

# Rat IL-4 ELISA KIT

## INTENDED USE

The Rat IL-4 ELISA is to be used for the in-vitro quantitative determination of rat Interleukin-4. The assay will recognize both natural and recombinant Rat IL-4.

## PRINCIPLE OF THE METHOD

The rat IL-4 Kit (rIL-4) is a solid phase sandwich Enzyme Linked-Immuno-Sorbent Assay (ELISA). A monoclonal antibody specific for rIL-4 has been coated onto the wells of the microtiter strips provided. The antigen and a biotinylated polyclonal antibody specific for rIL-4 are simultaneously incubated. Revelation step includes Streptavidin-Horse Radish peroxidase and TMB as chromogen.

## REAGENTS PROVIDED AND RECONSTITUTION

REAGENTS (Store at 2-8°C)	COLOUR CODE	1x96 wells Cat # 865.020.096	2x96 wells Cat # 865.020.192	RECONSTITUTION
96-wells microtiter plates		1	2	Ready-to-use
Plastic cover		2	4	
Standard : 1000 pg/ml	Yellow	2 vials	4 vials	Reconstitute with the volume of standard diluent indicated on the vial. (See Reagents Preparation on page 2)
Standard Diluent Buffer	Black	1 vial	1 vial	(25 ml) 10X concentrate. Dilute in distilled Water.
Biotinylated anti-rat IL-4	Red	1 vial	2 vials	(0.4 ml) Dilute in biotinylated antibody diluent
Biotinylated Antibody Diluent	Red	1 vial (7.5 ml)	1 vial (13 ml)	Ready-to-use
Streptavidin-HRP		2 vials	4 vials	(5 µl) 0.5ml of HRP-Diluent before further dilutions
HRP Diluent	Red	1 vial	1 vial	(23 ml) Ready-to-use
Washing Buffer	White	1 vial	2 vials	(10 ml) 200X concentrate. Dilute in distilled Water
Chromogen TMB :		1 vial (11 ml)	1 vial (24 ml)	Ready-to-use
H2SO4 : Stop Reagent	Black	1 vial	2 vials	(11 ml) Ready-to-use

## MATERIAL REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- \* Distilled water.
- \* Pipettes : 10 µl, 50 µl, 100 µl, 200 µl and 1000 µl.
- \* Vortex mixer and magnetic stirrer.

## SAFETY

- \* For research use only.
- \* Handling of reagents, serum or plasma specimens should be in accordance with local safety procedures , e.g. CDC/NIH Health manual : " Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories" 1984.
  - \* Avoid any skin contact with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and TMB. In case of contact, wash thoroughly with water.
  - \* Do not eat, drink, smoke or apply cosmetics where kit reagents are used.
  - \* Do not pipette by mouth.

**PROCEDURAL NOTES/LAB. QUALITY CONTROL**

1. When not in use, kit components should be stored refrigerated or frozen as indicated on vials or bottles labels. All reagents should be warmed to room temperature before use. Lyophilized standards should be discarded after use.
2. Once the desired number of strips has been removed, immediately reseal the bag to protect the remaining strips from deterioration.
3. Cover or cap all reagents when not in use.
4. Do not mix or interchange reagents between different lots.
5. Do not use reagents beyond the expiration date of the kit.
6. Use a clean disposable plastic pipette tip for each reagent, standard, or specimen addition in order to avoid cross-contamination ; for the dispensing of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and substrate solution, avoid pipettes with metal parts.
7. Use a clean plastic container to prepare the washing solution.
8. Thoroughly mix the reagents and samples before use by agitation or swirling.
9. All residual washing liquid must be drained from the wells by efficient aspiration or by decantation followed by tapping the plate forcefully on absorbent paper. Never insert absorbent paper directly into the wells.
10. The TMB solution is light sensitive. Avoid prolonged exposure to light. Also, avoid contact of the TMB solution with metal to prevent colour development. Warning TMB is toxic avoid direct contact with hands. Dispose off properly.
11. If a dark blue colour develops within a few minutes after preparation, this indicates that the TMB solution has been contaminated and must be discarded. Read absorbances within 1 hour after completion of the assay.
12. When pipetting reagents, maintain a consistent order of addition from well-to-well. This will ensure equal incubation times for all wells.
13. Respect incubation times described in the assay procedure.
14. Dispense the TMB solution within 15 min. following the washing of the microtiter plate.

