

Cortisol (COR) ELISA Kit

Catalog No.: abx513011

Size: 96T

Range: 0.78 ng/ml - 50 ng/ml

Sensitivity: < 0.78 ng/ml

Storage: Store standard, detection reagent A, detection reagent B and the 96-well plate at -20°C and the rest of the kit components at 4°C.

Application: For quantitative detection of COR in Serum, Plasma and other biological fluids.

Introduction: Cortisol is a steroid hormone, in the glucocorticoid class of hormones. When used as a medication, it is known as hydrocortisone. It is produced in humans by the zona fasciculata of the adrenal cortex within the adrenal gland. It is released in response to stress and low blood-glucose concentration. It functions to increase blood sugar through gluconeogenesis, to suppress the immune system, and to aid in the metabolism of fat, protein, and carbohydrates. It also decreases bone formation.

Principle of the Assay

This kit is based on a competitive binding enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay technology. An antibody specific to COR is pre-coated onto the 96 well plate. A competitive inhibition reaction is launched between biotin labeled COR and unlabeled COR with the pre-coated antibody specific to COR. After washing away the unbound conjugates, avidin conjugated to Horseradish Peroxidase is added to each microplate well and incubated. After TMB substrate solution is added only wells that contain COR will produce a blue color product that changes into yellow after adding acidic stop solution. The intensity of the color yellow is inverse proportional to the COR amount bound on the plate. The O.D. absorbance is measured spectrophotometrically at 450 nm in a microplate reader, and then the concentration of COR can be calculated.

Kit components

1. One pre-coated 96-well microplate (12 × 8 well strips)
2. Standard: 2 tubes
3. Sample Diluent: 20 ml
4. Wash Buffer (25X): 30ml
5. Detection Reagent A (100X): 60 µl
6. Detection Reagent B (100X): 120 µl
7. Diluent Buffer A: 10 ml
8. Diluent Buffer B: 10 ml
9. Stop solution: 10 ml
10. TMB Substrate: 10 ml
11. Plate sealer: 5

Material Required But Not Provided

1. 37°C incubator
2. Microplate reader (wavelength: 450 nm)
3. Multi and single channel pipettes and sterile pipette tips
4. Squirr bottle or automated microplate washer
5. ELISA shaker
6. 1.5 ml tubes
7. Deionized or distilled water
8. Absorbent filter papers
9. 100 ml and 1 liter graduated cylinders

Protocol

A. Preparation of sample and reagents

1. Sample

Isolate the test samples soon after collecting, analyze immediately or store at 4°C for up to 5 days. Otherwise, store at -20°C for up to one month or -80°C for up to two months to avoid loss of bioactivity. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles.

- **Serum:** Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. Coagulate the serum by leaving the tube undisturbed in a vertical position overnight at 4°C or at room temperature for up to 60 minutes. Centrifuge at approximately 1000 × g for 20 min. Analyze the serum immediately or aliquot and store at -20°C or -80°C.
- **Plasma:** Collect plasma using heparin or EDTA as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge for 15 minutes at 1000 × g within 30 minutes of collection. Assay immediately or aliquot and store at -20°C. Avoid hemolysis and high cholesterol samples.
- **Other biological fluids:** Centrifuge at approximately 1000 × g for 20 min to remove precipitant. Analyze immediately or aliquot and store at -20°C or -80°C.

Note:

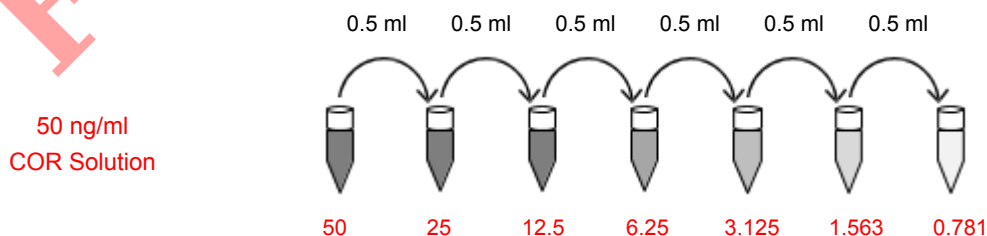
- » Please bring sample slowly to room temperature. Sample hemolysis will influence the result. Hemolyzed specimen should not be used.
- » Samples must be diluted so that the expected concentration falls within the kit's range.
- » If the sample are not indicated in the manual's applications, a preliminary experiment to determine the validity of the kit will be necessary.
- » Fresh sample or recently obtained samples are recommended to prevent protein degradation and denaturalization that may lead to erroneous results.
- » Always use non-pyrogenic, endotoxin-free tubes for blood collection.

