Rat TNFα ELISA Kit

Instructions for use

Catalogue numbers:
1x48 tests: EA101767
1x96 tests: EA101768
2x96 tests: EA101769

For research use only

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Rat TNFα ELISA KIT

1. Intended use

The Rat TNFα ELISA is to be used for the in-vitro quantitative determination of rat Tumor Necrosis Factor. The assay will recognize both natural and recombinant Rat TNF-α.

This kit has been configured for research use only.

2. Principle of the method

The Rat TNF-αKit is a solid phase sandwich Enzyme Linked-Immuno- Sorbent Assay (ELISA). A monoclonal antibody specific for rat TNF-αhas been coated onto the wells of the microtiter strips provided. Samples, including standards of known TNF-αconcentrations and unknowns are pipetted into these wells.
During the first incubation, the rat TNF-αantigen and a biotinylated monoclonal antibody specific for rat TNF-αare simultaneously incubated.
After washing, the enzyme (streptavidin-peroxydase) is added. After incubation and washing to remove all the unbound enzyme, a substrate solution which is acting on the bound enzyme is added to induce a coloured reaction product. The intensity of this coloured product is directly proportional to the concentration of rat TNF-αpresent in the samples.

3. Reagents provided and reconstitution

Reagents (Store@2-8^{o}C)	**Quantity 1x48 well kit** Cat no. EA101767	**Quantity 1x96 well kit** Cat no. EA101768	**Quantity 2x96 well kit** Cat no. EA101769	**Reconstitution**
96 well microtiter strip plate	1/2	1	2	Ready-to-use
Plastic plate covers	2	2	4	
Standard: 1000 pg/ml	1 vial	2 vials	4 vials	Reconstitute with the volume of Standard Diluent indicated on the vial. (See Reagents Preparation on page 2)
Standard Diluent (Buffer)	1 vial	1 vial	1 vial	(25 ml) 10X concentrate. Dilute in distilled Water.
Biotinylated anti-rat-TNF-α	1 vial	1 vial	2 vials	(0.4 ml) Dilute in Biotinylated Antibody Diluent
Biotinylated Antibody Diluent	1 vial (7.5 ml)	1 vial(7.5 ml)	1 vial (13 ml)	Ready-to-use
Streptavidin-HRP	1 vial	2 vials	4 vials	(5 µl) 0.5ml of HRP-Diluent before further dilutions
HRP Diluent	1 vial	1 vial	1 vial	(23 ml) Ready-to-use
Wash Buffer	1 vial	1 vial	2 vials	(10 ml) 200X concentrate. Dilute in distilled Water
TMB Substrate	1 vial (11ml)	1 vial (11 ml)	1 vial (24 ml)	Ready-to-use
H_2SO_4 stop reagent	1 vial	1 vial	2 vials	(11 ml) Ready-to-use

4. Materials required but not provided

- Microtiter plate reader fitted with appropriate filters (450nm required with optional 630nm reference filter)
- Microplate washer or wash bottle
- 10, 50, 100, 200 and 1,000µl adjustable single channel micropipettes with disposable tips
- 50-300µl multi-channel micropipette with disposable tips
- Multichannel micropipette reagent reservoirs
- Distilled water
- Vortex mixer
- Miscellaneous laboratory plastic and/or glass, if possible sterile

5. Storage Instructions

Store kit reagents between 2 and 8°C. Immediately after use remaining reagents should be returned to cold storage (2-8°C). Expiry of the kit and reagents is stated on box front labels. The expiry of the kit components can only be guaranteed if the components are stored properly, and if, in case of repeated use of one component, the reagent is not contaminated by the first handling.

Wash Buffer: Once prepared store at 2-8° C for up to 1 week
Standard Diluent Buffer: Once prepared store at 2-8° C for up to 1 week
Standards : Once prepared use immediately and do not store
Biotinylated Secondary Antibody: Once prepared use immediately and do not store
Streptavidin-HRP: Once prepared use immediately and do not store

6. Specimen collection, processing & storage

Cell culture supernatants, rat serum, plasma or other biological samples will be suitable for use in the assay. Remove serum from the clot or red cells, respectively, as soon as possible after clotting and separation.

