Instruction Manual

Helicobacter pylori IgM ELISA

Enzyme immunoassay based on microtiter plate
for the detection and quantitative determination
of human IgM antibodies against **Helicobacter pylori**
in serum and plasma

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Cat. No.: ILE-HEL03
Storage: 2-8°C
For in-vitro diagnostic use only

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Symbole und Übersetzungen / Symbols and Translations

Symbol	English	French	German	Italian	Spanish	Greek
CAL	Calibrator	Etalon	Kalibrator	Calibratore	Calibrador	Πρότυπο Διάλυμα
CONJ	Conjugate	Conjugué	Konjugat	Coniugato	Conjugado	Διάλυμα Συμπλόκου
CONC	Concentrate (<n>-fold)	Concentré (<n> fois)	Konzentrat (<n>-fach)	Concentrato (<n>-volte)	Concentrado (<n>-veces)	Συμπύκνωση (<n> φορές)
SAMP DIL	Sample Diluent	Diluant échantillon	Proben-verdünner	Diluente del campione	Diluyente de muestra	Διάλυμα Αραίωσης Δειγμάτων
STOP	Stop Solution	Solution d'arrêt	Stopp-Lösung	Soluzione d'arresto	Solución de parada	Διάλυμα Αναστολής
SUBS	Substrate	Substrat	Substrat	Substrato	Sustrato	Διάλυμα Υποστρώ ματος
MT PLATE	Microtiter plate	Microplaque	Mikrotiterplatte	Piastre	Placa microtiter	Μικρόπλακα
WASH BUF	Wash buffer	Tampon de lavage	Waschpuffer	Soluzione di lavaggio	Tampón de lavado	Πλυστικό Διάλυμα

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1. Intended Use

The Immunolab Helicobacter pylori IgM Antibody ELISA Test Kit has been designed for the the detection and the quantitative determination of specific IgM antibodies against Helicobacter pylori in serum and plasma. Further applications in other body fluids are possible and can be requested from the Technical Service of Immunolab .

This assay is intended for in-vitro diagnostic use only.

Laboratory results can never be the only base of a medical report. The patient history and further tests have additionally to be taken into account.

2. General Information

Helicobacter pylori, a 2.5-3 μm long, twisted or helical gram-negative germ is responsible for 80-90% of B-gastritis cases and is suspected to be a major cofactor for the development of gastric and duodenal ulcers. Up to now Helicobacter pylori could be most reliably detected by culturing from mucous membrane biopsies; also a urease test was employed for identification. These detection methods are only successful for a relatively high germ count from the inoculate and require an identification directly after taking the biopsy. Recently it was shown that a detection of Helicobacter pylori by indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) should be superior to the above methods. The identification by IIF is also advantageous as it is not necessary to perform the determination directly after the biopsy; thus preparations can be sent to specialized laboratories. The colonisation of the gastric and duodenal mucous membranes by Helicobacter pylori can also be detected serologically by the performance of an enzyme immunoassay (ELISA) or by Western Blot. Patients with confirmed exposition to Helicobacter pylori often show a positive serological result. Since antibodies persist for a longer time after a Helicobacter pylori infection, seropositive individuals are also found among symptom-free patients. The ratio of seropositive values rises with age. By the determination of immunoglobulins in ELISA and by the detection of IgG, IgA and IgM antibodies against specific proteins of Helicobacter pylori in the Western Blot, it should be possible to diagnose an acute infection with Helicobacter pylori, even if no germs can be found. The detection of Helicobacter pylori is of remarkable interest for the therapy. Bismuth salts and antibiotics use to kill the germs, and these should complement or replace the usual therapy with antacidic and H2 blocking agents. Serological monitoring could thus also be employed to control the success of anti-microbial therapy.

3. Principle of the Test

The Immunolab Helicobacter pylori IgM antibody test kit is based on the principle of the enzyme immunoassay (EIA). Helicobacter antigen is bound on the surface of the microtiter strips. Diluted patient serum or ready-to-use standards are pipetted into the wells of the microtiter plate. A binding between the IgM antibodies of the serum and the immobilized Helicobacter antigen takes place. After a one hour incubation at room temperature, the plate is rinsed with diluted wash solution, in order to remove unbound material. Then ready-to-use anti-human-IgM peroxidase conjugate is added and incubated for 30 minutes. After a further washing step, the substrate (TMB) solution is pipetted and incubated for 20 minutes, inducing the development of a blue dye in the wells. The color development is terminated by the addition of a stop solution, which changes the color from blue to yellow. The resulting dye is measured spectrophotometrically at the wavelength of 450 nm. The concentration of the IgM antibodies is directly proportional to the intensity of the color.

4. Limitations, Precautions and General Comments

- Only for in-vitro use! Do not ingest or swallow! The usual laboratory safety precautions as well as the prohibition of eating, drinking and smoking in the lab have to be followed.

