

AIHA CASE #4

1. What is the specificity of this antibody? Is this allo- or auto-antibody?

The antibody has anti-E specificity, but it appears to be an autoantibody because it can be recovered from the RBCs of a patient who has not been transfused in the past 3 months. Note that, in contrast to the preceding case the patient lacks the corresponding antigen.

2. Why were the auto and allo-adsorptions done? What do they demonstrate?

The adsorptions demonstrate that the antibody specificity is "mimicking" in that it can be adsorbed by cells that lack the antigen, including the patient's cells and allogeneic cells. The biochemical nature of these findings is not known.