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| THIS SHEET HAS BEEN<br>REPLACED |
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ABSTRACT  
HEPATITIS B VACCINE

5 A variant or so-called "escape mutant" HBsAg protein or  
fragment thereof displaying the antigenicity of hepatitis  
B virus surface antigen is disclosed, in which the mutant  
protein or fragment thereof (mHBsAg) comprises a modified  
'a' determinant in which at least two amino acids are  
10 inserted downstream of position 122 of the wild type  
HBsAg sequence. A vaccine comprising the mHBsAg is  
provided, as is a kit for diagnostic *in vitro* detection  
of anti-mHBsAg antibodies and an antibody preparation  
comprising anti-mHBsAg antibodies.

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