

Question 4 – Week of November 30

Which of the following cause a false negative Hepatitis C PCR test?

- A. Milk thistle
- B. Iron supplements
- C. Cryoglobulinemia
- D. Omeprazole

Answer: C

Cryoglobulinemia can cause a false negative HCV RNA test. It is thought that the HCV RNA is sequestered in the immune complexes and is lost as a cryoprecipitate during processing of the serum. The others have no effect on HCV PCR RNA testing.

Reference:

1. Candai C, Padala MG, Basitirani I, et al. Antibody testing and RT-PCR results in hepatitis C virus (HCV infection): HCV-RNA detection in PBMC of plasma – negative HCV – seropositive persons. *Infection* 1998; 26(3):151-4.