

# MININEPH™ HUMAN IgG4 KIT

For *in vitro* diagnostic use

Product Code: ZK009.L.R

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FDA (USA) Information (for MININEPH analyser only)  
Analyte ID 2807  
Test System 61469  
Complexity Cat Moderate

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## 1 INTENDED USE

This kit is designed for the *in vitro* measurement of human IgG4 in serum using the MININEPH or MININEPHPLUS\* as an aid in the diagnosis of abnormal IgG4 metabolism. When using the recommended dilution the approximate measuring range is 53-847mg/L. The sensitivity limit is 2.2 mg/L when using a 1/5 sample dilution.

\*The MININEPHPLUS analyser is not available in the USA.

## 2 SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

In normal adults, IgG constitutes approximately 75% of the total serum immunoglobulins. Within the IgG class, the order of concentration of the 4 subclasses is IgG1> IgG2> IgG3> IgG4, but the actual concentration of each may vary markedly between individuals.

The four IgG subclasses show considerable differences in their properties, including ability to fix complement, to bind macrophages and to pass through the placenta. Abnormal levels of one or more subclass may be associated with certain conditions, including anaphylaxis, autoimmune and gut diseases as well as hypo- and hyper-gammaglobulinaemia. In particular, reduced production of IgG2 in children may be associated with recurrent infections. The subject has been reviewed (ref. 1-3).

## 3 PRINCIPLE

The determination of soluble antigen concentration by nephelometric methods involves a reaction with the antibody bound to a latex particle to form insoluble complexes. When light is passed through the suspension formed a portion of the light is scattered and detected by a photodiode. The amount of light scattered is directly proportional to the specific protein concentration in the test sample. Concentrations are automatically calculated by reference to a calibration curve stored within the instrument.

## 4 REAGENTS

### 4.1 MININEPH HUMAN IgG4 REAGENT

Consisting of monospecific antiserum coated onto polystyrene microparticles. Supplied in lyophilised form, it contains 0.099% sodium azide, 0.1% EACA, 0.05% Proclin™\* and 0.01% benzamidine as a preservative. Each vial should be reconstituted with 0.25mL of distilled water and allowed to stand for 30 minutes prior to use.

\*Proclin™ is a trademark of Rohm and Haas Corp. Philadelphia, PA.

### 4.2 MININEPH IgG4 SWIPE CARD

This is encoded with details of the reaction curve specific to the respective lot of reagent. This card is reagent lot specific and must be used only with this lot of reagent. The curve on this card has been prepared using secondary calibration materials that have been evaluated against DA470k (ref. 4 and 5).

### 4.3 MININEPH IgG4 BUFFER

For use with this lot of IgG4 reagent only. Contains 0.099% sodium azide as a preservative.

### 4.4 MININEPH HUMAN IgG4 HIGH AND LOW CONTROLS

These consist of pooled human serum and are supplied in stabilised liquid form. They contain 0.099% sodium azide, 0.1% EACA and 0.01% benzamidine as preservatives. The acceptable ranges of IgG4 concentrations are stated on the Quality Control Certificate included in the kit. The lot number quoted on the Quality Control Certificate should be identical to the kit lot number.

## 5 CAUTION

All donors of human serum supplied in this kit have been serum tested and found negative for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV1 and HIV2) and hepatitis C virus. The assays used were either approved by the FDA (USA) or cleared for *in vitro* diagnostic use in the EU (Directive 98/79/EC, Annex II); however, these tests cannot guarantee the absence of infective agents. Proper handling and disposal methods should be established as for all potentially infective material, including (but not limited to) users wearing suitable protective equipment and clothing at all times. Only personnel fully trained in such methods should be permitted to perform these procedures.

**WARNING:** This product contains sodium azide and must be handled with caution; suitable gloves and other protective clothing should be worn at all times when handling this product. Do not ingest or allow contact with the skin (particularly broken skin or open wounds) or mucous membranes. If contact does occur wash with a large volume of water and seek urgent medical advice. Explosive metal azides may be formed on prolonged contact of sodium azide with lead and copper plumbing; on disposal of reagent, flush with a large volume of water to prevent azide build up.