Cell culture supernatants: Remove particulates and aggregates by spinning at approximately 1000 x g for 10 min.

Serum: Avoid any inintentional stimulation of the cells by the procedure. Use pyrogen/endotoxin free collecting tubes. Serum should be removed rapidly and carefully from the red cells after clothing. For that, after clothing, centrifuge at approximately 1000 x g for 10 min and remove serum.

Plasma: EDTA, citrate and heparin plasma can be assayed. Spin samples at 1000 x g for 30 min to remove particulates. Harvest plasma.

Storage: If not analyzed shortly after collection, samples should be aliquoted (250-500µl) to avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles and stored frozen at –70°C. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles of frozen specimens.

Recommendation: Do not thaw by heating at 37°C or 56°C. Thaw at room temperature and make sure that sample is completely thawed and homogeneous before use. When possible avoid use of badly haemolysed or lipemic sera. If large amounts of particles are present these should be removed prior to use by centrifugation or filtration.

7. Safety & precautions for use

- Handling of reagents, serum or plasma specimens should be in accordance with local safety procedures , e.g.CDC/NIH Health manual : " Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories" 1984
- Laboratory gloves should be worn at all times
- Avoid any skin contact with H_2SO_4 and TMB. In case of contact, wash thoroughly with water
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or apply cosmetics where kit reagents are used
- Do not pipette by mouth
- When not in use, kit components should be stored refrigerated or frozen as indicated on vials or bottles labels
- All reagents should be warmed to room temperature before use. Lyophilized standards should be discarded after use
- Once the desired number of strips has been removed, immediately reseal the bag to protect the remaining strips from deterioration
- Cover or cap all reagents when not in use
- Do not mix or interchange reagents between different lots
- Do not use reagents beyond the expiration date of the kit
- Use a clean disposable plastic pipette tip for each reagent, standard, or specimen addition in order to avoid cross contamination, for the dispensing of H_2SO_4 and substrate solution, avoid pipettes with metal parts
- Use a clean plastic container to prepare the washing solution
- Thoroughly mix the reagents and samples before use by agitation or swirling
- All residual washing liquid must be drained from the wells by efficient aspiration or by decantation followed by tapping the plate forcefully on absorbent paper. Never insert absorbent paper directly into the wells
- The TMB solution is light sensitive. Avoid prolonged exposure to light. Also, avoid contact of the TMB solution with metal to prevent colour development. Warning TMB is toxic avoid direct contact with hands. Dispose off properly
- If a dark blue colour develops within a few minutes after preparation, this indicates that the TMB solution has been contaminated and must be discarded. Read absorbance’s within 1 hour after completion of the assay
- When pipetting reagents, maintain a consistent order of addition from well-to-well. This will ensure equal incubation times for all wells
- Follow incubation times described in the assay procedure
- Dispense the TMB solution within 15 min of the washing of the microtitre plate

8. Assay Preparation

Bring all reagents to room temperature before use

8.1. Assay Design

Determine the number of microwell strips required to test the desired number of samples plus appropriate number of wells needed for running zeros and standards. Each sample, standard and zero should be tested **in duplicate**. Remove sufficient Microwell Strips for testing immediately prior to use. Return any wells not required for this assay with desiccant to the pouch. Seal tightly and return to 2-8^{o}C storage.

Example plate layout(example shown for a 6 point standard curve)

	Standards		Sample Wells									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	1000	1000										
B	500	500										
C	250	250										
D	125	125										
E	62.5	62.5										
F	31.25	31.25										
G	zerol	zero										
H												

All remaining empty wells can be used to test samples in duplicate

8.2. Preparation of Wash Buffer

Dilute the (200x) wash buffer concentrate 200 fold with distilled water to give a 1x working solution. Pour entire contents (10 ml) of the Washing Buffer Concentrate into a clean 2,000 ml graduated cylinder.Bring final volume to 2,000 ml with glass-distilled or deionized water. Mix gently to avoid foaming. Transfer to a clean wash bottle and store at 2˚-8˚C for up to 1 week.

