

SALIVARY C-Reactive Protein ELISA Kit

Catalog No. 1-3302, (Single) 96-Well Kit;
1-3302-5, (5-Pack) 480 Wells

For Research Use

Intended Use

The Salimetrics™ CRP kit is an enzyme-linked immunoassay specifically designed and validated for the quantitative measurement of salivary CRP. It is not intended for diagnostic use. It is intended only for research use. The relationship between serum levels of CRP and salivary CRP levels has not been determined. Please read the complete kit insert before performing this assay. For further information about this kit, its application, or the procedures in this insert, please contact the technical service team at Salimetrics or your local sales representative.

Introduction

C-reactive protein (CRP) is the best-known member of a group of acute-phase proteins, which increase their concentrations during certain inflammatory disorders. CRP is widely used as a bio-marker of inflammation in the body.

Most CRP is produced in the liver, and increased production during the acute phase is induced principally by the cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6), operating primarily at the level of transcription. (1) IL-6 is released by a variety of tissues, including activated leukocytes, adipocytes, and endothelial cells. (2,3) In turn, CRP is capable of binding to and modulating the function of monocytes, enhancing their capacity to produce inflammatory cytokines, including IL-6. (4,5) CRP binds to phosphocholine, a common constituent of polysaccharide coatings of bacterial pathogens, and of cell membranes. This allows it to function as an opsonin, facilitating phagocytosis of pathogens and dead or dying cells. (1,5) Other functions of CRP include activating the classical complement pathway, activating macrophage tumoricidal activity, and protecting against septic shock. (5)

CRP levels in humans are normally quite low, but they increase several hundred fold during the acute-phase response. Recent studies have shown that CRP levels can be linked to the incidence of heart attacks and strokes, and can be used to monitor general cardiovascular health (6,7) and as a predictor of future coronary events. (8,9) Numerous recent studies investigating serum CRP and its relationship to other diseases have been carried out. These include hypertension, (10,11) diabetes, (2,12) cancer, (13) and autoimmune disorders. (14) Recent literature suggests possible links between oral health and chronic infection, inflammation, and heart disease. (15) Studies have also linked elevated CRP levels to oral contraceptive use. (19,20)

Test Principle

A microtitre plate is coated with mouse antibodies to human CRP. CRP in standards and unknowns and goat anti-human CRP antibodies linked to horseradish peroxidase are added. A "sandwich" is formed with the pre-coated antibody on the bottom, the CRP in the middle, and the antibody linked to horseradish peroxidase on the top. After incubation, unbound components are washed away. Bound CRP peroxidase is measured by the reaction of the peroxidase enzyme on the substrate tetramethylbenzidine (TMB). This reaction produces a blue color. A yellow color is formed after stopping the reaction with 2-molar sulfuric acid. Optical density is read on a standard microplate reader at 450 nm. The amount of CRP peroxidase detected is directly proportional to the amount of CRP present. (16)

Precautions

1. Liquid stop solution is a 2-molar solution of sulfuric acid. This solution is caustic; use with care. Stop solution in powdered form is not sulfuric acid-based and is mildly corrosive.
2. This kit uses break-apart microtitre strips. Unused wells must be stored at 2 - 8°C in the sealed foil pouch with desiccant and used in the frame provided.
3. Do not mix components from different lots of kits.
4. When using a multichannel pipette, reagents should be added to duplicate wells at the same time. Follow the same sequence when adding additional reagents so that incubation time with reagents is the same for all wells.
5. See 'Material Safety Data' at the end of procedure.

6. We recommend that samples be screened for possible blood contamination (17,18) using a reliable screening tool such as the Salimetrics Blood Contamination EIA Kit (Cat. No.: 1-1302/1-1312). Do not use dipsticks, which result in false positive values due to salivary enzymes.
7. Routine calibration of pipettes is critical for the best possible assay performance.
8. Pipetting of samples and reagents must be done as quickly as possible (without interruption) across the plate.
9. When running multiple plates, or multiple sets of strips, a standard curve should be run with each individual plate and/or set of strips.
10. The temperature of the laboratory may affect assays. Salimetrics' kits have been validated at 68 - 74°F (20 - 23.3°C). Higher or lower temperatures will cause an increase or decrease in OD values, respectively. Salimetrics cannot guarantee test results outside of this temperature range.
11. The quantity of reagent provided with this kit is sufficient for three individual runs. The volume of diluent and conjugate used for assays using less than a full plate should be scaled down accordingly, keeping the same dilution ratio.
12. Avoid microbial contamination of opened reagents. Salimetrics recommends using opened reagents within one month.

Storage

All components of this kit are stable at 2 - 8°C until the kit's expiration date.