This product should only be used by suitably trained personnel for the purposes stated in the Intended Use. Strict adherence to these instructions is essential at all times. Results are likely to be invalid if parameters other than those stated in these instructions are used.

Reagents from different batch numbers of kits are **NOT** interchangeable. If large numbers of tests are performed care should be taken to ensure that all reagents are from the same batch.

## 6 STORAGE AND STABILITY

The unopened kits should be stored at 2-8°C and can be used until the expiry date given on the kit box label. DO NOT FREEZE. The buffer should be allowed to equilibrate to room temperature prior to use. The reagent and the controls should be stored at 2-8°C and the buffer at room temperature. Once reconstituted the reagent is stable for 1 week when stored at 2-8°C. Opened buffer and controls are stable for 4 weeks when stored as recommended. The On-Board Buffer 1 should be stored at room temperature. Opened On-Board Buffer 1 is stable for 4 weeks when stored as recommended.

## 7 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

Use serum samples. Blood samples should be collected by venepuncture, allowed to clot naturally and the serum separated as soon as possible to prevent haemolysis. Sera may be stored at 2-8°C for up to two days, otherwise aliquot and freeze at -20°C or below; do not freeze and thaw sera more than once. Sample dilutions should be freshly prepared on the day of assay. Some types of sera are not suitable for MININEPH assay – see section 10.1.

## 8 METHODOLOGY

### 8.1 MATERIALS PROVIDED

- 8.1.1 2 x 0.25mL MININEPH Human IgG4 Reagent
- 8.1.2 1 x 5mL Minineph IgG4 Buffer
- 8.1.3 1 x 0.5mL Minineph Human IgG4 High Control
- 8.1.4 1 x 0.5mL Minineph Human IgG4 Low Control
- 8.1.5 Magnetic swipe card containing lot specific calibration information
- 8.1.6 Quality Control Certificate
- 8.1.7 Instruction leaflet

### 8.2 MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED (MININEPH)

- 8.2.1 MININEPH instrument (AD200)
- 8.2.2 MININEPH printer (AD210) (optional)
- 8.2.3 MININEPH reagent accessory pack (ZK500.R)
- 8.2.4 Electronic pipette (e.g.AD205)
- 8.2.5 Pipette (5 – 40µL)
- 8.2.6 Equipment for the collection and preparation of test samples

### 8.3 MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED (MININEPHPLUS)

- 8.3.1 MININEPHPLUS instrument (AD500.C/D/E)
- 8.3.2 MININEPHPLUS PRINTER (AP1310DPK1T63) (optional)
- 8.3.3 Bar Code Reader (optional)
- 8.3.4 MININEPH reagent accessory pack (ZK500.R)
- 8.3.5 Pipette (5-1000µL)
- 8.3.6 Equipment for the collection and preparation of test samples
- 8.3.7 MININEPHPLUS On-Board Buffer 1 (SN107)
- 8.3.8 Pipette tips for use with the MININEPHPLUS – refer to MININEPHPLUS User Guide.

### 8.4 TEST PROCEDURE – MININEPH ANALYSER

- 8.4.1 Summary of reagent volumes added to the cuvette:

Reagent	Volume added
Sample (1/121 dilution)	20µL
MININEPH IgG4 Buffer	400µL
MININEPH Hu IgG4 Reagent	40µL

