

RAT CRP SPARCL™ ASSAY

Life Diagnostics, Inc., Catalog Number: CRP-SP-2

INTRODUCTION

CRP is an acute phase protein in that is elevated in serum of most mammals as a result of injury, infection and disease. Rats differ from other mammals in that normal CRP levels are relatively high (~ 0.5 mg/ml). Levels increase by only 1.5 to 2-fold during the acute phase response.

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

The rat CRP SPARCL™¹ (Spatial Proximity Analyte Reagent Capture Luminescence, ref 3) assay uses two different affinity purified rat CRP-specific antibodies. One is conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (HRP) and the other is conjugated to acridan, a chemiluminescent substrate. When the HRP and acridan conjugated antibodies bind to CRP they are brought into close proximity. With the addition of hydrogen peroxide, HRP catalyzes oxidation of proximal acridan molecules causing a flash of chemiluminescence. Acridan conjugated antibodies distant from HRP produce no signal. This principle allows the development of a homogeneous assay that allows rapid measurement of CRP concentrations.

The HRP and acridan conjugated antibodies provided with the kit are mixed with standards and diluted samples in wells of the 96-well SPARCL™ plate provided with the kit². After incubation for 30 minutes on a shaker at 25°C and 150 rpm, the plate is placed into a luminometer. Trigger solution containing hydrogen peroxide is injected into each well and luminescence is immediately measured. The concentration of CRP is proportional to luminescence and is derived from a standard curve.

MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS

Materials provided with the kit:

- Anti-rat CRP HRP conjugate stock. **Store ≤ -70°C**
- Anti-rat CRP acridan conjugate stock. **Store ≤ -70°C**
- Rat CRP stock (3 vials). **Store ≤ -70°C**
- Diluent (CSD50-1), 50 ml
- Trigger solution, 7 ml
- White SPARCL™ plate (12 x 8-well)
- Clear untreated 96-well plate

Materials required but not provided:

- Precision pipettes and tips
- Polypropylene tubes
- Vortex mixer
- Micro-Plate incubator/shaker with an approximate mixing speed of 150 rpm
- Luminometer capable of simultaneous injection and measurement
- PC graphing software

STORAGE

Store the HRP conjugate, acridan conjugate and CRP stock at -70°C (they may be stored at -20°C for one week). The remainder of the kit should be stored at 2-8°C. The SPARCL™ plate should be kept in a sealed bag with desiccant and antioxidant. The kit will remain stable for at least six months from the date of purchase, provided that the components are stored as described above.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The dilution buffer and 8-well strips used in the assay should be allowed to reach room temperature (25°C) before use.

STANDARD PREPARATION

The rat CRP stock is comprised of lyophilized rat CRP in a carrier protein matrix. The CRP content was determined by reference to purified rat CRP prepared at Life Diagnostics, Inc.

1. Reconstitute the lyophilized stock with diluent as described on the vial label. Mix gently until dissolved.
2. Label 8 polypropylene tubes³ as 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.63, 7.81, 3.91, 1.95 and 0.78 ng/ml.
3. Into the tube labeled 125 ng/ml, pipette the volume of diluent detailed on the stock vial label. Then add the indicated volume of CRP stock and mix gently. This provides the 125 ng/ml standard.
4. Dispense 150 µl of diluent into the tubes labeled 62.5, 31.25, 15.63, 7.81, 3.91, 1.95 and 0.98 ng/ml
5. Pipette 150 µl of the 125 ng/ml CRP standard into the tube labeled 62.5 ng/ml and mix. This provides the 62.5 ng/ml CRP standard.
6. Similarly prepare the remaining standards by two-fold serial dilution.

Please Note: Use the standards within one hour of preparation.

SAMPLE PREPARATION

Serum or plasma should be prepared as quickly as possible after blood collection. All samples should be similarly processed (i.e., storage times and temperatures should be the same). If samples cannot be assayed immediately they should be frozen at or below -20°C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaws.

CRP is present in normal rat serum at a concentration of ~0.5 mg/ml. Samples should be tested at a dilution of 20,000 to 40,000-fold. Do not test at lower dilutions (i.e., 10,000-fold) because a prozone effect may occur leading to false low values.

