Instructions for Use

Cortisol ELISA

Enzyme immunoassay for the quantitative determination of Cortisol in human serum and plasma.

REF **RE52061**

Σ **96**

EU: IVD CE

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1. INTENDED USE

Enzyme immunoassay for the quantitative determination of cortisol in human serum and plasma.

2. SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

Cortisol (hydrocortisone, compound F) is the main glucocorticoid in humans and is produced in the zona fasciculata of the adrenal cortex. 90 % of the circulating cortisol are bound to corticoid binding globulin (CBG, Transcortin), ca. 7 % are bound to albumin and only 1–3 % are unbound. Only the latter part represents the active form of cortisol.
In humans there is a physiological fluctuation of cortisol achieving the highest level in the morning and the lowest during midnight. This fluctuation of cortisol plasma level is reflected in saliva normally with a peak in the first 90 minutes after wake up.
The cortisol measurement is indicated in diseases with abnormal glucocorticoid production e.g. Cushing Syndrome and Addison's Disease. Because of the diurnal fluctuation of cortisol levels it is necessary to take several samples for an individual cortisol profile or during dynamic tests like dexamethasone suppression or ACTH stimulation test.

3. TEST PRINCIPLE

Solid phase enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) based on the competition principle. An unknown amount of antigen present in the sample and a fixed amount of enzyme labelled antigen compete for the binding sites of the antibodies coated onto the wells. After incubation the wells are washed to stop the competition reaction. After the substrate reaction the intensity of the developed colour is inversely proportional to the amount of the antigen in the sample. Results of samples can be determined directly using the standard curve.

4. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. For *in-vitro diagnostic* use only. For professional use only.
2. Before starting the assay, read the instructions completely and carefully. Use the valid version of the package insert provided with the kit. Be sure that everything is understood.
3. In case of severe damage of the kit package please contact IBL or your supplier in written form, latest one week after receiving the kit. Do not use damaged components in test runs, but keep safe for complaint related issues.
4. Obey lot number and expiry date. Do not mix reagents of different lots. Do not use expired reagents.
5. Follow good laboratory practice and safety guidelines. Wear lab coats, disposable latex gloves and protective glasses where necessary.
6. Reagents of this kit containing hazardous material may cause eye and skin irritations. See MATERIALS SUPPLIED and labels for details. Material Safety Data Sheets for this product are available on the IBL-Homepage or upon request directly from IBL.
7. Chemicals and prepared or used reagents have to be treated as hazardous waste according to national biohazard and safety guidelines or regulations.
8. The cleaning staff should be guided by the professionals regarding potential hazards and handling.
9. Avoid contact with Stop solution. It may cause skin irritations and burns.
10. All reagents of this kit containing human serum or plasma have been tested and were found negative for anti-HIV I/II, HBsAg and anti-HCV. However, a presence of these or other infectious agents cannot be excluded absolutely. For this reason reagents should be treated as potential biohazards in use and for disposal.

5. STORAGE AND STABILITY

The kit is shipped at ambient temperature and should be stored at 2-8 °C. Keep away from heat or direct sunlight. The storage and stability of specimens and prepared reagents is stated in the corresponding chapters.

The microtiter strips are stable up to the expiry date of the kit in the broken, but tightly closed bag when stored at 2-8 °C.

6. SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE

Serum, Plasma (EDTA, Heparin, Citrate)

The usual precautions for venipuncture should be observed. It is important to preserve the chemical integrity of a blood specimen from the moment it is collected until it is assayed. Do not use grossly hemolytic, icteric or grossly lipemic specimens. Samples appearing turbid should be centrifuged before testing to remove any particulate material.

Storage:	2-8°C	≤ -20°C (Aliquots)	Keep away from heat or direct sunlight.
Stability:	48 hours	6 months	Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

7. MATERIALS SUPPLIED

Quantity	Symbol	Component
1 x 12x8	MTP	**Microtiter Plate** Break apart strips. Coated with anti-cortisol antibodies (rabbit, polyclonal).
1 x 25 mL	ENZCONJ	**Enzyme Conjugate** Ready to use. Contains: Cortisol conjugated to HRP, stabilizers.
7 x 1.0 mL	CAL A-G	**Standard A-G** 0; 20; 50; 100; 200; 400; 800 ng/mL 0; 55.2; 138; 276; 552; 1104; 2208 nmol/L Ready to use. Contains: Cortisol, Human serum, stabilizers.
2 x 1 mL	CONTROL 1 + 2	**Control 1 + 2** Ready to use. Contains: Cortisol, Human serum, stabilizers.
1 x 15 mL	TMB SUBS	**TMB Substrate Solution** Ready to use. Contains: TMB, Buffer, stabilizers.
1 x 15 mL	TMB STOP	**TMB Stop Solution** Ready to use. 0.5 M H_2SO_4.
1 x 100 mL	WASHBUF CONC	**Wash Buffer** Concentrate (10x)
1 x	FOIL	**Adhesive Foil**

8. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

1. Micropipettes (Multipette Eppendorf or similar devices, < 3 % CV). Volume: 20; 100; 200 µL
2. Vortex mixer
3. 8-Channel Micropipettor with reagent reservoirs
4. Wash bottle, automated or semi-automated microtiter plate washing system
5. Microtiter plate reader capable of reading absorbance at 450 nm (reference wavelength 600-650 nm)
6. Bidistilled or deionised water
7. Paper towels, pipette tips and timer

9. PROCEDURE NOTES

1. Any improper handling of samples or modification of the test procedure may influence the results. The indicated pipetting volumes, incubation times, temperatures and pretreatment steps have to be performed strictly according to the instructions. Use calibrated pipettes and devices only.
2. Once the test has been started, all steps should be completed without interruption. Make sure that required reagents, materials and devices are prepared ready at the appropriate time. Allow all reagents and specimens to reach room temperature (18-25 °C) and gently swirl each vial of liquid reagent and sample before use. Mix reagents without foaming.
3. Avoid contamination of reagents, pipettes and wells/tubes. Use new disposable plastic pipette tips for each component and specimen. Do not interchange caps. Always cap not used vials. Do not reuse wells/tubes or reagents.
4. It is advised to determine samples in duplicate to be able to identify potential pipetting errors.
5. Use a pipetting scheme to verify an appropriate plate layout.
6. Incubation time affects results. All wells should be handled in the same order and time sequences. It is recommended to use an 8-channel Micropipettor for pipetting of solutions in all wells.

7. Microtiter plate washing is important. Improperly washed wells will give erroneous results. It is recommended to use a multichannel pipette or an automatic microtiter plate washing system. Do not allow the wells to dry between incubations. Do not scratch coated wells during rinsing and aspiration. Rinse and fill all reagents with care. While rinsing, check that all wells are filled precisely with Wash Buffer, and that there are no residues in the wells.
8. Humidity affects the coated wells/tubes. Do not open the pouch until it reaches room temperature. Unused wells/tubes should be returned immediately to the resealed pouch including the desiccant.

10. PRE-TEST SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

The contents of the kit for 96 determinations can be divided into 3 separate runs.
The volumes stated below are for one run with all strips (96 determinations).

10.1. Preparation of concentrated components

Dilute / dissolve	Component	with	Diluent	Relation	Remarks	Storage	Stability
100 mL	**WASHBUF**	900 mL	bidist. water	1:10	Mix vigorously	2-8°C	8 weeks

10.2. Dilution of Samples

Samples suspected to contain concentrations higher than the highest standard have to be diluted with Standard A. Dilution has to be made in glass tubes. Measured results must be multiplied with the dilution factor to obtain corrected results.

11. TEST PROCEDURE

1.	Pipette **20 µL** of each **Standard, Control and sample** into the respective wells of the Microtiter Plate.
2.	Pipette **200 µL** of **Enzyme Conjugate** into each well.
3.	Cover plate with adhesive foil. Thoroughly mix for 10 seconds.
4.	**Incubate 60 min** at **RT (18-25°C)**.
5.	Remove adhesive foil. Discard incubation solution. Wash plate **3 x** with **300 µL** of diluted **Wash Buffer**. Remove excess solution by tapping the inverted plate on a paper towel.
6.	Pipette **100 µL** of **TMB Substrate Solution** into each well.
7.	**Incubate 15 min** at **RT (18-25°C).**
8.	Stop the substrate reaction by adding **100 µL** of **TMB Stop Solution** into each well. Briefly mix contents by gently shaking the plate. Colour changes from blue to yellow.
9.	**Measure** optical density with a photometer at **450 nm** (Reference-wavelength: 600-650 nm) within **10 min** after pipetting of the Stop Solution.

12. QUALITY CONTROL

The test results are only valid if the test has been performed following the instructions. Moreover the user must strictly adhere to the rules of GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) or comparable standards/laws. User and/or laboratory must have a validated system to get diagnosis according to GLP. All kit controls must be found within the acceptable ranges as stated on the labels and the QC certificate. If the criteria are not met, the run is not valid and should be repeated. Each laboratory should use known samples as further controls. It is recommended to participate at appropriate quality assessment trials.