- 8.4.2 Switch the analyser and printer (if attached) on.
- 8.4.3 Enter chemistry number. Enter the chemistry number (IgG4 = 9) and press **enter**.
- 8.4.4 Swipe chemistry card. This message will only be displayed if this chemistry has never been used before or you wish to change reagent lot number. Pass the swipecard through the swipecard reader moving from the front of the instrument to the back. The magnetic strip should be at the bottom facing left.  
Check reagent lot number. Press **enter**.
- 8.4.5 IgG4 lot xxxx. OK? 1=Y 2=N. Compare the details displayed with those on the reagent label. If the lot number displayed is identical to that printed on the reagent vial, select **YES (press 1)** and continue to step 8.4.7. If the vial lot number is different from that displayed select **NO (press 2)** and return to step 8.4.4 to allow the details of the correct batch to be entered.
- 8.4.7 Prepare dilutions of controls and samples using the MININEPH Sample Diluent supplied in the MININEPH Reagent Accessory Pack (ZK500.R). The recommended sample dilution for IgG4 is 1/121 (e.g. to prepare this dilution first prepare a 1/11 dilution by pipetting 400µL of sample diluent and 40µL sample into a sample dilution tube using the electronic pipette. Then prepare a further 1/11 dilution as described above on the diluted sample, resulting in a final dilution of 1/121).
- 8.4.8 Prepare one MININEPH cuvette for each sample to be assayed. Using the forceps provided with the MININEPH place a stirring bar in each cuvette and then using a pipette add 20µL of diluted sample carefully to the bottom of each cuvette.
- 8.4.9 Enter sample ID. Enter an identity code (eg 1) for the first sample to be assayed then press **enter** to continue (refer to user manual for choice of identity codes).
- 8.4.10 Sample dilution 1/121. Accept the recommended dilution by pressing **enter**, or type in a new dilution factor if an alternative dilution is to be used.
- 8.4.11 Place cuvette in chamber. Place a cuvette containing a stirring bar and 20µL of sample in the cuvette chamber. Press the cuvette down gently until it reaches the bottom of the chamber. The cuvette will be detected automatically.
- 8.4.12 Add reagent. Fill an electronic pipette with 400µL of MININEPH IgG4 Buffer and 40µL of MININEPH Hu IgG4 Reagent and dispense its contents into the cuvette. The MININEPH will detect the addition followed by movement of the stirring bar and the assay will begin. It is not necessary to press **enter**. After a 15 second blanking time the assay will take 165 seconds to complete, the result will then be displayed and printed automatically (if a printer is connected).
- 8.4.13 On completion of the assay remove the cuvette and press **enter** to perform the next assay.
- 8.4.14 If the instrument indicates the result is higher than the intended measuring range, reassay the sample at the higher dilution of 1/605 (160µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample diluted 1/121). The sample dilution should be entered as 1/605 (see section 8.4.10).
- 8.4.15 If the instrument indicates the result is lower than the intended measuring range, reassay the sample at the lower dilution of 1/11 (400µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample). The sample dilution should be entered as 1/11 (see section

- 8.4.10. If the result is lower than this 1/11 range, the sample may be reassayed at 1/5 (160µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample).
- 8.4.16 When all assays for the chosen chemistry have been completed press **esc** and select the chemistry number for the next set of assays.

## 8.5 TEST PROCEDURE FOR MININEPHPLUS ANALYSER

- 8.5.1 Summary of reagent volumes added to the cuvette:

Reagent	Volume added
Sample (1/121 dilution)	20µL
MININEPH IgG4 Buffer	400µL
MININEPH Hu IgG4 Reagent	40µL

