

NEPHSTAR® Complement 4 (C4) Kit

Catalog No. DK034

1. Intended Use

This product is used on NEPHSTAR® protein analysis system for quantitative determination of human **Complement 4 (C4)** in serum as an aid in diagnosis of abnormal C4 metabolism.

2. Summary

The complement system can be activated via the classical and an alternative route. Complement factor C4 participates in activation by the classical route. A decrease in C 4 is common, but complete absence is rare. A lowered concentration or the complete absence of C4 occurs in immunocomplex diseases, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), autoimmune thyroiditis and juvenile dermatomyositis. The commencement of SLE in patients with C4-deficiencies can often be detected at a very early stage, and the course of the disease is milder than in patients with normal complement levels. Infections such as bacterial and viral meningitis, streptococcal and staphylococcal sepsis and pneumonia are associated with a decrease in C4. Additional differentiation can be obtained by the determination of C 4 when the level of complement factor C 3 is low. If in such cases the protein concentration of C 4 is normal, then an activation of the alternative route is likely. The main use of C 4 determinations is in assessing the course of hypocomplement conditions. As an acute phase protein, C 4 is produced to an increased extent during inflammatory processes. It is elevated in systemic infections, noninfectious chronic inflammatory conditions (primarily chronic polyarthritis) and physiological states (pregnancy). The elevation rarely exceeds twice the normal value and can mask a reduction in the current consumption.

3. Test Principle

Immunonephelometry is applied. This method involves measuring the light scattered by insoluble complexes formed by reaction between specific protein in samples and its respective antiserum, and the amount of scattered light is directly proportional to the concentration of the protein under condition that antiserum is in excess. Concentrations are automatically calculated by reference to a calibration curve stored in the instrument.

4. Kit Components

Code	Name	Volume/Quantity
DA034	C4 Antiserum	1×2.0 ml
DB034	C4 Reaction buffer	1×25.0 mL
DC034	C4 Magnetic card	1
DM034	C4 Control	1×0.3mL
	Manual	1

5. Materials required but not supplied

- 5.1 NEPHSTAR Protein analysis system (NS100)
- 5.2 NEPHSTAR Accessory pack (DK110)
- 5.3 Electronic pipette (YB201)
- 5.4 Pipette 5-50uL (YB301)

5.5 Pipette 100-1000uL(YB302)

5.6 Equipment for collection of Samples

6. Storage and Stability

The unopened reagent kit should be stored under 2-8°C and can be used until the expiry date labeled on the kit. Do not freeze! The buffer should be equilibrated to room temperature before use. Once opened store the antisera and control at 2-8°C and the buffer at **18-25°C and be sure to screw on the cap tightly**. Under these conditions the buffer is stable for 3 months, antisera and control for 1 month.

7. Sample Collection And Preparation

Use serum samples. Collect blood samples by venepuncture and let them clot naturally and separate the sera as soon as possible to prevent haemolysis. Sera may be stored at 2-8°C for 48 hours, otherwise 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. Testing of the following types of sera may result in misleading values:

- 7.1 Highly lipemic, turbid and haemolysed samples are not suitable for nephelometric assays and should not be used unless centrifuged or prepared using other methods. If the background is too turbid and can not be removed, please think of other measuring method.
- 7.2 Testing of samples containing rheumatoid factors, paraproteins or circulating immunocomplexes can result in misleading values due to non-specific scattering light possibly generated by these articles.

8. Test Procedure

Summary: Reagent volumes added to the cuvette

Reagent	Volume
Sample (1/11)	40ul
C4 Reaction Buffer	400ul
C4 Antiserum	40ul

- 8.1 Switch NEPHSTAR on.
- 8.2 Enter chemistry number. Enter chemistry number of C4 kit (**C4=34**). If C4 assay has never been performed on the instrument before, please swipe card when "please swipe card" is displayed.
- 8.3 The assay name and lot of reagent are displayed. Check carefully, press ENTER if the lot number is identical to that printed on the card or kit label, otherwise swipe card to update the curve data stored in NEPHSTAR.
- 8.4 Dilute samples or controls using NEPHSTAR Sample Diluent supplied in NEPHSTAR Accessory pack (Cat. No: DK110) . The default dilution scheme for C4 assay is 1/11 (e.g. **400uL sample diluent + 40uL sample**) .
- 8.5 Prepare one cuvette for each sample to be assayed. Place a stirring bar to the cuvette using the forceps supplied with NEPHSTAR, then add **40uL** of diluted sample carefully to the bottom of the cuvette.
- 8.6 Enter sample ID. Press number keys to enter the sample ID; or press ENTER to accept the currently displayed sample ID.
- 8.7 Enter sample dilution: **11**. Accept the default sample dilution by pressing ENTER, otherwise press number keys to alter the dilution scheme.
- 8.8 Place cuvette in chamber. Place the cuvette containing a stirring bar and **40uL** of diluted sample in the chamber and press it down slightly until it reaches the bottom of the chamber. The cuvette will be detected automatically.