In case of any deviation the following technical issues should be proven: Expiration dates of (prepared) reagents, storage conditions, pipettes, devices, incubation conditions and washing methods.

13. CALCULATION OF RESULTS

The obtained OD of the standards (y-axis, linear) are plotted against their concentration (x-axis, logarithmic) either on semi-logarithmic graph paper or using an automated method. A good fit is provided with cubic spline, 4 Parameter Logistics or Logit-Log.

For the calculation of the standard curve, apply each signal of the standards (one obvious outlier of duplicates might be omitted and the more plausible single value might be used).

The concentration of the samples can be read directly from the standard curve.

Samples showing concentrations above the highest standard have to be diluted as described in PRE-TEST SETUP INSTRUCTIONS and reassayed.

In case of diluted samples the values have to be multiplied with the corresponding dilution factor.

Conversion:

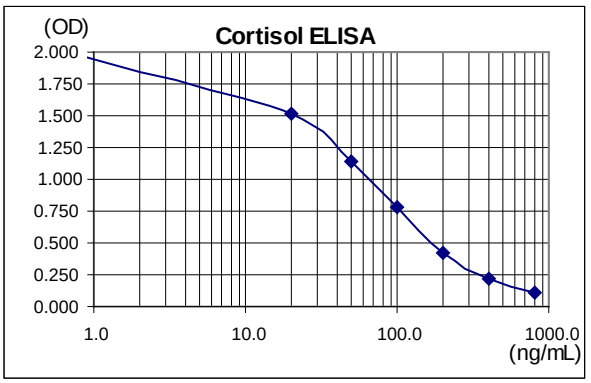
Cortisol (ng/mL) x 2.76 = nmol/L

Cortisol (µg/dL) x 27.6 = nmol/L

Typical Calibration Curve

(Example. Do not use for calculation!)

Standard	Cortisol (ng/mL)	Mean OD	OD/OD_{max} (%)
A	0	2.055	100
B	20	1.512	73.6
C	50	1.140	55.5
D	100	0.780	37.9
E	200	0.417	20.3
F	400	0.211	10.2
G	800	0.110	5.33



14. EXPECTED VALUES

The results themselves should not be the only reason for any therapeutical consequences. They have to be correlated to other clinical observations and diagnostic tests.

Apparently healthy subjects show the following values:

	ng/mL	nmol/L
AM	50 - 230	138 - 635
PM	30 - 150	82.8 - 414

It is recommended that each laboratory establishes its own range of normal values.

15. LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

Specimen collection and storage have a significant effect on the test results. See SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE for details.

For cross-reactivities, see PERFORMANCE.

The following blood components do not have a significant effect (+/- 20% of expected) on the test results up to the below stated concentrations:

	Conc.
Hemoglobin	8.0 mg/mL
Bilirubin	1.0 mg/mL
Triglyceride	90 mg/mL

16. PERFORMANCE

Analytical Specificity (Cross Reactivity)	Substance		Cross Reactivity (%)	Cross-reactivity of other substances tested < 0.01 %
	Prednisolone		30	
	11-Desoxy-Cortisol		7.0	
	Corticosterone		1.4	
	Cortisone		4.2	
	Prednisone		2.5	
	17α-OH-Progesterone		0.4	
	Desoxy-Corticosterone		0.9	
	6α-Methyl-17α-OH-Progesterone		0.04	
Analytical Sensitivity (Limit of Detection)	2.46 ng/mL	Mean signal (Zero-Standard) - 2SD		
Functional Sensitivity	4.03 ng/mL	Mean Conc. < 20 % CV		
Precision	Serum ng/mL			
	Conc. (ng/mL)	SD (ng/mL)	CV (%)	n
Intra-Assay	43.1	1.25	2.90	20
	223	5.71	2.57	20
	404	14.0	3.47	20
Inter-Assay	68.6	3.43	5.00	20
	335	7.14	2.13	20
	563	19.2	3.41	20
Linearity	Dilution	Meas. (ng/mL)	Linearity (%)	
	1:2	51.9	98.6	
	1:4	29.5	113	
	1:8	16.8	114	
	1:16	8.10	96.4	
	1:2	321	92.7	
	1:4	149	97.8	
	1:8	72.8	101	
	1:16	36.9	105	
	1:2	287	101.7	
	1:4	131	91.1	
	1:8	63.2	96.8	
	1:16	32.0	101.3	
Recovery	Mean (%)	Range (%)		
	99.9	88-106		