Reagents and Reagent Preparation

1. **Anti-CRP Coated Plate:** A ready-to-use, 96-well microtitre plate pre-coated with mouse anti-CRP antibodies in a resealable foil pouch.
2. **CRP Standard:** Lyophilized CRP at a concentration of 3000 pg/mL. Reconstitute with 1 mL of deionized water. (We recommend sterile water if you plan to store at 2 - 8°C) Let sit 20 minutes at room temperature before using. Mix well immediately before use. Use reconstituted standard within 1 month.
3. **CRP Controls:** Two lyophilized controls representing high and low levels of CRP in a saliva-like matrix with a non-mercury preservative. Reconstitute each vial with 0.5 mL of deionized water. (We recommend sterile water if you plan to store at 2 - 8°C) Let sit 20 minutes at room temperature before using. Mix well immediately before use. See vials for target values. Use reconstituted controls within 1 month.
4. **Wash Buffer:** 100 mL of a 10X phosphate buffered solution containing detergents and a non-mercury preservative. Dilute only the amount needed for current day's use. Discard any leftover reagent. Dilute the wash buffer concentrate 10-fold with room temperature deionized water (100 mL of 10X wash buffer to 900 mL of deionized H₂O). (*Note: If precipitate has formed in the concentrated wash buffer, heat to 60°C for 15 minutes to dissolve crystals. Cool to room temperature before use in assay.*)
5. **CRP Sample Diluent:** 12 mL of a phosphate buffered solution containing a non-mercury preservative.
6. **CRP Assay Diluent:** 25 mL of a phosphate buffered solution containing a non-mercury preservative.
7. **Enzyme Conjugate:** 100 µL of a solution of goat anti-human CRP antibody labeled with horseradish peroxidase. Dilute prior to use with assay diluent. (See Procedure below for instructions.)
8. **Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB):** 25 mL of a non-toxic, ready-to-use solution.
9. **Stop Solution:** 12.5 mL of a 2-molar solution of sulfuric acid. Stop solution is provided in powdered form to some customers outside the USA. Reconstitute the powdered stop solution with 12.5 mL of deionized water. Let sit for 10 minutes before use.

Materials Needed But Not Supplied

- Precision pipette to deliver 15 µL, 50 µL, 80 µL, 135 µL and 150 µL
- Precision multichannel pipette to deliver 50 µL, 150 µL, and 200 µL
- Vortex
- Plate rotator with 0.08-0.17" orbit (If unavailable, tap to mix.)
- Microplate reader with a 450 nm filter
- Computer software for data reduction
- Deionized water
- Reagent reservoirs
- One 20 mL disposable tube
- Small disposable tubes for dilution of standard, controls, and samples
- Pipette tips
- Serological pipette to deliver 20 mL

Specimen Collection

Whole saliva may be collected by tilting the head forward, allowing the saliva to pool on the floor of the mouth, then passing the saliva through a short straw into a polypropylene vial.

Adult samples and samples from children ages 6 and above may also be collected using the Salimetrics Oral Swab (SOS), P/N 5001.02. Collection protocols are available on request. **Do not use Salivettes, Sorbettes, cotton, or polyester materials to collect samples.**

CRP does not appear to be flow rate dependent based on the high correlation ($r(40) = 0.94$, $p < 0.001$, $n = 42$) between measurements in pg/mL and measurements corrected for flow rate. However, if you are archiving samples to be used in future assay development, we recommend you measure flow rate. Salimetrics advises measuring the amount of time needed to collect the desired volume, then using this information to determine the flow rate. The measured concentration should then be multiplied by the flow rate (mL/min) to express the results as product measured per unit of time. Collection protocols are available on request.

Do **not** add sodium azide to saliva samples as a preservative. Samples visibly contaminated with blood should be recollected. Avoid sample collection within 60 minutes after eating a major meal or within 12 hours after consuming alcohol. Acidic or high sugar foods can compromise assay performance by lowering sample pH and influencing bacterial growth. To minimize these factors, rinse mouth thoroughly with water 10 minutes before sample is collected. Record the time and date of specimen collection. After collection it is important to keep samples cold, in order to avoid bacterial growth and loss of CRP in the specimen. We recommend freezing samples at or below -20°C as soon as possible after collection. Samples are stable for up to 8 hours at room temperature or 4°C.

Freezing saliva samples will precipitate the mucins. On day of assay, thaw completely, vortex, and centrifuge at 1500 x g (@3000 rpm) for 15 minutes. Samples should be at room temperature before adding to assay plate. Pipette clear sample into appropriate wells. Particulate matter may interfere with antibody binding, leading to falsely elevated results. We recommend refreezing samples within 4 hours after use. CRP levels will drop significantly at 2-8°C but are minimally affected by freeze-thaw cycles.