- 8.5.2 Ensure that an empty waste pot is placed at the back of the MININEPHPLUS.
- 8.5.3 Attach a new pipette tip on the end of the MININEPHPLUS hand held pipette.
- 8.5.4 Check there is sufficient On-Board buffer 1 (SN107) in the drawer. There needs to be at least 10mL. Refer to the MININEPHPLUS *User Guide for instructions on replenishing the buffer.*
- 8.5.5 Switch on the analyser and printer (if attached).
- 8.5.6 Enter chemistry number. Enter the chemistry number (IgG4 = 9) and press **enter**.
- 8.5.7 Swipe chemistry card. This message will only be displayed if this chemistry has never been used before or when changing reagent lot number. Pass the swipecard through the swipe card reader in a left to right direction across the front of the MININEPHPLUS with the magnetic strip facing upwards.
- 8.5.8 Check reagent lot number. Press **enter**.
- 8.5.9 IgG4 lot xxxx. OK? 1=Y 2=N. Compare the details displayed with those on the reagent label. If the lot number displayed is identical to that printed on the reagent vial, select YES (**press 1**) and continue to step 8.5.12. If the vial lot number is different from that displayed select NO (**press 2**) and return to step 8.5.8 to allow the details of the correct batch to be entered.
- 8.5.10 Prime? 1=Y 2=N. Prime the analyser to expel air bubbles in the plastic tube leading from the On-board buffer bottle to the hand-held pipette. This is done by pressing button 1 when prompted. Excess On-board buffer will be expelled into the waste pot. When priming has finished press 2. Note that a prime will always be performed when starting a T1 assay that follows a T2 assay.
- 8.5.11 Pipette Y/N: Block Y/N. There is a short period when the MININEPHPLUS stabilises its temperature.
- 8.5.12 Prepare dilutions of controls and samples using the MININEPH Sample Diluent supplied in the MININEPH Reagent Accessory Pack (ZK500.R). The recommended sample dilution for IgG4 is 1/121 (e.g. to prepare this dilution first prepare a 1/11 dilution by pipetting 400µL of sample diluent and 40µL sample into a sample dilution tube using the electronic pipette. Then prepare a further 1/11 dilution as described above on the diluted sample, resulting in a final dilution of 1/121).
- 8.5.13 Prepare one MININEPH cuvette for each sample to be assayed. Using the forceps provided with the MININEPHPLUS place a stirring bar in each cuvette and then using a pipette add 20µL of diluted sample carefully to the bottom of each cuvette.
- 8.5.14 Enter sample ID. Enter an identity code (e.g. 1) for the first sample to be assayed then press **enter** to continue (refer to user manual for choice of identity codes).
- 8.5.15 Sample dilution 1/121. Accept the recommended dilution by pressing **enter** or type in a new dilution factor if an alternative dilution is to be used.
- 8.5.16 Place cuvette in chamber. Place a cuvette containing a stirring bar and 20µL of diluted sample in the cuvette chamber. Press the cuvette down gently until it reaches the bottom of the chamber. The cuvette will be detected automatically.
- 8.5.17 Supplementary buffer. Using the MININEPHPLUS hand-held pipette, aspirate 400µL of MININEPH IgG4 buffer.
- 8.5.18 Air Gap. Using the MININEPHPLUS hand-held pipette, aspirate an air gap.
- 8.5.19 Aspirate Reagent. Using the MININEPHPLUS hand-held pipette, aspirate 40µL of MININEPH Human IgG4 reagent.
- 8.5.20 Add Reagent. Dispense the aspirated reagents into the cuvette. The stirring bar will rotate and the assay will begin. After a 15 second blanking time the assay will take 163 seconds to complete. The result will be displayed. Results will be automatically printed if a printer is connected.
- 8.5.21 If the instrument indicates the result is higher than the intended measuring range, reassay the sample at the higher dilution of 1/605 (160µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample diluted 1/121). The sample dilution should be entered as 1/605 (see section 8.5.15).
- 8.5.22 If the instrument indicates the result is lower than the intended measuring range, reassay the sample at the lower dilution of 1/11 (400µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample). The sample dilution should be entered as 1/11 (see section 8.5.15). If the result is lower than this 1/11 range, the sample may be reassayed at 1/5 (160µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample).
- 8.5.23 On completion of the assay remove the cuvette and press **enter** to perform the next assay.
- 8.5.24 When all assays for the chosen chemistry number have been completed press **esc** and select the chemistry number for the next set of assays.
- 8.5.25 Empty waste pot and discard the pipette tip from the hand held pipette.

## 8.6 QUALITY CONTROL

As with all good laboratory practice, users should run controls with every batch of samples.

