CLAIMS

1. An antibody or part thereof capable of specifically binding to the Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and having Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) neutralizing activity, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof comprises a light chain CDR1 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, a light chain CDR2 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, a light chain CDR3 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, a heavy chain CDR1 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, a heavy chain CDR2 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and a heavy chain CDR3 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

2. Antibody according to claim 1 comprising both heavy (VH) and light chain (VL) variable domains wherein the VH domain comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 and wherein the VL domain comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. Antibody according to claims 1 or 2 which is a human antibody.

4. Antibody according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the antibody is a recombinant antibody.

5. Antibody according to any one of claims 1 - 4 for use in the treatment, prevention or prophylaxis of hepatitis B infection.

6. Antibody for use according to claim 5 wherein the antibody is administered to a mammal in an amount sufficient to maintain a minimum level of 12 IU/ml serum.

~~7. A method for preventing or treating HBV infection or a disease caused thereby in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to the mammal an antibody or part thereof capable of specifically binding to the Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and having Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) neutralizing activity, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof comprises a light chain CDR1 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, a light chain CDR2 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, a light chain CDR3 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, a heavy chain CDR1 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, a heavy chain CDR2 region~~

~~comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and a heavy chain CDR3 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.~~

~~8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the antibody is a human antibody.~~

~~9. A method according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the antibody comprises both heavy (VH) and light chain (VL) variable domains wherein the VH domain comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 and wherein the VL domain comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4.~~

7. Use of an antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in the preparation of a medicament for preventing or treating HBV infection or a disease caused thereby in a mammal.

8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is formulated for administration in an amount sufficient to maintain a minimum level of 12 IU/ml of serum.

~~10. Nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain variable domain consisting of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 or its complement and/or a light chain variable domain consisting of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4, or its complement.~~

~~11. Nucleic acid according to claim 10 comprising a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3.~~

~~12. Use of a nucleic acid according to claims 10 or 11 for the production of a recombinant antibody.~~