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND STORAGE**

**Cell culture supernatants-** Remove particulates and aggregates by spinning at approximately 1000 x g for 10 min.

**Serum**—Avoid any unintentional stimulation of the cells by the procedure. Use pyrogen/endotoxin free collecting tubes. Serum should be removed rapidly and carefully from the red cells after clotting. For that, after clotting, centrifuge at approximately 1000 x g for 10 min and remove serum.

**Storage**—If not analyzed shortly after collection, samples should be aliquoted (250-500µl) to avoid freeze-thaw cycles and stored frozen at –70°C. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles of frozen specimens.

When possible, avoid use of badly hemolyzed or lipemic sera. If large amounts of particles are present, this should be removed prior to assay by centrifugation or filtration.

**Recommendation** : Do not thaw by heating at 37°C or 56°C. Thaw at room temperature and make sure that sample is completely thawed and homogeneous before assaying

**PREPARATION OF REAGENTS****Standard buffer diluent 10X concentrate**

Dilute 10 times with distilled water before use.

**Standards**

Standards have to be reconstituted with the volume of standard buffer diluent indicated on the vial. This reconstitution produces a stock solution of 1000 pg/ml rat IL-4. Allow standard to stand for 5 minutes with gentle swirling prior to making dilutions. Serial dilutions of standard must be made before each assays and cannot be stored.

**Dilution of biotinylated anti-rat IL-4**

Preparation immediately before use is recommended. Dilute the biotinylated anti- rat IL-4 with the biotinylated antibody diluent in a clean glass vial according to the number of wells to be used. See the next table for volumes to pipette. Extemporaneous preparations are recommended.

Number of Wells used	Biotinylated Antibody (µl)	Biotinylated Antibody Diluent (µl)
16	40	1060
24	60	1590
32	80	2120
48	120	3180
96	240	6360

Dilution of Streptavidin-HRP

**Add 0.5 ml of HRP diluent to a 5 µl vial of Streptavidin-HRP . DO NOT KEEP THIS DILUTION FOR FURTHER EXPERIMENTS.** Dilute immediately before use. Following the number of wells to be used, further dilutions of Streptavidin-HRP should be made with HRP diluent in a clean glass vial : see hereafter the table for volumes to pipette.

Number of Wells	Streptavidin-HRP(µl)	Strep-HRP Diluent (ml)
16	30	2
24	45	3
32	60	4
48	75	5
96	150	10

Washing Buffer 200X concentrate

Dilute 200 times in distilled water.

