

Hepatitis A virus infection

DIAGNOSING PAST INFECTION AND VACCINATION

Case history

- Abdominal pain for three days
- Onset one week ago
- Travelled to Jamaica one and a half months ago



Gaby Doe,
40-years-old

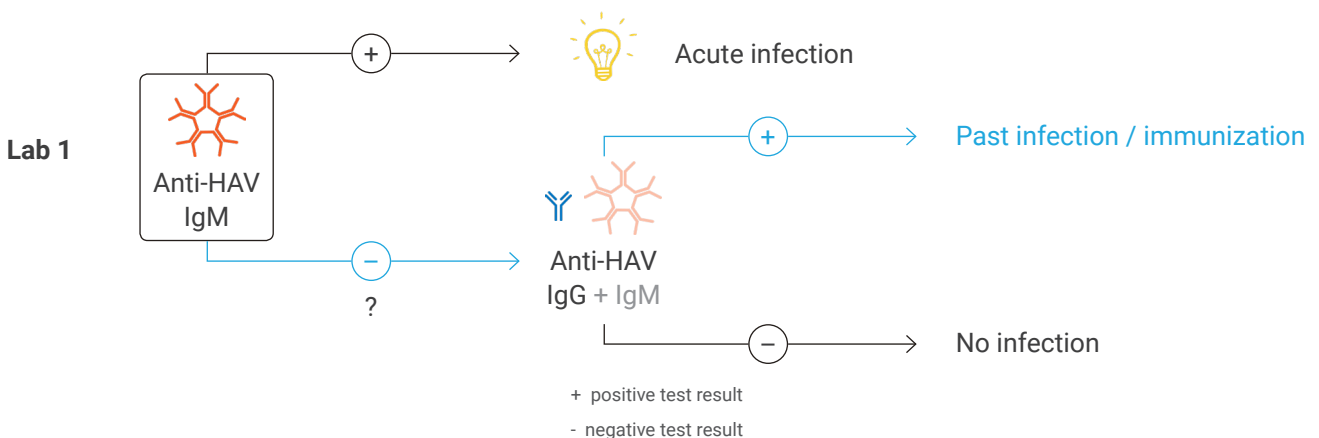
Laboratory report

ALT	25 (5–35 IU/L)
Hepatitis A:	
Anti-HAV IgM	-
Anti-HAV	+

Interpretation

Gaby Doe’s symptoms and travel history suggest an acute hepatitis A infection. However, her lab report shows ALT activity levels in the reference range as well as negative anti-HAV IgM antibodies. Thus, an acute hepatitis A infection can be excluded. Since

Gaby’s anti-HAV test is positive, she must have positive anti-HAV IgG antibodies. Thus, Gaby’s results indicate she’s either had an infection in the past, or has been vaccinated against hepatitis A.



DIAGNOSIS

Gaby Doe does not have an acute HAV infection. She’s either had an infection in the past or has been vaccinated against hepatitis A (we cannot distinguish between these two situations based on these results). Either way, Gaby’s symptoms are likely to be caused by something other than hepatitis A.