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The Interpretation of Diagnostic Blood tests for Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)

HAV Ab - Hepatitis A antibody - anti-HAV

- **DETECTED** in both acute cases and in those previously exposed
- Appears approximately two weeks after the IgM antibody in acute cases
- Is the antibody produced by successful vaccination
- May be **DETECTED** in individuals given serum immune globulin for HAV prophylaxis for at least six months

HAV Ab IgM – IgM anti-HAV

- Routinely used to confirm the diagnosis of acute HAV
- Appears approximately three to six weeks after exposure
- May be **DETECTABLE** for 3-6 months after clinical resolution

HAV Ag – Hepatitis A antigen

- Not routinely tested for

HAV RNA - Hepatitis A Virus RNA

- Presence in blood indicates infectivity and active viral replication
- May be used as an early diagnostic test before HAV Ab IgM can be detected during hepatitis A outbreaks.
- HAV RNA testing may help to elucidate acute viral hepatitis cases of unknown etiology
- Test not widely available