

Lymphatic and immune systems - lab report example

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Completing the Western Blot test comes with its benefits. The technique can supposedly serve as an efficient, early diagnostic tool, which senses even the smallest amount of immunogenic response from a bacteria or virus in a patient's sample (Marieb & Hoehn, 2010). The test also builds on its own sensitivity. This amplifies that the intensity of the signal detected classifying an illness early enough before it blows to the entire body of the patient.

Question 2

Seroconversion refers to the growth of antibodies to an antigen, in this case HIV (Marieb & Hoehn, 2010). Seroconversion is an element of the immune system. When individuals develop antibodies to HIV, medical experts say that they have seroconvert to antibody-positive from antibody-negative (Marieb & Hoehn, 2010).

Question 3

In a direct ELISA test, an antigen is adsorbed to a synthetic plate and then proteins, in excess, are added to stop all the other binding sites using bovine, serum or albumin (Marieb & Hoehn, 2010). In an indirect ELISA test, the steps are similar only that there is an additional step. After the antigen is adsorbed, the next antibody to be included is the antibody that identifies the antigen, unlike in a direct ELISA test.

Question 4

The two tests are antibodies detecting procedures (Marieb & Hoehn, 2010). However, the Western Blot test is considered as a confirmatory test because it can detect HIV early enough for a patient to receive the crucial treatment.

Question 5

The ELISA test is considered extremely sensitive when it comes to testing for antibodies and that is why most of its test come back positive (Marieb & Hoehn, 2010). However, the Western Blot test takes its time to establish the status of an antibody, and that is why most of its results are negative.

References

Marieb, E. N. & Hoehn, K. (2010). Human anatomy & physiology (8th ed.). San Francisco: Benjamin Cummings.