8.3. Preparation of Standard Diluent Buffer

Add the contents of the vial (10x concentrate) to 225ml of distilled water before use.

This solution can be stored at 2-8^{o}C for up to 1 week.

8.4. Preparation of Standard

Standard vials must be reconstituted with the volume of Standard Diluent shown on the vial immediately prior to use. This reconstitution gives a stock solution of 1000 pg/ml of rat TNF-α. **Mix the reconstituted standard gently by inversion only**. Serial dilutions of the standard are made directly in the assay plate to provide the concentration range from 1000 to 31.25pg/ml. A fresh standard curve should be produced for each new assay.

- Immediately after reconstitution add 200µl of the reconstituted standard to wells A1 and A2, which provides the highest concentration standard at 1000pg/ml
- Add 100µl of Standard Diluent to the remaining standard wells B1 and B2 to F1 and F2
- Transfer 100µl from wells A1 and A2 to B1 and B2. Mix the well contents by repeated aspirations and ejections taking care not to scratch the inner surface of the wells
- Continue this 1:1 dilution using 100µl from wells B1 and B2 through to wells F1 and F2 providing a serial diluted standard curve ranging from 1000pg/ml to 31.25pg/ml
- Discard 100µl from the final wells of the standard curve (F1 and F2)

Alternatively these dilutions can be performed in separate clean tubes and immediately transferred directly into the relevant wells.

8.5. Preparation of Biotinylated anti rat TNF-α

It is recommended this reagent is prepared immediately before use. Dilute the biotinylated anti rat TNF-αwith the biotinylated antibody diluent in an appropriate clean glass vial using volumes appropriate to the number of required wells. Please see example volumes below:

Number of wells required	Biotinylated Antibody (µl)	Biotinylated Antibody Diluent (µl)
16	40	1060
24	60	1590
32	80	2120
48	120	3180
96	240	6360

8.6. Preparation of Streptavidin-HRP

It is recommended to centrifuge vial for a few seconds in a microcentrifuge to collect all the volume at the bottom.

Dilute the 5µl vial with 0.5ml of HRP diluent **immediately before use.** Do-not keep this diluted vial for future experiments. Further dilute the HRP solution to volumes appropriate for the number of required wells in a clean glass vial. Please see example volumes below:

Number of wells required	Streptavidin-HRP (µl)	Streptavidin-HRP Diluent (ml)
16	30	2
24	45	3
32	60	4
48	75	5
96	150	10

9. Method

We strongly recommend that every vial is mixed thoroughly without foaming prior to use except the standard vial which must be mixed gently by inversion only.

Prepare all reagents as shown in section 8.
Note: Final preparation of Biotinylated anti rat TNFα (section 8.5) and Streptavidin-HRP (section 8.6) should occur immediately before use.

Assay Step		Details
1.	Addition	**Prepare Standard curve** as shown in section 8.4
2.	Addition	Add 100µl of each**standard, sampleand zero**(standard diluent)in duplicate to appropriate number of wells
3.	Addition	Add 50µl of diluted **biotinylated anti rat TNFα**to all wells
4.	Incubation	Cover with a plastic plate cover and incubate at room temperature (18 to 25°C) for **3 hours**
5.	Wash	Remove the cover and wash the plate as follows: a) Aspirate the liquid from each well b) Dispense 0.3 ml of **1x washing solution** into each well c) Aspirate the contents of each well d) Repeat step b and c another two times
6.	Addition	Add 100µl of **Streptavidin-HRP** solution into all wells
7.	Incubation	Cover with a plastic plate cover and incubate at room temperature (18 to 25°C) for **30 min**
8.	Wash	Repeat wash step 5.
9.	Addition	Add 100µl of ready-to-use **TMB Substrate Solution** into all wells
10.	Incubation	Incubate in the dark for **10-20 minutes*** at room temperature. Avoid direct exposure to light by wrapping the plate in aluminium foil
11.	Addition	Add 100µl of **H_2SO_4:Stop Reagent** into all wells
Read the absorbance value of each well (immediately after step 11.) on a spectrophotometer using 450 nm as the primary wavelength and optionally 630 nm as the reference wave length (610 nm to 650 nm is acceptable).		