- 8.9 Add reagent. Add 400 uL C4 reaction buffer and 40 uL C4 antiserum simultaneously into the cuvette using the electronic pipette (Cat. No.: YB201) supplied with NEPHSTAR. NEPHSTAR will sense the addition of reagents. With movement of the stirring bar, the assay begins after blanking and result will be printed automatically at the end of the assay.
- 8.10 On completion of the assay remove the cuvette, press ENTER to perform the next assay. Sample ID will increase sequentially. For alteration of the ID press BACK twice and tip in the right number.
- 8.11 If NEPHSTAR indicates result is higher than measurement range, reassay the sample at a higher dilution of e.g. 1/55 (160µL sample diluent + 40µL 1/11 diluted sample) . Accordingly the sample dilution should be altered to 1/55 (press BACK and then the number keys to alter the sample dilution) .
- 8.12 If NEPHSTAR indicates result is lower than measurement range, reassay the sample at a lower dilution of e.g. 1/5 (160µL sample diluent + 40µL sample) . Accordingly the sample dilution should be altered to 1/5 (press BACK and then the number keys to alter the sample dilution) .
- 8.13 On completion of all assays of the same chemistry press ESC and return to step 8.2. Enter new chemistry number and begin another assay.

9. Quality Control

In accord with good laboratory practice, users should run control with every batch of samples. Results of control should fall in the validity range labeled on the control vial.

10. Sensitivity and measuring range

The sensitivity limit is 0.07g/L and the upper limit is 2.0 g/L when the default dilution scheme is applied. The sensitivity limit is 0.032 g/L when samples are diluted at 1/5.

11. Antigen Excess

Sample concentration of less than 16.0 g/L will not result in antigen excess, when the results will be misleadingly low. On suspicion of antigen excess please reassay the sample at dilution of 1/55 (160uL sample diluent + 40uL 1/11 diluted sample).

12. Reference Range

12.1 According to CRM470, normal range of C4 concentration of healthy adult is: 0.1- 0.4g/L. We recommend local reference ranges are produced.

12.2 Diagnosis and treatment can not only depend on determination of C4. The clinical symptoms and other laboratory findings of respective patients should be taken into consideration.

13. Precision

Two analyte concentrations are assayed within several days using this kit of the same lot on NEPHSTAR. 20 repeat assays are performed for each concentration. The average coefficient variations (CV) for each concentration are displayed in the following table:

C4 (g/L)	CV (%)
1.1	2.14
0.12	2.22

14. Correlation Study

A correlation study is performed on 20 clinical serum samples using this kit on NEPHSTAR and Behring C4 reagent on BNII. The linear regression equation and correlation equation got as showed below demonstrate a good correlation between the two methods:

$$Y=1.01X-0.01$$

$$(Y= \text{NEPHSTAR}^{\text{®}} \text{ C4}, X=\text{BNII C4})$$

$$\text{Correlation coefficient } r=0.982$$

15. Caution And Warning

15.1 The reagents are only for in vitro diagnostic use.

15.2 The reagents can be used only by trained personnel and good laboratory practice (GLP) and the stated procedure should be abided strictly.

15.3 All sera have been tested to be HIV(1&2) antibody negative, HBsAg negative. However, the performed testing method can not assure the absolute absence of infectious agents in blood products, so please be sure to handle the blood products such as controls and antisera as potentially infectious sources.

15.4 All reagents of the kit contain sodium azide as preservative. Take caution when handling them. Ingest or contact of the reagents with skin or mucous membranes is forbidden. Wash with large amount of water and seek medical advice if contact does occur. In addition, explosive metal azides may be formed with lead or copper plumbings; when disposing the reagents be sure to flush with large amount of water to avoid buildup of azide.

15.5 All components of kit are NEPHSTAR[®] specific. Reagents of different lots are not interchangeable, otherwise the results can be misleading.

16. References

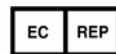
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Goldsite Diagnostics Inc.

#3A & 4A, Technology Building Annex
Nanhai Road, Nanshan District
Shenzhen, P.R.China, 518067
Tel: 86 755 26890807
Fax: 86 755 26890799



Wellkang Ltd t/a Wellkang Tech Consulting

Suite B,29 Harley Street
LONDON W1G 9QR
England, United Kingdom

