

False Positive Serum Pregnancy Testing in Patients with Elevated Autoimmune Antibodies
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Discrepant serum human chorionic gonadotropin results were observed in a patient with known polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Further testing with heterophilic antibody blocking agent was completed on the patient's serum with resultant negative hCG signal. Rheumatoid factor has been a suspected cross-reactive analyte for many assays, including hCG. Incorrect diagnosis concluded from a spurious positive hCG result can lead to improper medical management. Clinicians should remain alert as immunoassays will remain an indispensable analytical tool but have inherent pit falls.