## 9 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

- 9.1 Results are calculated by the instrument and displayed in mg/L. If a printer is attached the result is automatically printed out together with the patient identification code and the sample dilution. Further calculations are not necessary.

## 10 LIMITATIONS OF PROCEDURE

### 10.1 SPECIFIC TEST LIMITATIONS

- 10.1.1 Nephelometric assays are not suitable for measurement of highly lipaemic or haemolysed samples or samples containing high levels of circulating immune complexes (CICs) due to the unpredictable degree of non-specific scatter these sample types may generate. Unexpected results should be confirmed using an alternative assay method.
- 10.1.2 Diagnosis cannot be made and treatment must not be initiated on the basis of IgG4 measurements alone. Clinical history and other laboratory findings must also be taken into account.
- 10.1.3 The assay range is limited to that stated under Intended Use. Sample concentrations up to at least 3350mg/L will not result in antigen excess. There are a number of conditions that can lead to extremely elevated serum concentrations of IgG4 (refs. 6, 7). In such cases, there is a possibility of obtaining a falsely low IgG4 result due to antigen excess. If there is a suspicion of very high levels, it is recommended that the IgG4 result is verified by re-assay of the patient sample at a higher dilution of 1/605 (160µL MININEPH Sample Diluent + 40µL sample diluted 1/121) and this is equated to the total IgG result. The results from such samples should be interpreted with care and always in the clinical context.

## 10.2 TROUBLE SHOOTING

Problem	Possible cause(s)	Suggested action(s)
Error message "Blank too high – reassay" displayed.	Very high analyte concentration.  Lipaemic, turbid or haemolysed samples.	Reassay sample at a higher dilution.  Try alternative assay method.
Controls out of range.	Product deterioration.  Operator error.	Check expiry date.  Repeat assay with the correct sample dilution.
Test sample giving unexpectedly low result.	Antigen excess.	Repeat assay at a higher dilution. Check if the two results agree.

## 11 EXPECTED RESULTS

The following IgG4 results were obtained with normal adult donor sera on the MININEPH. Concentrations are in mg/L. We recommend local reference ranges are generated.

Number	Mean	Median	95 Percentile Range
30	426	423	62 - 1127

Serum immunoglobulin concentrations are age-dependent - the results below were obtained by a radial immunodiffusion method (mg/L):

Age	IgG1	IgG2	IgG3	IgG4	Total IgG
	Mean (N) 95%ile Range	Mean (N) 95%ile Range	Mean (N) 95%ile Range	Mean (N) 95%ile Range	Mean (N) 95%ile Range
0-2 years	5248 (39) 1940 - 8420	838 (39) 225 - 3000	445 (39) 186 - 853	129 (39) 5 - 784	6640 (39) 3270 - 12700
2-4 years	5495 (36) 3150 - 9450	1146 (36) 360 - 2250	396 (36) 173 - 676	171 (36) 10 - 537	7770 (36) 4680 - 12500
4-6 years	6149 (49) 3060 - 9450	1496 (49) 605 - 3450	531 (49) 99 - 1221	329 (49) 18 - 1125	9280 (49) 5320 - 13400
6-8 years	5758 (43) 2880 - 9180	1754 (43) 440 - 3750	437 (43) 155 - 853	331 (43) 4 - 992	8860 - (43) 4540 - 13600
8-10 years	6345 (32) 4320 - 10200	2126 (32) 720 - 4300	521 (32) 127 - 853	349 (32) 19 - 932	9700 (32) 5680 - 13600
10-12 years	6421 (46) 4230 - 10600	1980 (46) 760 - 3550	620 (46) 173 - 1730	323 (46) 16 - 1150	10200 (46) 5680 - 14900
12-14 years	6581 (54) 3420 - 11500	2486 (54) 1000 - 4550	583 (54) 283 - 1250	409 (54) 37 - 1360	10500 (54) 6640 - 14900
14-18 years	6057 (48) 3150 - 8550	2614 (48) 640 - 4950	708 (48) 230 - 1960	521 (48) 110 - 1570	10100 (48) 5500 - 14400