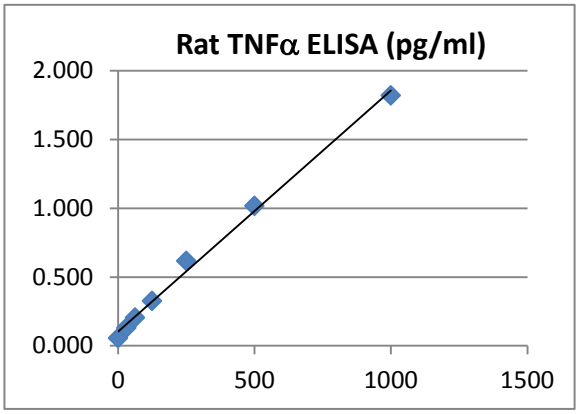
***Incubation time of the substrate solution is usually determined by the ELISA reader performance. Many ELISA readers only record absorbance up to 2.0 O.D. Therefore the colour development within individual microwells must be observed by the analyst, and the substrate reaction stopped before positive wells are no longer within recordable range*

10. Data Analysis

Generate a linear standard curve by plotting the average absorbance on the vertical axis versus the corresponding rat TNFαstandard concentration on the horizontal axis. The amount of rat TNFαin each sample is determined by extrapolating OD values to rat TNFαconcentrations using the standard curve.

Example Rat TNFαStandard curve

Standard	TNFα Conc	OD (450nm) Mean	CV (%)
1	1000	1.821	6.8
2	500	1.018	4.7
3	250	0.618	6.1
4	125	0.327	1.9
5	31.25	0.205	1.4
6	15.6	0.130	1.6
Zero	0	0.057	-



Note; curve shown above should not be used to determine results. Every laboratory must produce a standard curve for each set of microwell strips assayed.

11. Assay limitations

Do not extrapolate the standard curve beyond the maximum standard curve point. The dose-response is non-linear in this region and good accuracy is difficult to obtain. Concentrated samples above the maximum standard concentration must be diluted with Standard diluent or with your own sample buffer to produce an OD value within the range of the standard curve. Following analysis of such samples always multiply results by the appropriate dilution factor to produce actual final concentration.

The influence of various drugs on end results has not been investigated. Bacterial or fungal contamination and laboratory cross-contamination may also cause irregular results.

Improper or insufficient washing at any stage of the procedure will result in either false positive or false negative results. Completely empty wells before dispensing fresh Washing Buffer, fill with Washing Buffer as indicated for each wash cycle and do not allow wells to sit uncovered or dry for extended periods.

Disposable pipette tips, flasks or glassware are preferred, reusable glassware must be washed and thoroughly rinsed of all detergents before use.

As with most biological assays conditions may vary from assay to assay therefore **afresh standard curve must be prepared and run for every assay.**

12. Performance Characteristics

12.1. Sensitivity

The minimum detectable dose of rTNFα is less than 15 pg/ml.
This has been determined by adding 3 standard deviations to the mean optical density obtained when the zero standard was assayed 64 times.

12.2. Precision

Intra-Assay

Sample	n	Mean (pg/mL)	SD	CV%
A	12	543.5	44.7	8.2
B	10	130.1	10.3	7.9

Inter-Assay

Sample	n	Mean (pg/mL)	SD	CV%
A	9	541.4	33.2	6.1
B	9	149.4	9.8	6.5

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14. Assay Summary

Total procedure length : 3h45mn

Add 100µl of sample or diluted standard

⇓

Add 50µl of diluted biotinylated Detection antibody to all wells

⇓

Incubate 3 hours at room temperature

⇓

Wash three times

⇓

Add 100µl of streptavidin-HRP to all wells

⇓

Incubate 20min at room temperature

⇓

Wash three times

⇓

Add 100 µl of ready-to-use TMB
Protect from light. Let the color develop for 10-20 min.

⇓

Add 100 H_2SO_4

⇓

Read Absorbance at 450 nm

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