



AssayMax Human Complement C4 ELISA Kit

Catalog No. EC2102-1

Introduction

Complement component 4 (C4) plays a key role in the activation of the classical complement pathway. C4 is synthesized as a single-chain precursor molecule (200 kDa) but processed to the three-chain disulphide-linked structure with alpha (93 kDa), beta (78 kDa) and gamma (33 kDa) chains prior to secretion (1-2). After activation by C1s, C4 is processed to C4a and C4b. C4a anaphylatoxin is a mediator of local inflammation and induces smooth muscle contraction (3). C4b, the major activation product, is an essential subunit of the C3 and C5 convertases of the classical complement pathway. C4 deficiency is associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (5). The C4b degradation product C4d is a marker for humoral rejection in allografts (6).

Principal of the Assay

The AssayMax Human complement C4 ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) kit is designed for detection of human complement C4 in plasma and serum. This assay employs a quantitative competitive enzyme immunoassay technique that measures human complement C4 in less than 3 hours. A polyclonal antibody specific for human complement C4 has been pre-coated onto a 96-well microplate with removable strips. Complement C4 in standards and samples is competed by a biotinylated complement C4 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

- **Prepare all reagents (working diluent buffer, wash buffer, standards, biotinylated-protein, and SP conjugate) as instructed, prior to running the assay.**
- **Prepare all samples prior to running the assay. The dilution factors for the samples are suggested in this protocol. However, the user should determine the optimal dilution factor.**
- **Spin down the SP conjugate vial before opening and using contents.**
- 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

- **Human Complement C4 Microplate:** A 96-well polystyrene microplate (12 strips of 8 wells) coated with a polyclonal antibody against human complement C4.

- **Sealing Tapes:** Each kit contains 3 pre-cut, pressure-sensitive sealing tapes that can be cut to fit the format of the individual assay.
- **Human Complement C4 Standard:** Human Complement C4 in a buffered protein base (7.5 µg, lyophilized).
- **Biotinylated Complement C4:** 1 vial, lyophilized.
- **MIX Diluent Concentrate (10x):** A 10-fold concentrated buffered protein base (30 ml).
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x):** A 20-fold concentrated buffered surfactant (30 ml).
- **Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate):** A 100-fold concentrate (80 µl).
- **Chromogen Substrate:** A ready-to-use stabilized peroxidase chromogen substrate tetramethylbenzidine (8 ml).
- **Stop Solution:** A 0.5 N hydrochloric acid to stop the chromogen substrate reaction (12 ml).

Storage Condition

- Store components of the kit at 2-8⁰C or -20⁰C upon arrival up to the expiration date.
- Store SP Conjugate at -20⁰C
- Store Microplate, Diluent Concentrate (10x), Wash Buffer, Stop Solution, and Chromogen Substrate at 2-8⁰C
- Opened unused microplate wells may be returned to the foil pouch with the desiccant packs. Reseal along zip-seal. May be stored for up to 1 month in a vacuum desiccator.
- Diluent (1x) may be stored for up to 1 month at 2-8⁰C.
- Store Standard and Biotinylated Protein at 2-8⁰C before reconstituting with Diluent and at -20⁰C after reconstituting with Diluent.

Other Supplies Required

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Pipettes (1-20 µl, 20-200 µl, 200-1000µl 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. Dilute samples 1:800 into MIX Diluent. The undiluted samples can be stored at <-20⁰C 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 1:800 into MIX Diluent. The undiluted samples can be stored at <-20⁰C 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.
- **MIX Diluent Concentrate (10x):** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute the MIX Diluent 1:10 with reagent grade water. Store for up to 1 month at 2-8⁰C.
- **Standard Curve:** Reconstitute the 7.5 µg of complement C4 Standard with 1.5 ml of MIX Diluent to generate a stock solution of 5 µg/ml. Allow the standard to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making dilutions. Prepare duplicate or triplicate standard points by serially diluting the stock

solution (5 µg/ml) 1:2 with MIX Diluent to produce 2.5, 1.25, 0.625 and 0.313 µg/ml solutions. MIX Diluent serves as the zero standard (0 µg/ml). Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

Standard Point	Dilution	[Complement C4] (µg/ml)
P1	Standard Stock (5 µg/ml)	5.000
P2	1 part P1 + 1 part MIX Diluent	2.500
P3	1 part P2 + 1 part MIX Diluent	1.250
P4	1 part P3 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.625
P5	1 part P4 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.313
P6	MIX Diluent	0.000

