

COW C-REACTIVE PROTEIN (CRP) ELISA

Life Diagnostics, Inc., Catalog Number: CRP-11

INTRODUCTION

CRP is an acute phase protein that is elevated in cow serum and milk because of infection and disease and can be used as a biomarker to evaluate health status.¹ Studies at Life Diagnostics, Inc. (LDI) demonstrated that normal milk levels of CRP are 3.1 ± 2.8 ng/ml (mean \pm SD, n=17). Levels of 4218 ± 2658 ng/ml (mean \pm SD, n=20) were found in milk from cows with mastitis. In contrast to ELISA kits from other vendors, this ELISA uses antibodies generated against cow CRP. The cow CRP and CRP antibodies were purified at LDI.

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

The assay uses affinity purified cow CRP antibodies for solid phase (microtiter wells) immobilization and horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated cow CRP antibodies for detection. Standards and diluted samples are incubated in the microtiter wells for 45 minutes. The wells are subsequently washed. HRP conjugate is added and incubated for 45 minutes. This results in CRP molecules being sandwiched between the immobilization and detection antibodies. The wells are then washed to remove unbound HRP-conjugate and TMB is added and incubated for 20 minutes. If CRP is present a blue color develops. Color development is stopped by the addition of Stop solution, changing the color to yellow, and absorbance is measured at 450 nm. The concentration of CRP is proportional to absorbance and is derived from a standard curve.

MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS

Materials provided with the kit:

- CRP antibody coated 96-well plate (12 x 8-well strips)
- HRP Conjugate, 11 ml
- CRP stock
- 20x Wash solution: TBS50-20, 50 ml
- 10x Diluent: YD25-10, 25 ml
- TMB: TMB11-1, 11 ml
- Stop solution: SS11-1, 11 ml

Materials required but not provided:

- Pipettors and tips
- Distilled or deionized water
- Polypropylene or glass tubes
- Vortex mixer
- Absorbent paper or paper towels
- Plate incubator/shaker
- Plate washer
- Plate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Curve fitting software

STORAGE

The kit should be stored at 4°C. The microtiter plate should be kept in a sealed bag with desiccant. Kits will remain stable for six months from the date of purchase if stored as described.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. All reagents should be allowed to reach room temperature before use.
2. Reliable and reproducible results will be obtained when the assay is carried out with a complete understanding of the instructions and with adherence to good laboratory practice.
3. The wash procedure is critical. Insufficient washing will result in poor precision and falsely elevated absorbance readings.
4. Laboratory temperature will influence absorbance readings. Our ELISA kits are calibrated using shaking incubators set at 150 rpm and 25°C. Performance of the assay at lower temperatures will result in lower absorbance values.

DILUENT PREPARATION

The diluent is provided as a 10x stock. Prior to use estimate the final volume of diluent required for your assay and dilute one volume of the 10x stock with nine volumes of distilled or deionized water.

WASH SOLUTION PREPARATION

The wash solution is provided as a 20x stock. Prior to use dilute the contents of the bottle (50 ml) with 950 ml of distilled or deionized water.

STANDARD PREPARATION

The CRP stock is comprised of purified cow CRP lyophilized in a stabilizing matrix.

1. Reconstitute the stock vial as described on the vial label. The reconstituted stock is stable for one day at 4°C but should be aliquoted and frozen $\leq -20^\circ\text{C}$ if future use is intended.
2. Label 8 polypropylene or glass tubes as 62.5, 31.25, 15.63, 7.81, 3.91, 1.95, 0.98 and 0 ng/ml.
3. Prepare a 62.5 ng/ml working CRP standard as detailed on the standard vial label by mixing the indicated volume of diluent and reconstituted stock in the tube labeled 62.5 ng/ml.
4. Dispense 250 μl of diluent into the tubes labeled 31.25, 15.63, 7.81, 3.91, 1.95, 0.98 and 0 ng/ml.
5. Prepare a 31.25 ng/ml standard by diluting and mixing 250 μl of the 62.5 ng/ml standard with 250 μl of diluent in the tube labeled 31.25 ng/ml.
6. Similarly prepare the remaining standards by two-fold serial dilution.

