

□ Serology

Serology is the branch of [immunology](#) that studies **blood serum** and other bodily fluids, focusing primarily on the **detection of antibodies and antigens** related to infections and immune responses.

□ What it detects

- **Antibodies** (e.g., IgG, IgM) produced in response to specific pathogens
- **Antigens** from viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms

□ Common Applications

- Diagnosing [viral infections](#) (e.g., HIV, HCMV, hepatitis)
- Monitoring **immune status** or **past exposure**
- Evaluating [autoimmune diseases](#) (e.g., lupus, Sjögren's)
- Assessing **vaccine response**

□ Timing Matters

- **IgM** antibodies indicate **recent or acute infection**
- **IgG** antibodies suggest **past exposure** or **long-term immunity**

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