Procedure

Bring all reagents to room temperature. **Note:** *It is important to keep the zip-lock pouch with the plate strips closed until warmed to room temperature as humidity may have an effect on the coated wells. Mix all reagents before use.*

Step 1: Determine your plate layout. Here is a suggested layout.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	3000 Std	3000 Std	C-L	C-L								
B	1500 Std	1500 Std	Unk 1	Unk 1								
C	750 Std	750 Std	Unk 2	Unk 2								
D	375 Std	375 Std	Unk 3	Unk 3								
E	187.5 Std	187.5 Std	Unk 4	Unk 4								
F	93.75 Std	93.75 Std	Unk 5	Unk 5								
G	Zero	Zero	Unk 6	Unk 6								
H	C-H	C-H	Unk 7	Unk 7								

Step 2: Keep the desired number of strips in the strip holder and return the remaining strips to the foil pouch. Reseal the zip-lock foil pouch with unused wells and desiccant. Store at 2 - 8 °C

Step 3:

- Label five microcentrifuge tubes or other small tubes 2 through 6.
- Pipette 150 µL of CRP Sample Diluent into tubes 2 through 6. Serially dilute the standard 2X by adding 150 µL of the 3000 pg/mL standard (tube 1) to tube 2. Mix well. After changing pipette tips, remove 150 µL from tube 2 to tube 3. Mix well. Continue for tubes 4, 5, and 6. The final concentrations of standards for tubes 1 through 6, are respectively, 3000 pg/mL, 1500 pg/mL, 750 pg/mL, 375 pg/mL, 187.5 pg/mL, and 93.75 pg/mL. Standard concentrations in pmol/L are 130.43, 65.22, 32.61, 16.30, 8.15 and 4.08 pmol/L, respectively.
- Pipette 20 mL of CRP assay diluent into a disposable tube. (Scale down proportionally if not using the full plate.) Set aside for Step 5.

Step 4:

- Dilute saliva 10X in CRP Sample Diluent using 15 µL saliva to 135 µL of CRP Sample Diluent. **Do not** dilute samples in CRP assay diluent.

Step 5:

- Pipette 50 µL of standards, controls, and unknown diluted samples into appropriate wells. Standards, controls, and unknown samples should be assayed in duplicate.
- Pipette 50 µL of CRP Sample Diluent into two wells to serve as the zero.

Step 6: Dilute the enzyme conjugate 1:250 by adding 80 µL of the conjugate to the 20 mL of CRP assay diluent prepared in Step 3. (Scale down proportionally if not using the full plate.) Immediately mix the diluted conjugate solution and add 150 µL to each well using a multichannel pipette.

Step 7: Cover plate with adhesive cover provided. Incubate at room temperature for 2 hours mixing constantly at 500 rpm.

Step 8: Wash the plate 4 times with 1X wash buffer. A plate washer is recommended. However, washing may be done by gently squirting wash buffer into each well with a squirt bottle, or by pipetting 300 µL of wash buffer into each well and then decanting the liquid into a sink. After each wash, blot plate on paper towels before turning upright. If using a plate washer, blotting is still recommended after the last wash.

Step 9: Add 200 µL of TMB solution to each well with a multichannel pipette.

Step 10: Incubate in the dark at room temperature for 30 minutes with constant mixing at 500 rpm.

Step 11: Add 50 µL of stop solution with a multichannel pipette.

Step 12:

- Mix on a plate rotator for 3 minutes at 500 rpm (or tap to mix). Be sure all wells have turned yellow. If green color remains, continue mixing until green color turns to yellow. **Caution:** *Do not mix at speeds over 600 rpm.*
- Wipe off bottom of plate with a water-moistened, lint-free cloth and wipe dry.
- Read in a microplate reader at 450 nm. Read plate within 10 minutes of adding stop solution. (Correction at 630 is desirable.)

Calculations

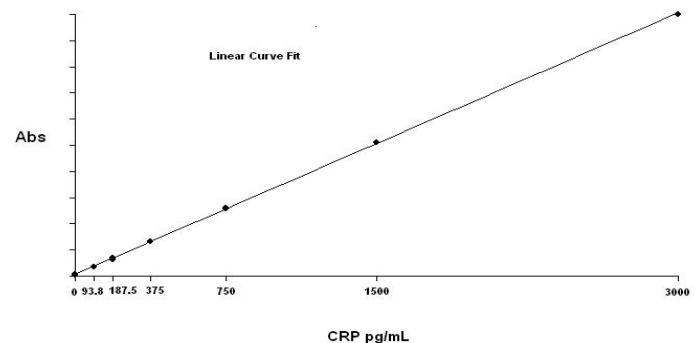
- Compute the average optical density (OD) for all duplicate wells.
- Plot the reference standard concentrations on the X axis and the corresponding average optical density on the Y axis.
- Using the average optical density values of the controls and unknowns, determine the corresponding concentration of CRP in pg/mL from the standard curve. We recommend using a linear curve fit.
- Multiply the calculated concentrations by the dilution factor of 10 to obtain final CRP concentrations in pg/mL.

