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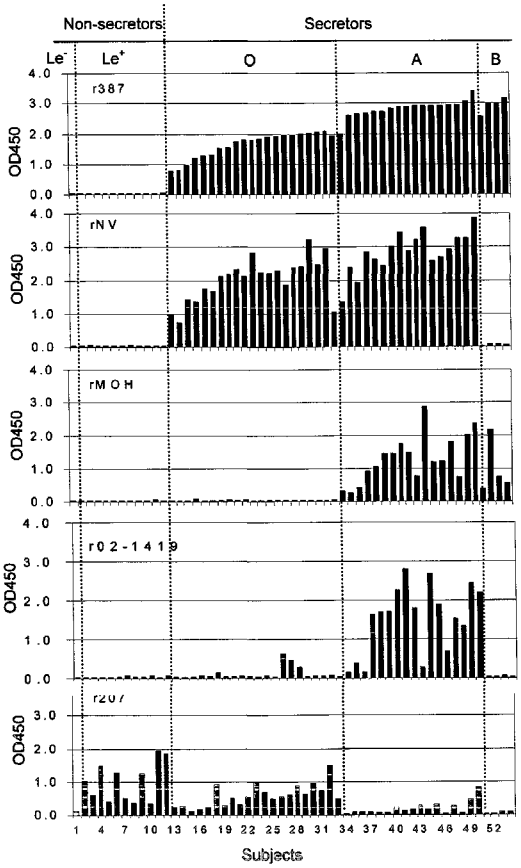
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(54) Title: METHOD, COMPOSITION AND KIT FOR ANTIGENIC BINDING OF NORWALK-LIKE VIRUSES



(57) Abstract: A method for detecting a Norwalk-Like Virus (NLV) in a biological sample, comprising the steps of: obtaining a biological sample suspected of containing a NLV; contacting the biological sample with at least one human histo-blood group antigen to allow formation of a complex of the NLV with the antigen; and detecting the antigen NLV complex. The antigen-NLV complex can be detected by contacting the NLV-antigen complex with a NLV antibody that binds at an epitope of the NLV, and detecting the NLV antibody. The invention also includes a method for identifying compounds, and the compounds, that can inhibit the binding between a Norwalk-Like Virus (NLV) and a histo-blood group antigen. The method includes the steps of contacting the NLV target with a compound; subsequently contacting the NLV with a standard compound that is known to be bound at a determinant binding site of the NLV; and determining whether the binding of the standard compound is decreased in the presence of the test compound, the decrease in binding being an indication that the test compound inhibits the binding activity of the NLV with the standard compound. In preferred embodiments, the standard compound is a histo-blood group antigen.

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