## 12 PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

### 12.1 PRECISION

#### 12.1.1 Precision – MININEPH

	IgG4 Precision Summary					
	Intra batch (n=40 <sup>†</sup> )		Day to day (n=10 <sup>††</sup> )		Inter instrument (n=5 <sup>†††</sup> )	
	Mean mg/L	CV%	Mean mg/L	CV%	Mean mg/L	CV%
Serum 1	437	5.5	463	8.2	464	8.3
Serum 2	253	7.2	256	7.6	264	5.9

<sup>†</sup>These data represent the average coefficient of variation (CV) of forty within-run measurements at each concentration. Two batches of IgG4 were used and the means of each within-run CV was calculated.

<sup>††</sup>Measurements were performed on ten separate occasions and the overall CV for the results at each concentration calculated. Two batches of IgG4 were used and the means of each within-run CV was calculated.

<sup>†††</sup>Assays were performed at each concentration on five instruments. The overall CV of the results at each concentration was calculated. Two batches of IgG4 were used and the means of each within-run CV was calculated.

#### 12.1.2 Precision – MININEPHPLUS

	IgG4 Precision Summary			
	Mean (mg/L)	Intra batch CV% (n=30 <sup>*</sup> )	Day to day CV% (n=30 <sup>**</sup> )	Inter instrument CV% (n=15 <sup>***</sup> )
	Serum 1	549	5.18	5.45
Serum 2	201	3.49	4.43	4.63

\*These data represent the average coefficient of variation (CV) of three within-batch measurements repeated ten times at each concentration.

\*\*Ten within-batch measurements were performed on three separate occasions and the overall CV for the thirty results at each concentration calculated.

\*\*\*Assays were performed five times at each concentration on three instruments. The overall CV of the fifteen results at each concentration was calculated.

### 12.2 COMPARISON STUDIES

#### 12.2.1 MININEPH

A correlation study was performed on 48 clinical and normal serum samples with IgG4 concentrations between 32 and 1188mg/L using this kit on a MININEPH and with a Binding Site BN<sup>™</sup>II kit. The study demonstrated good agreement yielding the following linear regression equation and correlation coefficient.

$$y = 0.927x + 36.6 \text{ mg/L} \quad (y = \text{MININEPH IgG4})$$

$$(x = \text{BNII IgG4})$$

Correlation coefficient  $r = 0.981$

BN<sup>™</sup>II is a trademark of Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Inc.

A correlation study was performed on 28 serum samples with IgG4 concentrations between 13 and 1193mg/L using this kit on a MININEPH and with Binding Site RID plates. The study demonstrated good agreement yielding the following linear regression equation and correlation coefficient.

$$y = 0.878x - 5.7 \text{ mg/L} \quad (y = \text{MININEPH IgG4})$$

$$(x = \text{RID IgG4})$$

Correlation coefficient  $r = 0.988$

## 12.2.2 MININEPHPLUS

30 normal adult sera and 20 clinical adult sera were tested on the MININEPH and MININEPHPLUS. The study demonstrated a good agreement yielding the following Passing & Bablok equation and linear regression correlation coefficient:

$$y = 1.07x + 5.25\text{mg/L} \quad (y = \text{MININEPHPLUS IgG4})$$

$$(x = \text{MININEPH IgG4})$$

Correlation coefficient  $r = 0.994$

## 13 REFERENCES

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5. Williams, D.R., Wilson, C.T., Carr-Smith, H.D. (2009). Assignment of IgG Subclass Values to the Protein Reference Preparation DA470k. Clin. Chem. Vol. 55, No. S6, PS C-90.
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7. Ryu J H, Horie R, Sekiguchi H, Peikert T and Yi E S (2012). Spectrum of disorders associated with elevated serum IgG4 levels encountered in clinical practice. Int. J. Rheumatol. 2012, Article ID 232960.