 6.

Heat the contents of the tube.

A cloudiness confirm the presence of protein

Both these tests confirm the presence of protein(albumin).

## Thank you