Results. The sera of 14 children hospitalized with the diagnosis of coeliac disease were tested for antibodies against gliadin and 5 different cow milk proteins (casein, α-lactalbumin, β-lactoglobulin, bovine γ-globulin, bovine serum-albumin).

The sensitivity of the new fluorescent solid-phase method was compared with the Ouchterlony precipitation technique (final reading after 5 days) and for gliadin to the complement fixation test in addition (see Table). The fluorescence technique is 10 to 100 times more sensitive for the detection of IgG-antibodies toward gliadin and milk proteins than the conventional Ouchterlony technique. In many sera, antibodies to single protein classes could only be revealed by fluorescence. All sera giving negative results with this new method gave no precipitation reaction or complement fixation.

Sensitivity of different methods for detecting antibodies against cow milk proteins and gliadin

Antigen	Test for antibody detection	Coeliac disease[a]
Gliadin	complement fixation	9/14
	Ouchterlony	7/14
	fluorescence[b]	14/14
Casein	Ouchterlony	9/14
	fluorescence[b]	14/14
β-Lactoglobulin	Ouchterlony	12/14
	fluorescence[b]	13/14
α-Lactalbumin	Ouchterlony	13/14
	fluorescence[b]	13/14
Bovine serumalbumin	Ouchterlony	1/14
	fluorescence[b]	8/14
Bovine γ-Globulin	Ouchterlony	3/14
	fluorescence[b]	9/14

[a] Number positives/number tested; [b] tested with rabbit anti-human-IgG

Further studies evaluating the diagnostic significance of antibodies against food-proteins in different immunglobulin-classes (IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE) are in progress.

Zusammenfassung. Mit Hilfe einer neu entwickelten Methode (Bindung von Antigen an Agarose-Partikel, AK-Nachweis mit fluoreszierenden Anti-human-Ig-Seren) gelingt es auf einfache Art, Serum-AK gegen Gliadin und Milchproteine bei Coeliakiepatienten in verschiedenen Immunglobulinklassen nachzuweisen.

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CONGRESSUS

Yugoslavia

IAEA Symposium on Nuclear Activation Techniques in the Life Sciences

in Ljubljana, 10–14 April 1972.

The Symposium will be concerned with the applications of nuclear activation techniques in the life sciences and the significance of the results obtained in such applications. It follows the IAEA Symposium in Amsterdam 1967.

As regards techniques, topics to be discussed include sample preparation procedures particularly in multicomponent systems and biological analytical reference materials. As regards interpretation of data, results obtained in studies in both cellular and subcellular systems in plants and animals will be discussed. Contributions relating to agriculture, biochemistry, ecology, nutritional studies, pharmaceutics and pharmacology, as well as applications in medical diagnosis, research and therapy, will be included. Contributions relating to human ecology will deal especially with the problems of public health, environmental pollution and food additives and contamination.

Further information by the Scientific Secretaries G.B. Cook and R.M. Parr, IAEA Symposium on Nuclear Activation Techniques, Kärntnerring 11, P.O. Box 590, A–1011 Wien (Austria).

Great Britain

6th European Symposium on Bio-Organic Chemistry (ESBOC)

in Gregynog Hall, mid-Wales, 19–22 May 1972.

Chairmanship Professor A.R. Battersby, Cambridge. The symposium will include lectures by Professor D. Arigoni (Zurich) and Professor F. Lynen (Munich). Further information by Dr. J.S. Davis, Secretary of ESBOC Symposium, Department of Chemistry, University College, Swansea SA2 8PP (Wales), UK.