17. PRODUCT LITERATURE REFERENCES

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Symbols / Symbole / Symbôles / Símbolos / Símbolos / Σύμβολα

REF	Cat.-No.: / Kat.-Nr.: / No.- Cat.: / Cat.-No.: / N.º Cat.: / N.–Cat.: / Αριθμός-Κατ.:
LOT	Lot-No.: / Chargen-Bez.: / No. Lot: / Lot-No.: / Lote N.º: / Lotto n.: / Αριθμός -Παραγωγή:
	Use by: / Verwendbar bis: / Utiliser à: / Usado por: / Usar até: / Da utilizzare entro: / Χρησιμοποιείται από:
	No. of Tests: / Kitgröße: / Nb. de Tests: / No. de Determ.: / N.º de Testes: / Quantità dei tests: / Αριθμός εξετάσεων:
CONC	Concentrate / Konzentrat / Concentré / Concentrar / Concentrado / Concentrato / Συμπύκνωμα
LYO	Lyophilized / Lyophilisat / Lyophilisé / Liofilizado / Liofilizado / Liofilizzato / Λυοφιλιασμένο
IVD	In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device. / In-vitro-Diagnostikum. / Appareil Médical pour Diagnostics In Vitro. / Dispositivo Médico para Diagnóstico In Vitro. / Equipamento Médico de Diagnóstico In Vitro. / Dispositivo Medico Diagnostico In vitro. / Ιατρική συσκευή για In-Vitro Διάγνωση.
	Evaluation kit. / Nur für Leistungsbewertungszwecke. / Kit pour évaluation. / Juego de Reactivos para Evaluació. / Kit de avaliação. / Kit di evaluazione. / Κιτ Αξιολόγησης.
	Read instructions before use. / Arbeitsanleitung lesen. / Lire la fiche technique avant emploi. / Lea las instrucciones antes de usar. / Ler as instruções antes de usar. / Leggere le istruzioni prima dell'uso. / Διαβάστε τις οδηγίες πριν την χρήση.
	Keep away from heat or direct sun light. / Vor Hitze und direkter Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. / Garder à l'abri de la chaleur et de toute exposition lumineuse. / Manténgase alejado del calor o la luz solar directa. / Manter longe do calor ou luz solar directa. / Non esporre ai raggi solari. / Να φυλάσσεται μακριά από θερμότητα και άμεση επαφή με το φως του ηλίου.
	Store at: / Lagern bei: / Stocker à: / Almacene a: / Armazenar a: / Conservare a: / Αποθήκευση στους:
	Manufacturer: / Hersteller: / Fabricant: / Productor: / Fabricante: / Fabbricante: / Παραγωγός:
	Caution! / Vorsicht! / Attention! / ¡Precaución! / Cuidado! / Attenzione! / Προσοχή!

Symbols of the kit components see MATERIALS SUPPLIED.
Die Symbole der Komponenten sind im Kapitel KOMPONENTEN DES KITS beschrieben.
Voir MATERIEL FOURNI pour les symbôles des composants du kit.
Símbolos de los componentes del juego de reactivos, vea MATERIALES SUMINISTRADOS.
Para símbolos dos componentes do kit ver MATERIAIS FORNECIDOS.
Per i simboli dei componenti del kit si veda COMPONENTI DEL KIT.
Για τα σύμβολα των συστατικών του κιτ συμβουλευτείτε το ΠΑΡΕΧΟΜΕΝΑ ΥΛΙΚΑ.

COMPLAINTS: Complaints may be submitted initially written or vocal. Subsequently they need to be filed including the test performance and results in writing in case of analytical reasons.

WARRANTY: The product is warranted to be free from material defects within the specific shelf life and to comply with product specifications delivered with the product. The product must be used according to the Intended use, all instructions given in the instructions for use and within the product specific shelf life. Any modification of the test procedure or exchange or mixing of components of different lots could negatively affect the results. These cases invalidate any claim for replacement.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES THE EXTENT OF MANUFACTURER'S LIABILITY IS LIMITED TO THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE KIT(S) IN QUESTION. IN NO EVENT SHALL MANUFACTURER BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING DAMAGES FOR LOST PROFITS, LOST SALES, INJURY TO PERSON OR PROPERTY OR ANY OTHER INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS.


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