- All sera and plasma or buffers based upon, have been tested respective to HBsAg, HIV and HCV with recognized methods and were found negative. Nevertheless precautions like the use of latex gloves have to be taken.

- Serum and reagent spills have to be wiped off with a disinfecting solution (e.g. sodium hypochlorite, 5%) and have to be disposed of properly.

- All reagents have to be brought to room temperature (18 to 25 °C) before performing the test.

- Before pipetting all reagents should be mixed thoroughly by gentle tilting or swinging. Vigorous shaking with formation of foam should be avoided.

- It is important to pipet with constant intervals, so that all the wells of the microtiter plate have the same conditions.

- When removing reagents out of the bottles, care has to be taken that the stoppers are not contaminated. Further a possible mix-up has to be avoided. The content of the bottles is usually sensitive to oxidation, so that they should be opened only for a short time.

- In order to avoid a carry-over or a cross-contamination, separate disposable pipet tips have to be used.

- No reagents from different kit lots have to be used, they should not be mixed among one another.

- All reagents have to be used within the expiry period.

- In accordance with a Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) or following ISO9001 all laboratory devices employed should be regularly checked regarding the accuracy and precision. This refers amongst others to microliter pipets and washing or reading (ELISA-Reader) instrumentation.

- The contact of certain reagents, above all the stopping solution and the substrate with skin, eye and mucosa has to be avoided, because possible irritations and acid burns could arise, and there exists a danger of intoxication.

5. Reagents Provided

Components	Volume / Qty.
Helicobacter pylori antigen coated microtiter strips	12
Calibrator A (Negative Control)	2 mL
Calibrator B (Cut-Off Standard)	2 mL
Calibrator C (Weak Positive Control)	2 mL
Calibrator D (Positive Control)	2 mL
Enzyme Conjugate	15 mL
Substrate	15 mL
Stop Solution	15 mL
Sample Diluent	60 mL
Washing Buffer (10×)	60 mL
Plastic foils	2
Plastic bag	1

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Store kit components at 2-8$^\text{o}$C and do not use after the expiry date on the box outer label. Before use, all components should be allowed to warm up to ambient temperature (18-25$^\text{o}$C). After use, the plate should be resealed, the bottle caps replaced and tightened and the kit stored at 2-8$^\text{o}$C. The opened kit should be used within three months.

5.1. Microtiter Strips
12 strips with 8 breakable wells each, coated with a purified natural Helicobacter pylori antigen (contains Cag, VAC, Urease A + B). Ready-to-use.

5.2. Calibrator A (Negative Control)
2 mL, protein solution diluted with PBS, contains no IgM antibodies against Helicobacter. Addition of 0.01% methylisothiazolone and 0.01% bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.3. Calibrator B (Cut-Off Standard)
2 mL human serum diluted with PBS, contains a low concentration of IgM antibodies against Helicobacter. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.4. Calibrator C (Weak Positive Control)
2 mL, human serum diluted with PBS, contains a medium concentration of IgM antibodies against Helicobacter. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.5. Calibrator D (Positive Control)
2 mL, human serum diluted with PBS, contains a high concentration of IgM antibodies against Helicobacter. Addition of 0.01% methylisothiazolone and 0.01% bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.6. Enzyme Conjugate
15 mL, anti-human-IgM-HRP (rabbit), in protein-containing buffer solution. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane and 5 mg/L Proclin$^\text{TM}$. Ready-to-use.

5.7. Substrate
15 mL, TMB (tetramethylbenzidine). Ready-to-use.

5.8. Stop Solution
15 mL, 0.5 M sulfuric acid. Ready-to-use.

5.9. Sample Diluent
60 mL, PBS/BSA buffer. Addition of 0.1 % sodium azide. Ready-to-use.

5.10. Washing Buffer
60 mL, PBS + Tween 20, 10x concentrate. Final concentration: dilute 1+9 with distilled water. If during the cold storage crystals precipitate, the concentrate should be warmed up at 37°C for 15 minutes.

5.11. Plastic Foils
2 pieces to cover the microtiter strips during the incubation.

5.12. Plastic Bag
Resealable, for the dry storage of non-used strips.

6. Materials Required but not Provided

- 5 μL-, 100 μL- and 500 μL micro- and multichannel pipets
- Microtiter Plate Reader (450 nm)
- Microtiter Plate Washer

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- Reagent tubes for the serum dilution
- Bidistilled water

7. Specimen Collection and Handling

Principally serum or plasma (EDTA, heparin) can be used for the determination. Serum is separated from the blood, which is aseptically drawn by venipuncture, after clotting and centrifugation. The serum or plasma samples can be stored refrigerated (4-8°C) for up to 48 hours, for a longer storage they should be kept at -20 °C. The samples should not be frozen and thawed repeatedly. Lipemic, hemolytic or bacterially contaminated samples can cause false positive or false negative results.

For the performance of the test the samples (not the standards) have to be diluted 1:101 with ready-to-use sample diluent (e.g. 5 µL serum + 500 µL sample diluent).

