

## **SECRETOR OR NON-SECRETOR**

By Rebecca Tkach, HHP, CST, LMT

On chromosomes 11 and 19, redid eth blood type gene's very important first cousins, the blood type secretor genes. Although your secretor gene is independent of your blood type, it influences the way your blood type is expressed. Everyone carries a blood type antigen on their blood cells, but most people (between 80 and 85%) have blood type antigens that float around freely in their body secretions. These people are called secretors, because they "secrete" their blood type antigens into their body fluids, such as saliva, mucus, and sperm. If you're a secretor, you can learn your blood type form these other body fluids, as well as form your blood. People who do not secrete their blood type antigens in other fluids besides blood are non-secretors.

Because secretors have more places to put their blood type antigens they have more blood type expression in their bodies than non-secretors. Your secretor status can have a great influence on the characteristics of your immune system and is associated with a wide variety of diseases and metabolic conditions.

We don't know precisely why nature made some of us secretors and some of us non-secretors, but we can surmise that secretor status is related to nature's effort to provide some additional layer of protection that didn't exist for the earliest humans. The secretor state was most likely an immunologic adaptation. When you secrete your blood type antigens into saliva, digestive secretions, and other fluids, these secretions appear to create a barrier against environmental elements, such as bacteria, pollutants, virus, parasites and other irritants. Non-secretors seem to have more of a "death trap" strategy: They allow pathogenic invaders a way in and then attack and kill them internally. The 15 to 20% of the population that are non-secretors make up about 80% of individuals suffering from a wide variety of disorders.