CONCLUSIONS

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- IgG anti-recombinant EA p54 is the most sensitive (92.3%) marker for NPC detection in ELISA system compared to the other two recombinant EBV proteins, p138 and p23.

- IgA- and IgG-p138 detection may have prognostic values in NPC monitoring.

- 10-residue peptides were synthesized using Chiron Mimotope's technique to delineate linear epitopes of the EA p54 viral protein. A sequence comprising RFYRSGIIAV was identified as the antigenic epitope for IgG serum antibodies in NPC.

- Hydropathy profiling of EBV EA p54, EBNA1 and ZEBRA proteins using method of Hopp and Woods (1983) showed very little correlation between predicted antigenic regions with immunodominant regions identified through PEPSCAN epitope analysis.