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Development of a borreliosis assay: Mannan coated polyethylene sinter bodies as a new platform technology

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2 sinter bodies as a new platform technology

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8

9 Abstract

10 Rapid diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis has been carried out on chemically modified porous polyethylene sinter bodies. 11 Photografting of 2-propenol on sinter body's surface was performed as a first step, introducing active hydroxyl 12 groups as a result of polyalcohol formation. The hydroxyl groups were used for further immobilization and could be 13 linked via 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APTES) to polysaccharides like mannan. Prone to coupling, mannan was 14 activated using N, N'-disuccinimidyl carbonate (DSC) to allow smooth reaction with the primary amine groups of 15 the silane layer. In a final preparation step, a recombinant fusion protein consisting of the mannan-binding domain 16 of the lectin Concanavalin A (ConA) and a specific Borrelia surface antigen was immobilized by self-organization 17 on the mannan surface. The fusion protein was used as biological interface structure. This strategy is highly efficient 18 and resulted in a defined orientation of the antigen part of the fusion protein. Rapid and convenient differentiation 19 could be then established between Borrelia-negative and a -positive serum even in 1000-fold diluted samples and 20 detection of Lyme borrelioses in a rather early stage is likely. Furthermore, this generic strategy can be easily 21 transferred to other bacterial or viral antigen structures.

Keywords: Serological diagnosis, Lyme borreliosis, polyethylene, recombinant fusion protein, immobilization,
self organisation.

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