2. Wash buffer

Dilute the concentrated Wash buffer 25-fold (1/25) with distilled water (i.e. add 30 ml of concentrated wash buffer into 720 ml of distilled water)

3. Standard

Bring samples and all kit components to room temperature. Reconstitute the Lyophilized Standards with 1 ml of Sample Diluent buffer to make the 50 ng/ml Standard Solution, which serves as the highest standard. Allow the reconstituted 50 ng/ml standard to sit for 15 minutes with gentle agitation prior to carrying out the serial dilutions; avoiding foaming or bubbles. Label 6 tubes with 25 ng/ml, 12.5 ng/ml, 6.25 ng/ml, 3.125 ng/ml, 1.5625 ng/ml and 0.78125 ng/ml. Aliquot 0.5 ml of the Sample Diluent buffer into each tube. Add 0.5 ml of 50 ng/ml standard solution into the 1st tube and mix thoroughly. Transfer 0.5 ml from 1st tube to 2nd tube, mix thoroughly, and so on.



4. Detection Reagent A and B Preparation

Centrifuge Detection Reagent A and B briefly before use. Detection Reagent A and B should be diluted 100-fold with the Diluent A and B respectively and mixed thoroughly. They are sticky solutions therefore pipette with a slow, smooth action to reduce volume errors. The solution should be prepared no more than 2 hours prior to the experiment. Please discard after use.

B. Assay Procedure

Equilibrate the kit components and samples to room temperature before use. It is recommended to plot a standard curve for each test.

1. Set standard, test sample and control (zero) wells on the pre-coated plate and record their positions. It is recommended to measure each standard and sample in duplicate or triplicate. Add the solution at the bottom of each well without touching the side walls.
2. Add 50 µl of the diluted standards into the standard wells. Aliquot 50 µl Sample Diluent Buffer to the control (zero) well.
3. Add 50 µl of appropriately diluted sample into the test sample wells. Add the solution at the bottom of each well without touching the side wall. Shake the plate mildly to mix thoroughly.
4. Immediately aliquot 50 µl of Detection Reagent A working solution (if it appears cloudy, mix gently until the solution is uniform) to each well. Shake the plate gently to mix thoroughly (a microplate shaker is recommended).
5. Seal the plate with a cover and incubate for 1 h at 37°C.
6. Remove the cover and discard the solution. Wash the plate 3 times with 1X Wash Buffer. Fill each well completely with Wash buffer (350µL) using a multi-channel Pipette or autowasher (1-2 minute soaking period is recommended). Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the final wash, remove any remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or decanting. Invert the plate and blot it against clean absorbent paper towels.
7. Aliquot 100 µl of Detection Reagent B working solution into each well, seal and incubate at 37°C for 45 min.
8. Repeat the aspiration/wash process 5 times as explained in step 6.
9. Aliquot 90 µl of TMB Substrate into each well. Seal the plate with a cover and incubate at 37°C for 15-30 min. Avoid exposure to light. The incubation time is for reference use only, the optimal time should be determined by end user. Do not exceed 30 min.
10. Add 50 µl of Stop solution into each well. There should be a colour change to yellow. Gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing.
11. Ensure that there are no fingerprints or water on the bottom of the plate, and that the fluid in the wells is free of bubbles. Measure the absorbance at 450 nm immediately.

This assay is competitive, therefore there is an inverse correlation between COR concentration in the sample and the absorbance measured. Create a graph with the log of the standard concentration (y-axis) and absorbance measured (x-axis). Apply a best fit trendline through the standard points. Use this graph calculate sample concentrations based on their OD values. If samples have been diluted, the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor.

Note: If the samples measured were diluted, multiply the dilution factor by the concentrations from interpolation to obtain the concentration before dilution.

C. Precautions

1. Before using the kit, centrifuge the tubes briefly to bring down the contents trapped in the lid.
2. Wash buffer may crystallize and separate. If this happens warm to room temperature and mix gently until the crystals are completely dissolved.
3. Avoid foaming or bubbles when mixing or reconstituting components. Prepare the Standard solutions within 15 min of starting the experiment. Please use the diluted Standard for a single assay procedure and discard after use. For each step in the procedure, total dispensing time for addition of reagents to the assay plate should not exceed 10 minutes.

4. It is recommended measuring each standard and sample in duplicate or triplicate.
5. Do not let the wells uncovered for extended periods between incubation. Once reagents are added to the wells, avoid letting the strips dry as this can inactivate the biological material on the plate. Incubation time and temperature must be controlled.
6. Ensure plates are properly sealed or covered during incubation steps.
7. Complete removal of all solutions and buffers during wash steps is necessary for accurate measurement readings.
8. Do not reuse pipette tips and tubes to avoid cross contamination.
9. Do not vortex the standard during reconstitution, as this will destabilize the protein. Once your standard has been reconstituted, it should be used right away. We do not recommend reusing the reconstituted standard.
10. The TMB Substrate solution is easily contaminated; work under sterile conditions when handling the TMB substrate solution. The TMB Substrate solution should also be protected from light. Unreacted substrate should be colorless or very light yellow in appearance. Aspirate the dosage needed with sterilized tips and do not dump the residual solution back into the vial.

D. Precision

Intra-assay Precision (Precision within an assay): 3 samples with low, medium and high levels of COR were tested 20 times on one plate, respectively.

Inter-assay Precision (Precision between assays): 3 samples with low, medium and high levels of COR were tested on 3 different plates, 8 replicates in each plate.

CV (%) = (Standard Deviation / mean) × 100

Intra-Assay: CV ≤ 10%

Inter-Assay: CV ≤ 12%