



AssayMax Corticosterone ELISA Kit

Catalog Number EC3001-1

Introduction

Corticosterone is the adrenal steroid, the major glucocorticoid. Glucocorticoid hormones are also known as corticosteroid hormones and are synthesized mainly in the adrenal cortex; however, more recently the enzymes involved in their synthesis have been found in a variety of cells and tissues, including the heart. The effects of these hormones are mediated via both cytoplasmic mineralocorticoid receptors (MRs) and glucocorticoid receptors (GRs), which act as ligand-inducible transcription factor (1).

Corticosterone has profound effect on the structure and function of the hippocampus (2, 3). Brain corticosterone action through the glucocorticoid receptor may involve memory storage (4). Emotional stress might cause increases in plasma corticosterone (5).

Principal of the Assay

The AssayMax Corticosterone ELISA kit employs a quantitative competitive sandwich enzyme immunoassay technique that measures Corticosterone in less than 3 hours. A polyclonal antibody specific for Corticosterone has been pre-coated onto a 96-well microplate with removable strips. Corticosterone in standards and samples is competed by a biotinylated Corticosterone sandwiched by the immobilized antibody and streptavidin-peroxidase conjugate. All unbound material is then washed away and a peroxidase enzyme substrate is added. The color development is stopped and the intensity of the color is measured.

Caution and Warning

- This kit is for research use only.
- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date.
- The Stop Solution is an acid solution.

Reagents

- **Corticosterone Microplate:** A 96 well polystyrene microplate (12 strips of 8 wells) coated with a polyclonal antibody against Corticosterone.
- **Sealing Tapes:** Each kit contains 3 pre-cut, pressure-sensitive sealing tapes, which can be cut to fit the format of the individual assay.
- **Corticosterone Standard:** Corticosterone in a buffered protein base (400 ng/ml, 2 ml).

- **Biotinylated Corticosterone:** 1 vial, lyophilized.
- **Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate, 100x):** A 100-fold concentrate (90 μ l).
- **EIA Diluent Concentrate (10x):** A 10-fold concentrated buffered protein base (20 ml).
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (10x):** A 10-fold concentrated buffered surfactant (2 x 30 ml).
- **Chromogen Substrate:** A ready-to-use stabilized peroxidase chromogen substrate tetramethylbenzidine (8 ml).
- **Stop Solution:** A 0.5 N hydrochloric acid (12 ml) to stop the chromogen substrate reaction.

Storage Condition

- Store unopened kit at 2-8⁰C up to expiration date.
- Opened reagents may be stored for up to 1 month at 2-8⁰C. Store reconstituted standard at -20⁰C or below.
- Opened unused strip wells may return to the foil pouch with the desiccant pack, reseal along zip-seal. May be stored for up to 1 month in a vacuum desiccator.

Other Supplies Required

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Pipettes (1-20 μ l, 20-200 μ l, and multiple channel).
- Deionized or distilled reagent grade water.

Sample Collection, Preparation and Storage

- **Plasma:** Collect plasma using one-tenth volume of 0.1 M sodium citrate as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples at 2000 x g for 10 minutes and assay. Freshly dilute sample 1:10 with EIA diluent before assay. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20⁰C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. (EDTA or Heparin can also be used as anticoagulant.)
- **Serum:** Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. After clot formation, centrifuge samples at 2000 x g for 10 minutes. Remove serum and assay. Dilute samples 1:10 with EIA diluent before assay. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20⁰C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Cell Culture Supernatants:** Centrifuge cell culture media at 2000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants and assay. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20⁰C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Urine:** Collect urine using sample pot. Centrifuge samples at 800 x g for 10 minutes and assay. Dilute human samples 1:10, rat samples 1:20, and mouse samples 1:10 into EIA Diluent. Store samples at -20⁰C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Reagent Preparation

- Freshly dilute all reagents and bring all reagents to room temperature before use. If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved.

- **EIA Diluent Concentrate (10x):** Dilute the EIA Diluent 1:10 with reagent grade water.
- **Standard Curve:** Allow the standard to warm up prior to making dilutions. Prepare triplicate standard points by serially diluting the standard solution (400 ng/ml) fourfold with 3/4 volume of EIA Diluent to produce 100, 25, 6.25, 1.563, 0.391, and 0.098 ng/ml solutions. EIA Diluent serves as the zero standard (0 ng/ml).

Standard Point	Dilution	[CORT] (ng/ml)
P1	1 part stock + 3 part EIA Diluent	100.000
P2	1 part P1 + 3 part EIA Diluent	25.000
P3	1 part P2 + 3 part EIA Diluent	6.250
P4	1 part P3 + 3 part EIA Diluent	1.563
P5	1 part P4 + 3 part EIA Diluent	0.391
P6	1 part P5 + 3 part EIA Diluent	0.098
P7	EIA Diluent	0.000

- **Biotinylated Corticosterone:** Dilute Biotinylated Corticosterone with 4 ml EIA Diluent to produce a 4-fold stock solution, which can be further diluted 1:4 with EIA Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at $< -20^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (10x):** Dilute the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:10 with reagent grade water.
- **SP Conjugate (100x):** Spin down the SP Conjugate briefly and dilute the desired amount of the conjugate 1:100 with EIA Diluent.

