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## ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR SOME ALLOANTIBODIES: EVALUATION OF THE AUTOMATED MICROTYPING GEL SYSTEM

## Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Medicine University of Alexandria

In partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of

Master of Clinical Pathology

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#### List of abbreviations

HDN Haemolytic disease of the newborn.

IAT Indirect antiglobulin test.

AHG Anti human globulin test.

DAT Direct antiglobulin test.

PNH Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinurea.

CAT Column agglutination technology.

HLA Human leucocytic antigen.

HEMPAS Hereditary erythroblastic multinuclearity with positive acidified serum

RT Room temperature.

HTR Haemolytic transfusion reaction.

LISS Low ionic strength saline.

PCR Polymerase chain reaction.

## INTRODUCTION

#### **Blood Group Systems and Blood Groups**

Since Landsteiner's discovery in 1901 that human blood groups existed, a vast body of serological, genetic and more recently biochemical data in red cell blood-group antigens has been accumulated.<sup>(1)</sup>

About 600 red cell antigens have been described, most of which have been assigned to well defined blood-group system. Almost all blood-group antigens are expressed as co-dominant antigens i.e. both genes are expressed in the heterozygote. Some blood-group genes have been assigned to specific chromosomes e.g. ABO system on chromosome 9 and Rh system on chromosome 1.<sup>(1)</sup>

The clinical importance of a blood-group antigen depends on the frequency of occurrence of the corresponding antibody and its ability to haemolyse red cells in vivo. On these criteria the ABO and the Rh systems are of major importance. Anti A and anti B occur regularly and are capable of causing severe intravascular haemolysis after an incompatible transfusion. The Rh D antigen is the most immunogenic red cell antigen after A and B antigens, being capable of stimulating anti D production after transfusion or pregnancy in the majority of Rh D-negative individuals.<sup>(1)</sup>

#### **ABO System:**

There are four main blood groups: A, B, AB and O. The presence of A or B antigens on red cells is determined by the

inheritance of the allelic genes A, B and O on chromosome 9, which are inherited in pairs as Mendilian dominants. (2) The relation between ABO phenotypes and genotypes is shown in table 1.

Phenotype	Genotype
A	AA
	AO
В	BB
	ВО
AB	AB
0	00

Table 1 : Different phenotypes and genotypes for ABO system.

The cellular expression of A and B is determined by a further gene (the H gene) which is inherited independently and it codes for an enzyme that converts a carbohydrate precursor into H substance on which the A and B gene products act. The A and B genes code for (glycosyl transferase) specific enzyme which converts substance into A and B antigens by the terminal addition of Nacetyl-D-galactosamine and D galactose respectively. The O gene is a silent allele which doesn't produce an active transferase, so that H substance persists unchanged in group O. In the extremely rare Oh Bombay phenotype, the H genotype is silent (hh) and no Htransferase is produced; consequently no H substance is made and therefore A and B genes if present cannot be expressed. (1)