SAMPLE PREPARATION

Serum and Plasma: In studies at LDI we found CRP levels ranging from 15 – 165 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ in cow serum. To obtain values within the range of the standard curve we suggest that serum and plasma samples be diluted 10,000-fold.

Milk: We found CRP levels of approximately 3 ng/ml in normal milk; samples were tested after a 4-fold dilution. In milk from cows with mastitis we found levels ranging from 29 ng/ml to >30,000 ng/ml. Optimal dilutions of mastitis milk should therefore be determined empirically. We suggest testing each mastitis milk sample at dilutions of 10, 50, 250 and 1250-fold.

ASSAY PROCEDURE

1. Secure the desired number of 8-well strips in the holder. Unused strips should be stored in the re-sealed bag with desiccant at 4°C for future use.
2. Dispense 100 µl of standards and samples into the wells (we recommend that standards and samples be run in duplicate).
3. Incubate on an orbital micro-plate shaker at 150 rpm and 25°C for 45 minutes.
4. Empty and wash the microtiter wells 5x with 1x wash solution using a plate washer (400 µl/well).
5. Strike the wells sharply onto absorbent paper or paper towels to remove all residual droplets.
6. Add 100 µl of HRP-conjugate into each well.
7. Incubate on a plate shaker at 150 rpm and 25°C for 45 minutes.
8. Wash as detailed above.
9. Strike the wells sharply onto absorbent paper or paper towels to remove residual droplets.
10. Dispense 100 µl of TMB into each well.
11. Incubate on an orbital micro-plate shaker at 150 rpm at 25°C for 20 minutes.
12. After 20-minutes, stop the reaction by adding 100 µl of Stop solution to each well.
13. Gently mix. It is important to make sure that all the blue color changes to yellow.
14. Read absorbance at 450 nm with a plate reader within 5 minutes.

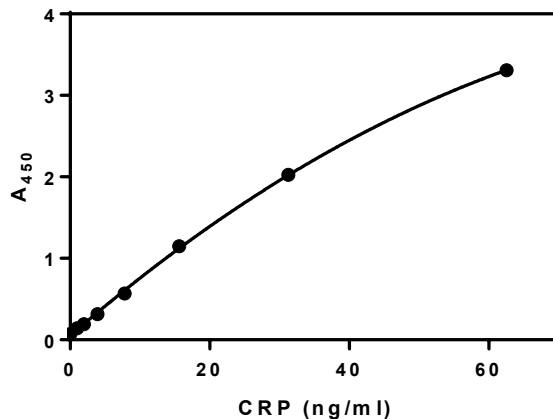
CALCULATION OF RESULTS

1. Using curve fitting software, construct a standard curve by plotting absorbance values of the standards versus concentration.
2. Fit the standard curve to an appropriate model and derive the concentration of the samples (we recommend using a single site, total and nonspecific binding model).
3. Multiply the derived concentration by the dilution factor to determine the actual concentration in the serum sample.
4. If the A_{450} values of samples fall outside the standard curve, samples should be diluted appropriately and re-tested.

TYPICAL STANDARD CURVE

A typical standard curve is shown below. This curve is for illustration only and should not be used to calculate unknowns. Each user should obtain his or her data and standard curve in each experiment.

CRP (ng/ml)	Absorbance (450 nm)
62.5	3.309
31.25	2.026
15.63	1.147
7.81	0.569
3.91	0.314
1.95	0.191
0.98	0.140
0	0.073



REFERENCES

1. Lee W-C, et.al. Serum C-reactive protein in dairy herds. The Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research. 67:102-107 (2003)

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For technical assistance please email us at
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