

Mouse IgA ELISA

Life Diagnostics, Inc., Catalog Number: IGA-1

INTRODUCTION

The mouse IgA ELISA kit is designed for measurement of IgA in serum, plasma, and other fluids. The assay uses goat anti-mouse IgA for solid phase (microtiter wells) immobilization and horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated goat anti-mouse IgA antibodies for detection. Both capture and detection antibodies were cross absorbed on mouse IgG and IgM agarose columns, thereby ensuring specificity for IgA. Cross-reactivity with immunoglobulins from other species has not been investigated.

Serum IgA levels in the range of 50 – 300 µg/ml have been reported in mice.^{1,2} Similar levels are found in mouse milk.³ IgA levels increase during malnutrition.² This kit recognizes monomeric IgA found in serum and the secreted J-chain linked dimer found in milk.

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

Test samples are diluted and incubated in the microtiter wells for 45 minutes alongside mouse IgA standards. The microtiter wells are subsequently washed, and HRP conjugate is added and incubated for 45 minutes. IgA molecules are thus sandwiched between the immobilization and detection antibodies. The wells are then washed to remove unbound HRP-labeled antibodies, and TMB Reagent is added and incubated for 20 minutes at room temperature. This results in the development of a blue color. Color development is stopped by the addition of Stop Solution, changing the color to yellow. Optical density is measured spectrophotometrically at 450 nm. The concentration of IgA is proportional to the optical density of the test sample and is derived from a standard curve.

MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS

Materials provided with the kit:

- Anti mouse IgA coated 96-well plate (12 strips of 8 wells)
- HRP Conjugate Reagent, 11 ml
- Mouse IgA reference standard (lyophilized), 3 vials
- 20x Wash Solution: TBS50-20, 50 ml
- 10x Immunoglobulin Diluent: RD25-10, 25 ml
- TMB Reagent (One-Step): TMB11-1, 11 ml
- Stop Solution (1N HCl): SS11-1, 11 ml

Materials required but not provided:

- Precision pipettes and tips
- Distilled or deionized water
- Polypropylene or glass tubes
- Vortex mixer
- Absorbent paper or paper towels
- Micro-Plate incubator/shaker mixing speed of 150 rpm
- Plate washer
- Plate reader with an optical density range of 0-4 at 450nm
- Graph paper (PC graphing software is optional)

STORAGE

On receipt store the lyophilized reference standard vials at or below -20°C. STORE ALL OTHER KIT COMPONENTS IN A REFRIGERATOR AT 4°C. The microtiter plate should be kept in a sealed bag with desiccant to minimize exposure to damp air. The test kit will remain stable for six months from the date of purchase provided that the components are stored as described.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please read and understand the instructions thoroughly before using the kit.
2. All reagents should be allowed to reach room temperature (25°C) before use.
3. Optimal results are achieved if, at each step, reagents are pipetted into the wells of the microtiter plate within 5 minutes.

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 (1) volume of the 10x stock with nine (9) 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

1. The IgA reference standard is provided as a lyophilized stock. Reconstitute one vial with distilled or deionized water as detailed on the vial label (**the reconstituted standard is stable at 4°C for 24 hours**).
2. Label 6 polypropylene or glass tubes as 30, 15, 7.5, 3.75, 1.88 and 0.93 ng/ml.
3. Into the tube labeled 30 ng/ml, pipette the volume of diluent detailed on the IgA stock vial label. Then add the indicated volume of IgA stock (shown on the vial label) and mix gently. This provides the 30 ng/ml standard.
4. Dispense 250 µl of diluent into the tubes labeled 15, 7.5, 3.75, 1.88 and 0.93 ng/ml.
5. Prepare a 15 ng/ml standard by diluting and mixing 250 µl of the 30 ng/ml standard with 250 µl of diluent in the tube labeled 15 ng/ml.
6. Similarly prepare the 7.5, 3.75, 1.88 and 0.93 ng/ml standards by serial dilution.
7. The standards should be used within one hour of preparation.