- **Biotinylated Complement C4 (2x):** Dilute Biotinylated complement C4 with 4 ml MIX Diluent to produce a 2-fold stock solution. Allow the biotin to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making dilutions. The stock solution should be further diluted 1:2 with MIX Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x):** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:20 with reagent grade water.
- **SP Conjugate (100x):** Spin down the SP Conjugate briefly and dilute the desired amount of the conjugate 1:100 with MIX Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

Assay Procedure

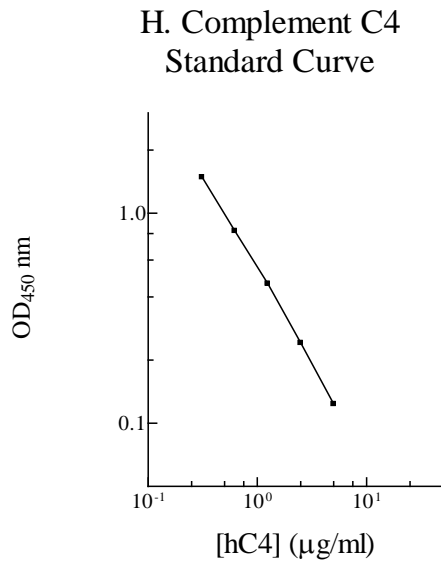
- Prepare all reagents, working standards and samples as instructed. Bring all reagents to room temperature before use. The assay is performed at room temperature (20-30°C).
- Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame and return them immediately to the foil pouch with desiccant inside. Reseal the pouch securely to minimize exposure to water vapor and store in a vacuum desiccator.
- Add 25 µl of standard or sample per well, and immediately add 25 µl of Biotinylated Complement C4 to each well (on top of the Standard or sample) and mix gently. Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for two hours. Start the timer after the last sample addition.
- Wash five times with 200 µl of Wash Buffer manually. Invert the plate each time and decant the contents; hit it 4-5 times on absorbent paper towel to completely remove the liquid. If using a machine wash six times with 300 µl of Wash Buffer and then invert the plate, decant the contents; hit it 4-5 times on absorbent paper towel to completely remove the liquid.
- 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 the microplate as described above.
- 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**. If wavelength correction is available, subtract readings at 570 nm from those at 450 nm to correct optical imperfections. Otherwise, read the plate at 450 nm only. Please note that some unstable black particles may be generated at high concentration points after stopping the reaction for about 10 minutes, which will reduce the readings.

Data Analysis

- Calculate the mean value of the duplicate or triplicate readings for each standard and sample.
- To generate a Standard Curve, plot the graph using the 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 log-log or four-parameter logistic 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 complement C4 is typically 0.3 µg/ml.
- Intra-assay and inter-assay coefficients of variation were 4.8 % and 7.5 % respectively.

Linearity

Sample Dilution	Average Percentage of Expected Value	
	Plasma	Serum
1:400	102%	103%
1:800	100%	102%
1:1600	96%	97%

Recovery

Standard Added Value	0.4 – 4 ug/ml
Recovery %	88-115 %
Average Recovery %	103 %

Reference Value

- Average normal human plasma complement C3 value is 0.43 g/L.

Cross-Reactivity

- No significant cross-reactivity or interference was observed.

References

- (1) Roos MH *et al.* (1982) *Nature* 298(5877):854-856
- (2) Miura N *et al.* (1987) *J Biol. Chem.* 262(15):7298-7305.
- (3) Belt KT *et al.* (1984) *Cell* 36(4):907-914
- (4) Moon KE *et al.* (1981) *J Biol Chem.* 256(16):8685-8692
- (5) Yang Y *et al.* (2007) *Am J Hum Genet.* 80(6):1037-1054
- (6) Girnita AL *et al.* (2008) *Transplantation* 86(2):342-347

Version 4.6R

Related products

- EC2101-1 AssayMax Human Complement C3 ELISA Kit (Plasma and Serum samples)
- EC3201-1 AssayMax Human Complement C3 ELISA Kit (Urine and Cell Culture samples)
- EC3202-1 AssayMax Human Complement C4 ELISA Kit (Urine, Milk, Saliva, and Cell Culture samples)
- EC5101-1 AssayMax Human Complement C5 ELISA Kit (Plasma, Serum, Urine, Saliva, Milk and Cell Culture samples)
- EC6101 AssayMax Human Complement C6 ELISA Kit (Plasma, Serum, Urine, Saliva, Milk and Cell Culture samples)
- EC7101 AssayMax Human Complement C7 ELISA Kit (Plasma, Serum, Urine, Saliva, Milk and Cell Culture samples)