

Check your understanding



1 Why is ELISA an indirect method for detection of viral (and other) infections?

ELISA detects the antibodies that our bodies produce against the virus, not the virus itself. Sometimes it doesn't give such specific results.

2 You shared popcorn with someone who turned out to have Hepatitis A, a disease you never had. Your doctor suspects you have an infection, so he gives you an injection of Immunoglobulin, containing specific hepatitis A virus antibodies. What kind of immunity will this injection induce (active or passive)?

Passive immunity - your body didn't produce these antibodies. Vaccines on the other hand induce active immunity.

3 When a pregnant woman receives a tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine, she passes on her antibodies she produces to the unborn child through the placenta. The antibodies protect babies who are too young to get the vaccine. What kind of immunity is this?

Again passive immunity - maternal passive immunity which the babies acquire naturally.

4 What is the most efficient way to prevent Zika virus disease?

Avoid mosquito bites! Mosquitoes transmit many diseases.