

#### 4.2 Laboratory Analysis

The laboratory (or, preferably, laboratories) selected to conduct the analysis should be advised as far in advance as possible and, ideally, the analysts should be involved in pre-travel briefings with the investigating team when matters related to sample collection and handling are discussed.

It was recognized that it would be necessary to have the laboratory (or laboratories) analyse the samples quickly and on a priority basis, hence the need for laboratories specializing in certain types of analysis. This would entail certain economic costs in the case of a commercial laboratory, or other opportunity costs in the case of a government laboratory.

That being said, in dealing with "novel" agents, a considerable amount of time will likely have to be devoted to refining analytical procedures. In addition to that, other more basic research (for example, work related to recovery rates or to the metabolic breakdown of substances in body-fluids) may well have to be done in order to be able to interpret the analytical results. All of this takes time.

Analysis of the blood samples was further complicated in that approximately one-third of the blood samples were found to be hemolyzed and/or icteric, or lipid-rich (see Appendix Z). While hemolysis may be associated with improper