Typical Results

The following results are shown for illustration only and *should not* be used to calculate results from another assay.

Well	Standard	Average OD	CRP (pg/mL)
A1,A2	S1	1.1420	3000
B1,B2	S2	0.5590	1500
C1,C2	S3	0.2935	750
D1,D2	S4	0.1660	375
E1,E2	S5	0.1060	187.5
F1,F2	S6	0.0825	93.75
G1,G2	0	0.0515	NA

Example: CRP Linear Curve Fit



Material Safety Data*

Hazardous Ingredients

Liquid stop solution is caustic; use with care. **Note:** *Stop solution in powdered form is not sulfuric acid-based and is mildly corrosive.*

We recommend the procedures listed below for all kit reagents. Specific kit component MSDS sheets are available from Salimetrics upon request.

Handling

Follow good laboratory procedures when handling kit reagents. Laboratory coats, gloves, and safety goggles are recommended. Wipe up spills using standard absorbent materials while wearing protective clothing. Follow local regulations for disposal.

Emergency Exposure Measures

In case of contact, immediately wash skin or flush eyes with water for 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing. If inhaled, remove individual to fresh air. If individual experiences difficulty breathing, give oxygen and call a physician.

*The above information is believed to be accurate but is not all-inclusive. This information should only be used as a guide. Salimetrics shall not be liable for accidents or damage resulting from contact with reagents.

Performance Characteristics

A. Precision:

The intra-assay precision was determined from the mean of 20 replicates each.

Sample	N	Mean (pg/ml)	Standard Deviation (pg/ml)	Coefficient of Variation (%)
High	20	1992.54	38.76	1.9
Low	20	178.77	10.52	5.9

The inter-assay precision was determined from the mean of average duplicates for 14 separate runs.

Sample	N	Mean (pg/ml)	Standard deviation (pg/ml)	Coefficient of Variation (%)
High	14	2167.14	80.38	3.7
Low	14	238.11	26.67	11.2

B. Linearity of Dilution:

Two saliva samples were diluted with CRP Sample Diluent and assayed.

Sample	Dilution Factor	Expected (pg/ml)	Observed (pg/ml)	Recovery (%)
1			1259.61	
	1:2	629.80	609.68	96.8
	1:4	314.9	288.05	91.5
	1:8	157.45	158.68	100.8
	1:16	78.73	76.66	97.4
2			1627.90	
	1:2	813.95	788.82	96.9
	1:4	406.97	365.49	89.8
	1:8	203.49	196.14	96.4
	1:16	101.74	101.47	99.7

C. Recovery:

Saliva samples containing different levels of an endogenous CRP were spiked with known quantities of CRP and assayed.

Sample	Endogenous (pg/ml)	Added (pg/ml)	Expected (pg/ml)	Observed (pg/ml)	Recovery (%)
1	1544.63	1000	2544.63	2685.88	105.6
2	1463.34	200	1663.34	1523.24	91.6
3	1463.34	50	1513.34	1389.34	91.8
4	1266.43	1000	2266.43	2423.10	106.9
5	1199.78	200	1399.78	1352.03	96.6
6	1299.76	50	1349.76	1362.27	100.9

D. Specificity of Antiserum

Compound	Spiked Concentration (ng/mL)	% Cross-reactivity in Salivary CRP EIA
Human Albumin	10,000	ND
Human Alpha 1-Antitrypsin	10,000	ND
Lysozyme	10,000	ND
Human IL-6	10,000	ND

ND = None detected (<0.004)

E. Sensitivity:

The lower limit of sensitivity was determined by interpolating the mean minus 2 SDs for 10 sets of duplicates at the 0 pg/mL standard. The minimal concentration of CRP that can be distinguished from 0 is 10 pg/mL.

*Salivary CRP Expected Ranges for Healthy Young Adults:

N	Mean (pg/mL)	Standard Deviation (pg/mL)	+/- 2 SD Range
41	1800.76	2181.35	0 - 6163.46

*To be used as a guide only. Each laboratory should establish its own range.

Citations

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Seller's Limited Warranty

"Seller warrants that all goods sold hereunder will be free from defects in material and workmanship. Upon prompt notice by Buyer of any claimed defect, which notice must be sent within thirty (30) days from date such defect is first discovered and within three months from the date of shipment, Seller shall, at its option, either repair or replace the product that is proved to Seller's satisfaction to be defective. All claims should be submitted in written form. This warranty does not cover any damage due to accident, misuse, negligence, or abnormal use. Liability, in all cases, will be limited to the purchased cost of the kit.

It is expressly agreed that this limited warranty shall be in lieu of all warranties of fitness and in lieu of the warranty of merchantability. Seller shall not be liable for any incidental or consequential damages that arise out of the installation, use or operation of Seller's product or out of the breach of any express or implied warranties"