

Abstract:

Determination of alfa-1-fetoprotein (AFP) level is addressed. The immunoturbidimetric method using a polyspecific antiserum was tested to determine the level of AFP in amniotic fluid. Results are compared to those obtained by simple radial immunodiffusion. In addition, a review of immunochemical methods for determination of AFP is given.

The level of AFP is utilized as a biomarker indicating perinatal defects. To reveal pathological cases in a perinatal screening database, entries with abnormally high levels of AFP need to be found. For this purpose, a computer program was developed to point out potentially pathological cases based on calculation of the normal AFP level and deviations from this level.

Keywords: alpha-fetoprotein, neural tube defects, immunoturbidimetry, imunoassay