**ASSAY METHOD**

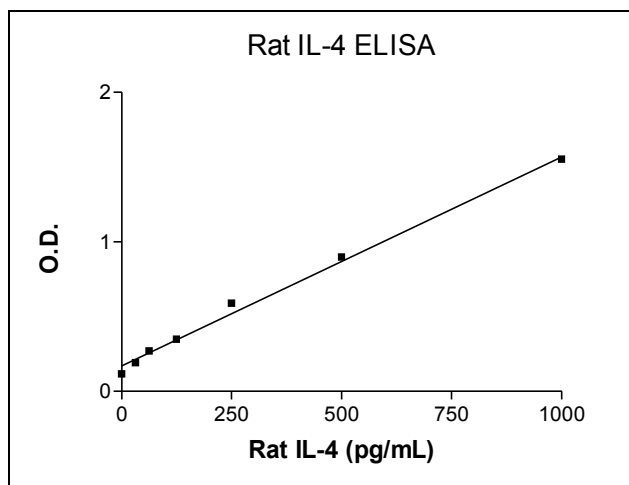
- a) Before use, mix all reagents thoroughly without making foam.
- b) Determine the number of microwell strips required to test the desired number of samples, plus appropriate number of wells needed for running blanks standards and controls. Each sample, standard, blank and control samples should be assayed in duplicate. Remove sufficient microwell strips from the pouch.
- c) Add 100 µl of appropriate standard diluent (see preparation of reagents) to standard wells B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2, E1, E2, F1, F2. Reconstitute standard vial with the appropriate volume as described in the chapter reagents preparation. Pipet 200 µl of standard into wells A1 and A2 (see Plate Scheme below). Transfer 100 µl from A1 and A2 to B1 and B2 wells. Mix the contents by repeated aspirations and ejections. Take care not to scratch the inner surface of microwells. Repeat this procedure from the wells B1, B2 to wells C1, C2 and from wells C1, C2 to D1, D2 and so on creating two parallel rows of rat IL-4 standard dilutions ranging from 1000 to 31.25 pg/ml. Discard 100 µl from the content of the last microwells used (F1, F2).  
Alternatively these dilutions can be done in separate tube and diluted standard pipetted directly into wells.
- d) Add 100 µl of appropriate standard diluent to the blank wells ( G1-G2 ).
- e) Add 100 µl of sample to sample wells.
- f) Preparation of biotinylated anti-rat IL-4 : (see preparation of reagents).
- g) Add 50 µl of diluted biotinylated anti- rat IL-4 to all wells.
- h) Cover with a plate cover and incubate for 4 hours at room temperature ( 18°C - 25°C ).
- i) Remove the cover and wash the plate as follows:
  - 1) aspirate the liquid from each well ;
  - 2) dispense 0.3 ml of washing solution into each well ;
  - 3) aspirate again the content of each well ;
  - 4) Repeat steps 2) and 3) two times.
- j) Prepare streptavidin-HRP solution just before use : (see preparation of reagents).
- k) Distribute 100µl of streptavidin-HRP solution to all wells, including blank wells.
- l) Cover and incubate 20 min at room temperature.
- m) Remove the cover and empty wells. Wash microwell strips according to step i). Proceed immediately to the next step.
- n) Pipette 100 µl of ready-to-use TMB substrate solution into all wells, including the blank wells and incubate in the dark for 15-20 minutes at room temperature. Avoid direct exposure to light by wrapping the plate in aluminium foil.
- o) Incubation time of the substrate solution is usually determined by the ELISA reader performances: many ELISA readers record absorbance only up to 2.0 O.D. The O.D. values of the plate should be monitored and the substrate reaction stopped before positive wells are no longer properly readable (maximum 20 minutes).
- p) The enzyme-substrate reaction is stopped by quickly pipetting 100 µl of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> : stop reagent into each well, including the blank wells, to completely and uniformly inactivate the enzyme. Results must be read immediately after the addition of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> : stop reagent, or within one hour, if the microwell strips are stored at 2-8°C in the dark.
- q) Read absorbance of each well on a spectrophotometer using 450 nm as the primary wavelength and optionally 620 nm (610 nm to 650 nm is acceptable) as the reference wavelength.

**SUGGESTED PLATE SCHEME**

	Standard Concentrations pg/mL		Sample wells									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	1000	1000										
B	500	500										
C	250	250										
D	125	125										
E	62.5	62.5										
F	31.25	31.25										
G	Blank	Blank										
H												

**DATA ANALYSIS**

Generate a linear standard curve by plotting the average absorbance on the vertical axis versus the corresponding rat IL-4 standard concentration on the horizontal axis. The amount of rat IL-4 in each sample is determined by extrapolating OD values to rat IL-4 concentrations using the standard curve.



**Typical rat IL-4 standard curve ranging from 31.25 to 1000pg/mL**

**LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE**

Do not extrapolate the standard curve beyond the 1000 pg/ml standard curve point. The dose-response is non-linear in this region and good accuracy is difficult to obtain. Concentrated samples (> 1000 pg/ml) have to be diluted with standard diluent or with your own sample buffer. During analysis, multiply results by the appropriate dilution factor.

The influence of various drugs, aberrant sera (hemolyzed, hyperlipidemic, jaundiced...) has not been investigated. The rate of degradation of native rat IL-4 in various matrices has not been investigated.

**PERFORMANCES AND CHARACTERISTICS****Sensitivity**

The minimum detectable dose of rIL-4 is less than 15 pg/ml.

This has been determined by adding 3 standard deviations to the mean optical density obtained when the zero standard was assayed 84 times.

**Precision**

Intra-Assay					Inter-Assay				
Sample	n	Mean (pg/mL)	SD	CV%	Sample	n	Mean (pg/mL)	SD	CV%
A	18	379.3	13.5	2.5	A	6	128.6	7.6	5.9
B	19	532.5	5.99	1.6	B	6	532.2	20.6	3.8

**ASSAY PROCEDURE SUMMARY Total procedure length : 4h45mn**