Assay Procedure

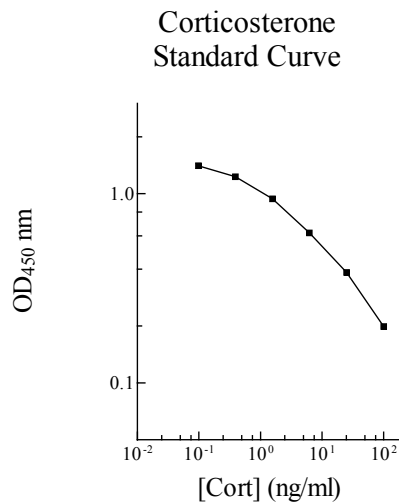
- Prepare all reagents, working standards and samples as instructed. Bring all reagents to room temperature before use. The assay is performed at room temperature (20-30 $^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame and return them immediately to the foil pouch with desiccant inside. Reseal the pouch securely to minimize exposure to water vapor and store in a vacuum desiccator.
- Add 25 μl of standard and/or sample per well, and immediately add 25 μl of Biotinylated Corticosterone to each well (on top of the standard or sample). Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for 2 hour at room temperature. Start the timer after the last sample addition.
- Wash five times with 200 μl of Wash Buffer. Invert the plate and decant the contents, and blot it on absorbent paper towel to completely remove liquid at each step.
- Add 50 μl of Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate to each well and incubate for 30 minutes. Turn on the microplate reader and set up the program in advance.
- Wash five times with 200 μl of Wash Buffer.
- Add 50 μl of Chromogen Substrate per well and incubate for about 10 minutes or till the optimal blue color density develops. Gently tap plate to ensure thorough mixing and break the bubbles in the well with pipette tip.
- Add 50 μl of Stop Solution to each well. The color will change from blue to yellow.
- Read the absorbance on a microplate reader at a wavelength of 450 nm immediately.

Data Analysis

- Calculate the mean value of the triplicate readings for each standard, and sample.
- To generate Standard Curve, plot 4-parameter graph or semi-log graph using the Corticosterone standard concentrations on the x-axis and the corresponding mean 450 nm absorbance on the y-axis. The best-fit line can be determined by regression analysis using 4-parameter curve fit.
- Determine the unknown sample concentration from the Standard Curve and multiply the value by the dilution factor.

Standard Curve

- The curve is provided for illustration only. A standard curve should be generated each time the assay is performed.



Performance Characteristics

- The minimum detectable dose of Corticosterone is typically 40 pg/ml.
- Intra-assay and inter-assay coefficients of variation were 5.0 % and 7.0% respectively.

Cross-Reactivities

Name	% Cross Reactivity
PROGESTERONE	< 2
ALLOPREGNANOLONE	< 0.1
CORTEXOLONE	< 1
DESOXYCORTICOSTERONE	< 30
CORTISONE	0
CORTEXOLONE HEMISUCCINATE	0
CORTICOSTERONE	100
6-KETO-17 β -ESTRADIOL	0
5-ANDROSTEN-3 β -OL-7, 17-DIONE	0
6-KETO-17 α -ESTRADIOL	0
3-KETO-5 α , 16-ANDROSTENE	0
4-ANDROSTEN-17 α -OL-3-ONE	0
ALDOSTERONE	< 2
ETHYNYLESTRADIOL	0
6-KETOESTRIOL	0
6-KETOESTRONE	0
17 β -HYDROXY-4-ANDROSTENE-3, 11-DIONE	< 0.1
CORTISONE Acetate	0
ALDOSTERONE 21-HEMISUCCINATE	< 0.3
4-PREGNEN-17, 20 β - DIOL-3-ONE	< 0.2
11 α -HYDROXYTESTOSTERONE	0
20 α -HYDROXYPROGESTERONE	0
6 β -HYDROXYPROGESTERONE	< 0.1
HYDROCORTISONE	0
17-HYDROXYPROGESTERONE	< 0.1
CORTISOL	< 0.1

References

1. Sheppard KE. (2003) *Vitam Horm* 66:77-112
2. Schaaf MJ *et. al.* (2000) *Stress* 3(3):201-8
3. Herbert J. (1998) *Exp Gerontol* 33(7-8): 713-27
4. Sandi C. (1998) *Neural Plast* 6(3): 41-52
5. Tanaka M. (1999) *Ind Health* 37(2): 143-56

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