

14-2 *Final Draft*

SIGNIFICANCE OF A POSITIVE BLOOD TEST
FOR SYPHILIS

MAIN TOPIC - Introduction.

A. General considerations

1. Flocculation tests are, generally speaking,
more efficient than Wassermann tests.
2. Accuracy of individual laboratory is
very important.

B. Significance of positive tests in relation to diagnosis.

Say something about C.M.S.

Under this heading, I wish to consider only the
value of blood tests in determining the existence
of syphilis, and shall defer the consideration of
their value as an indication for treatment to a
later topic.

1. Accompanied by history or clinical
signs.
 2. Unaccompanied by history or clinical
signs. (*Part: by Wassermann*)
- Reason for not testing every syphilis*
1) Some people figure
2) Reaction W.R.
3) Sensitivity W.R. better
4) C.M.S. with Wassermann
5) Personal observation

C. Significance of positive blood tests in relation to prognosis.

1. No blood test, in itself, defines the outcome
of syphilis.

2. The outcome of syphilis is determined by clinical investigations. In the untreated cases, Brusgaard's figures are most significant, and in the treated cases the statistics of the co-operative clinical group are very important.

D. Significance of positive blood tests in relation to treatment.

Although a positive blood test may, in most cases, be sufficient evidence for concluding that syphilis exists or has existed, it sheds no light on the necessity for treatment any more than a positive tuberculin test does in tuberculosis. *Indicated* Consequently, it is not by itself:

1. A sign to start treatment
2. A sign to continue treatment if the reaction is fixed or resistant.
3. A relapsing positive is a sign to treat in early syphilis.

4) Relapsing positive in asymptomatic tertiary syphilis.