SAMPLE PREPARATION

General Note: IgA is typically present in mouse serum or plasma at concentrations of 50 to 300 µg/ml. To obtain values within range of the standard curve, we suggest that samples initially be diluted 10,000-fold using the following procedure for each sample to be tested:

1. Dispense 247.5 µl of 1x diluent into two tubes per sample to be tested.
2. Pipette and mix 2.5 µl of the serum/plasma sample into the first tube containing 247.5 µl of diluent. This provides a 100-fold diluted sample.

- Mix 2.5 μl of the 100-fold diluted sample with the 247.5 μl of diluent in the second tube. This provides a 10,000-fold dilution of the sample.
 - Repeat this procedure for each sample to be tested.
- Optimal dilutions of secretions or fluids other than serum or plasma samples should be determined empirically.

ASSAY PROCEDURE

- Secure the desired number of coated wells in the holder.
- Dispense 100 μl of standards and diluted samples into the wells (we recommend that samples be tested in duplicate).
- Incubate on an orbital micro-plate shaker at 100-150 rpm at room temperature (25°C) for 45 minutes.
- Aspirate the contents of the microtiter wells and wash the wells 5 times with 1x wash solution using a plate washer (400 μl /well). The entire wash procedure should be performed as quickly as possible.
- Strike the wells sharply onto absorbent paper or paper towels to remove all residual wash buffer.
- Add 100 μl of enzyme conjugate reagent into each well.
- Incubate on an orbital micro-plate shaker at 100-150 rpm at room temperature (25°C) for 45 minutes.
- Wash as detailed in 4 to 5 above.
- Dispense 100 μl of TMB Reagent into each well.
- Gently mix on an orbital micro-plate shaker at 100-150 rpm at room temperature (25°C) for 20 minutes.
- Stop the reaction by adding 100 μl of Stop Solution to each well.
- Gently mix. *It is important to make sure that all the blue color changes to yellow.*
- Read the optical density at 450 nm with a microtiter plate reader *within 5 minutes*.

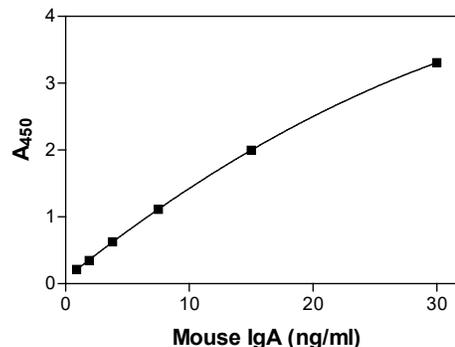
CALCULATION OF RESULTS

- Calculate the average absorbance values (A_{450}) for each set of reference standards and samples.
- Construct a standard curve by plotting the mean absorbance obtained from each reference standard against its concentration in ng/ml on linear graph paper, with absorbance values on the vertical or Y-axis and concentrations on the horizontal or X-axis.
- Using the mean absorbance value for each sample, determine the corresponding concentration of IgA in ng/ml from the standard curve.
- Multiply the derived concentration by the dilution factor to determine the actual concentration of IgA in the sample.
- PC graphing software may be used for the above steps.
- If the OD_{450} values of samples fall outside the standard curve, samples should be diluted appropriately and re-tested.

TYPICAL STANDARD CURVE

A typical standard curve with optical density readings at 450nm on the Y-axis against IgA 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 their own data and standard curve in each experiment.

IgA (ng/ml)	A_{450}
30.0	3.307
15.0	1.999
7.50	1.113
3.75	0.627
1.88	0.349
0.93	0.216



LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

- Reliable and reproducible results will be obtained when the assay procedure is carried out with a complete understanding of and in accordance with the instructions detailed above.
- The wash procedure is critical. Insufficient washing will result in poor precision and falsely elevated absorbance readings.

REFERENCES

- E Castigli, et al. Impaired IgA class switching in APRIL-deficient mice. PNAS 101:3903-3908 (2004) Infection and Immunity 13:1354-1359 (1976)
- DW McGee & DN McMurray. The effect of protein malnutrition on the IgA response in mice. Immunology 63:25-29 (1988)
- N De Groot, et al. Increased immunoglobulin A levels in milk by over-expressing the murine polymeric immunoglobulin receptor gene in the mammary gland epithelial cells of transgenic mice. Immunology 2000 101:218-224

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For technical assistance please email us at
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