HUMAN LACTOFERRIN SPARCL™ ASSAY
Life Diagnostics, Inc., Catalog Number: LF-SP-20

FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY

BACKGROUND

Lactoferrin is a non-heme iron binding glycoprotein found in milk, blood and other biological fluids. As a component of host defense, it has antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory activity. It is used as a biomarker of intestinal inflammation (refs 1&2).

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

The human lactoferrin SPARCL™[1] (Spatial Proximity Analyte Reagent Capture Luminescence, ref 3) assay uses two lactoferrin specific antibodies. One is conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (HRP), the other to acridan, a chemiluminescent substrate. When HRP and acridan conjugated lactoferrin antibodies bind to lactoferrin they are brought into 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 determination of lactoferrin concentrations.

The HRP and acridan conjugated antibodies provided with the kit are mixed with standards and diluted samples in wells of the 96-well white SPARCL™ plate provided with the kit[2]. 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 lactoferrin is proportional to luminescence and is derived from a standard curve.

MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS

Materials provided with the kit:

- Anti-Lactoferrin HRP conjugate **Store ≤ -70°C**
- Anti-Lactoferrin acridan conjugate **Store ≤ -70°C**
- Lactoferrin stock **Store ≤ -70°C**
- Diluent; CSD50-1, 2 x 50 ml
- Trigger solution; TS7-1, 7 ml
- White SPARCL™ plate (12 x 8-well)
- Clear untreated 96-well plate

Materials required but not provided:

- Precision pipettes and tips
- Polypropylene microcentrifuge tubes
- Vortex mixer
- Plate incubator/shaker
- Luminometer capable of simultaneous injection/measurement
- Curve fitting software

STORAGE

Store the HRP conjugate, acridan conjugate and lactoferrin stock at or below -70°C. 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.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. **This kit is for research use only. Under no circumstances should it be used for clinical diagnostic purposes**.
2. Please take the time to completely read all instructions before starting your assay. Contact us if you need clarification.
3. All reagents used in the assay should be allowed to reach room temperature (25°C) before use.
4. It is important that standards and samples be added to the SPARCL™ plate quickly. If testing large numbers of samples, rather than pipetting standards and samples directly into the white SPARCL™ plate using a single channel pipettor, we recommend the following. First, pipette an excess volume of standards and samples into appropriate wells of the clear 96-well plate. Then use an 8- or 12-channel multipipettor to quickly and efficiently transfer 50 µl aliquots to the appropriate wells of the white SPARCL™ plate. The wells of the clear plate hold a maximum volume of 300 µl.
5. Follow the sequence of events below when running the assay.

Prime and program the Luminometer
⇩
Prepare standards and diluted samples
⇩
Prepare HRP + Acridan conjugate mix
⇩
Add HRP + Acridan conjugate mix to the wells (25 µl)
⇩
Add standards and samples to the wells (50 µl)
⇩
Incubate plate at 150 rpm/25°C for 30 min
⇩
Measure luminescence after injection of Trigger (37.5 µl)

STANDARD PREPARATION

The lactoferrin stock is comprised of pure human lactoferrin diluted in a stabilizing carrier protein matrix.

1. Thaw the lactoferrin stock shortly before use.
2. Label 8 polypropylene tubes as 10, 5, 2.5, 1.25, 0.625, 0.313, 0.156 and 0.078 ng/ml.
3. Into the tube labeled 10 ng/ml, pipette the volume of diluent detailed on the stock vial label. Then add the indicated volume of stock and mix gently. This provides the 10 ng/ml standard.
4. Dispense 150 µl of diluent into the tubes labeled 5, 2.5, 1.25, 0.625, 0.313, 0.156 and 0.078 ng/ml.
5. Pipette 150 µl of the 10 ng/ml lactoferrin standard into the tube labeled 5 ng/ml and mix. This provides the 5 ng/ml lactoferrin standard.
6. Similarly prepare the remaining standards by two-fold serial dilution.

Please Note: If future use of the lactoferrin stock is intended, it should be stored frozen at or below -70°C.

[1] The SPARCL™ technology was developed by Lumigen Corp.

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

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SAMPLE PREPARATION

Saliva. We found lactoferrin concentrations of ~4 μg/ml in normal saliva. To obtain values within range of the standard curve we suggest testing samples at an initial dilution of 500-fold.

Urine. Lactoferrin concentrations of 20-50 ng/ml were found in normal urine. We suggest testing samples at an initial dilution of 20-fold.

Ascites Fluid. Lactoferrin concentrations ranging from 5 to 6000 ng/ml were found in ascites fluid (640±1811 ng/ml, mean±SD, n=12). We suggest testing each sample at dilutions of 20 and 200-fold.

Serrum & Plasma. Lactoferrin concentrations of 157±106 ng/ml, 130±69 ng/ml and 989±528 ng/ml (mean±SD, n=5) were found in K3 EDTA plasma, Li Heparin plasma and serum respectively. We suggest testing each sample at dilutions of 20 and 200-fold.

Do not test samples at dilutions lower than 20-fold (i.e., 10-fold).

CONJUGATE MIX PREPARATION

Instructions for preparation of the conjugate mix are detailed on the box that contains the HRP and acridan conjugates. Prepare the mix shortly before use using the diluent provided with the kit.

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 at least 1 ml of trigger solution.
3. Place the injection needle into the injection port, (necessary for BMG luminometers).
4. Program the luminometer to inject 37.5 μl 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 μl of conjugate mix into each well.
4. Dispense 50.0 μl 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 μl).
7. Remove the plate from the luminometer and discard the used strips. Keep the plate frame if future use is intended.

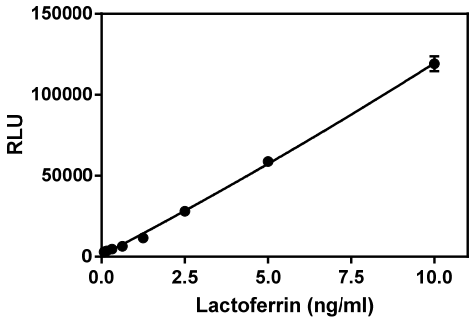
CALCULATION OF RESULTS

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. We routinely use the sum of RLU values from a 100-980 ms data collection window.
2. Using curve fitting software, construct a standard curve by plotting the sum of RLU values for the standards versus the lactoferrin concentration in ng/ml.
3. Fit the data to second order polynomial (quadratic) equation.
4. Determine the corresponding concentration of lactoferrin in the samples from the standard curve.
5. Multiply the derived concentration by the dilution factor to determine the actual concentration of lactoferrin in the sample.
6. If the sum of RLU values for the 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 an example and should not be used to calculate unknowns. A standard curve must be run with each experiment.

Lactoferrin (ng/ml)	RLU
10	119218
5	58873
2.5	28008
1.25	11538
0.625	6432
0.313	4712
0.156	3509
0.078	2960



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