CONJUGATE MIX PREPARATION

Instructions for preparation of the conjugate mix are detailed on the box that contains the HRP and acridan conjugates. If necessary, after thawing, briefly centrifuge to ensure that the contents are at the bottom of the tubes. Prepare the mix shortly before use using the diluent provided with the kit.

¹ The SPARCL technology was developed by Lumigen Corp.

² The plate provided with the kit has been treated with a reagent that reduces background chemiluminescence. Untreated plates cannot be used.

³ Dilutions of standards can be performed in wells A1-A8 of the clear untreated 96-well plate provided with the kit. This allows rapid transfer of standards to the white SPARCL™ plate using a multipipettor. Diluted samples can also be first aliquoted into

appropriate wells of the clear polystyrene plate and subsequently transferred to the SPARCL™ plate with a multipipettor. If using this method, ensure that an excess volume is aliquoted into the clear plate in order to ensure transfer of 50 µl aliquots to the SPARCL™ plate.

LUMINOMETER SETUP

1. The luminometer must be capable of injection and simultaneous measurement of luminescence without any delay.
2. Prime the luminometer injection port with 1 ml of trigger solution.
3. Place the injection needle into the injection port as needed for BMG luminometers.
4. Program the luminometer to inject 37.5 μ l of trigger solution per well and to measure from time zero for 1 second (50 x 0.02 second intervals).
5. Define the format of the assay using the luminometer software.
6. Because the white SPARCL™ plate is provided as a 12 x 8-well strips, allowing use of fewer than 96-wells, make sure that the luminometer is programmed to inject trigger solution only into the wells being used.
7. We use a BMG LUMIstar Omega set at a gain of 3600. Optimal gain should be determined by the end user.
8. There are a number of manufacturers of luminometers that are equipped to run a SPARCL™ assay. Please contact Life Diagnostics or Lumigen (www.lumigen.com) to discuss your luminometer.

PROCEDURE

1. Before starting the assay ensure that the luminometer is primed with trigger solution and that the injection needle is positioned in the injection port.
2. Secure the desired number of SPARCL™ 8-well strips in the holder. Immediately seal unused strips in the resealable bag with desiccant and antioxidant. Store unused strips at 2-8°C.
3. Aliquot 25.0 μ l of conjugate mix into each well.
4. Dispense 50.0 μ l of standards and diluted samples into the wells (we recommend that standards and samples be tested in duplicate).
5. Incubate on an orbital micro-plate shaker at 150 rpm 25°C for 30 minutes.
6. After the 30-minute incubation, place the plate in the luminometer and measure luminescence after injection of trigger solution (37.5 μ l).
7. Remove the plate from the luminometer and discard the used strips. Keep the plate frame if future use is intended.

CALCULATION OF RESULTS

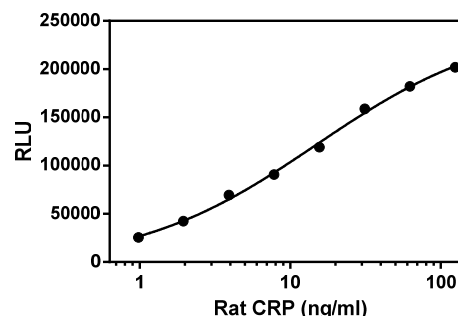
1. Before calculating results, review the raw data. If artefacts (RLU spikes) are apparent immediately after injection of trigger solution, eliminate that portion of the luminescence profile from analysis for all wells.
2. Using graphing software, construct a standard curve by plotting the luminescence (RLU) for the standards versus the \log_{10} of the CRP concentration in ng/ml.
3. Derive the corresponding concentration of CRP in the samples from the standard curve (remember to derive the concentration from the antilog).
4. Multiply the derived concentration by the dilution factor to determine the actual concentration of CRP in the serum or plasma sample.
5. If the RLU values of diluted samples fall outside the standard curve, samples should be diluted appropriately and re-tested.

TYPICAL STANDARD CURVE

A typical standard curve with RLU plotted on the Y-axis versus CRP concentrations on the X-axis is shown below. This curve is for the purpose of 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)	RLU
125	202052
62.5	182208
31.25	158903
15.63	119138
7.81	90630
3.91	69511
1.95	42330
0.98	25529



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For technical assistance please email us at techsupport@lifediagnostics.com