8. Assay Procedure

8.1. Preparation of Reagents

Washing Solution: dilute before use 1+9 with distilled water. If during the cold storage crystals precipitate, the concentrate should be warmed up at 37°C for 15 minutes.

- Strict adherence to the protocol is advised for reliable performance. Any changes or modifications are the responsibility of the user.
- All reagents and samples must be brought to room temperature before use, but should not be left at this temperature longer than necessary.
- Standards and samples should be assayed in duplicates.
- A standard curve should be established with each assay.
- Return the unused microtiter strips to the plastic bag and store them dry at 4-8°C.

8.2. Assay Steps

1. Prepare a sufficient amount of microtiter wells for the standards, controls and samples in duplicate as well as for a substrate blank.
2. Pipet 100 µL each of the **diluted** (1:101) samples and the **ready-to-use** standards and controls respectively into the wells. Leave one well empty for the substrate blank.
3. Cover plate with the enclosed foil and incubate at room temperature for 60 minutes.
4. Empty the wells of the plate (dump or aspirate) and add 300 µL of diluted washing solution. This procedure is repeated totally three times. Rests of the washing buffer are afterwards removed by gentle tapping of the microtiter plate on a tissue cloth.
5. Pipet 100 µL each of ready-to-use conjugate into the wells. Leave one well empty for the substrate blank.
6. Cover plate with the enclosed foil and incubate at room temperature for 30 minutes.
7. Empty the wells of the plate (dump or aspirate) and add 300 µL of diluted washing solution. This procedure is repeated totally three times. Rests of the washing buffer are afterwards removed by gentle tapping of the microtiter plate on a tissue cloth.
8. Pipet 100 µL each of the ready-to-use substrate into the wells. This time also the substrate blank is pipetted.
9. Cover plate with the enclosed foil and incubate at room temperature for 20 minutes in the dark (e.g. drawer).
10. To terminate the substrate reaction, pipet 100 µL each of the ready-to-use stop solution into the wells. Pipet also the substrate blank.

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11. After thorough mixing and wiping the bottom of the plate, perform the reading of the absorption at 450 nm (optionally reference wavelength of 620 nm). The color is stable for at least 60 minutes.

9. Evaluation

The mean values for the measured absorptions are calculated after subtraction of the substrate blank value. The difference between the single values should not exceed 10%.

Example

	OD Value	corrected OD	Mean OD Value
Substrate Blank	0.017		
Negative Control	0.019 / 0.019	0.002 / 0.002	0.0020
Cut-Off Standard	0.555 / 0.567	0.538 / 0.550	0.544
Weak Positive Control	0.939 / 0.901	0.922 / 0.884	0.903
Positive Control	1.802 / 1.785	1.785 / 1.768	1.777

The above table contains only an example, which was achieved under arbitrary temperature and environmental conditions. The described data constitute consequently **no reference values** which have to be found in other laboratories in the same way.

9.1. Qualitative Evaluation

The calculated absorptions for the patient sera, as mentioned above, are compared with the value for the cut-off standard. If the value of the sample is higher, there is a positive result.

For a value below the cut-off standard, there is a negative result. It seems reasonable to define a range of +/-20 % around the value of the cut-off as a grey zone. In such a case the repetition of the test with the same serum or with a new sample of the same patient, taken after 2-4 weeks, is recommended. Both samples should be measured in parallel in the same run.

The positive control must show at least the double absorption compared with the cut-off standard.

9.2. Quantitative Evaluation

The ready-to-use standards and controls of the Helicobacter pylori antibody kit are defined and expressed in arbitrary units (U/ml). This results in an exact and reproducible quantitative evaluation. Consequently for a given patient follow-up controls become possible. The values for controls and standards in units are printed on the labels of the vials.

For a quantitative evaluation the absorptions of the standards and controls are graphically drawn against their concentrations. From the resulting reference curve the concentration values for each patient sample can then be extracted in relation to their absorptions. It is also possible to use automatic computer programs.

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10. Assay Characteristics

Helicobacter pylori ELISA	IgG	IgA	IgM
Intra-Assay-Precision	8.5 %	8.1 %	8.1 %
Inter-Assay-Precision	6.3 %	9.4 %	11.3 %
Inter-Lot-Precision	3.6 – 10.8 %	3.3 – 10.5 %	4.4 – 12.7 %
Analytical Sensitivity	1.16 U/mL	1.04 U/mL	1.03 U/mL
Recovery	90 – 93 %	113 – 126 %	88 – 107 %
Linearity	82 – 118 %	77 – 125 %	84 – 122 %
Cross-Reactivity	No cross-reactivity to Yersinia enterocolitica		
Interferences	No interferences to bilirubin up to 0.3 mg/mL, hemoglobin up to 8.0 mg/mL und triglycerides up to 5.0 mg/mL		
Clinical Specificity	96 %	95 %	99 %
Clinical Sensitivity	96 %	83 %	85 %

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