



**KAMIYA BIOMEDICAL COMPANY**

# Human Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH) ELISA

**For the quantitative determination of human ACTH in serum, plasma,  
cell culture supernatants, body fluid and tissue homogenate**

**Cat. No. KT-61021**

**For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.**

## **Product Information**

### **Human Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH) ELISA Cat. No. KT-61021**

## **INTENDED USE**

This ACTH ELISA kit is a 1.5 hour solid-phase ELISA designed for the quantitative determination of Human ACTH. This ELISA kit is for research use only, not for therapeutic or diagnostic applications!

## **PRINCIPLE**

ACTH ELISA kit applies the competitive enzyme immunoassay technique utilizing an anti-ACTH antibody and a ACTH-HRP conjugate. The assay sample and buffer are incubated together with ACTH-HRP conjugate in pre-coated plate for one hour. After the incubation period, the wells are decanted and washed five times. The wells are then incubated with a substrate for HRP enzyme. The product of the enzyme-substrate reaction forms a blue colored complex. Finally, a stop solution is added to stop the reaction, which will then turn the solution yellow. The intensity of color is measured spectrophotometrically at 450 nm in a microplate reader. The intensity of the color is inversely proportional to the ACTH concentration since ACTH from samples and ACTH-HRP conjugate compete for the anti-ACTH antibody binding site. Since the number of sites is limited, as more sites are occupied by ACTH from the sample, fewer sites are left to bind ACTH-HRP conjugate. A calibration curve is plotted relating the intensity of the color (O.D.) to the concentration of calibrators. The ACTH concentration in each sample is interpolated from this calibration curve.

## **COMPONENTS**

<b>Reagents</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Microtiter Plate	96 wells
Calibrator 1 (0 pg/mL)	1
Calibrator 2 (10 pg/mL)	1
Calibrator 3 (25 pg/mL)	1
Calibrator 4 (50 pg/mL)	1
Calibrator 5 (100 pg/mL)	1
Calibrator 6 (250 pg/mL)	1
Enzyme Conjugate	1 x 6 mL
Substrate A	1 x 6 mL
Substrate B	1 x 6 mL
Stop Solution	1 x 6 mL
Wash Buffer (100X concentrate)	1 x 10 mL
Balance Solution	1 x 3 mL

**Note:** The balance solution is used only when the sample is **cell culture supernatants, body fluid and tissue homogenate**; if the sample is serum or plasma, then the balance solution is a superfluous reagent.

## **STORAGE**

All reagents provided are stored at 4°C. Refer to the expiration date on the label.

## **SAMPLE COLLECTION AND STORAGE**

### **Serum**

Use a serum separator tube and allow samples to clot for 2 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C. Centrifuge at approximately 1,000 x g (or 3,000 rpm) for 15 minutes. Remove serum and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

### **Plasma**

Collect plasma using EDTA or heparin as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples for 15 minutes at 1,000 x g (or 3,000 rpm) at 4°C within 30 minutes of collection. Assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

### **Tissue homogenates**

The preparation of tissue homogenates will vary depending upon tissue type. For this assay, tissues were rinsed in ice-cold PBS (0.02 mol/L, pH 7.0-7.2) to remove excess blood thoroughly and weighed 300-500 mg before homogenization. Minced the tissues to small pieces and homogenized them in 500 µL of PBS with a glass homogenizer on ice. The resulting suspension was subjected to ultrasonication or to two freeze-thaw cycles to further break the cell membranes. After that, the homogenates were centrifuged for 15 minutes at 1,500 x g (or 5,000 rpm). Remove the supernate and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

### **Cell lysates**

Cells should be lysed according to the following directions.

1. Adherent cells should be detached with trypsin and then collected by centrifugation. Suspension cells can be collected by centrifugation directly.
2. Wash cells three times in PBS.
3. Cells were resuspended in PBS and subjected to ultrasonication for 3 times. Alternatively, freeze cells at -20°C. Thaw cells with gentle mixing. Repeat the freeze/thaw cycle for 3 times.
4. Centrifuge at 1,000 x g (or 3,000 rpm) for 15 minutes at 4°C to remove cellular debris.
5. Assay immediately or store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

### **Cell culture supernatants and other body fluids**

Centrifuge cell culture media at 1,000 x g (or 3,000 rpm) for 15 minutes to remove debris. Assay immediately or store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

### **NOTE:**

1. Samples should be aliquoted and must be stored at -20°C (less than 3 months) or -80°C (less than 6 months) to avoid loss of bioactivity and contamination. If samples are to be run within 24 hours, they may be stored at 4°C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
2. Tissue or cell extraction samples prepared by chemical lysis buffer may cause unexpected ELISA results due to the impacts of certain chemicals.
3. Samples containing a visible precipitate must be clarified prior to use in the assay. Care should be taken to minimize hemolysis. Do not use grossly hemolyzed or lipemic specimens.
4. Do not use heat-treated specimens.

## **MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED**

1. Precision pipettors and disposable tips to deliver 10-1,000 µL. A multi-channel pipette is desirable for large assays.
2. 100 mL and 1 liter graduated cylinders.
3. Distilled or deionized water.
4. Tubes to prepare sample dilutions.
5. Absorbent paper.

6. Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
7. Centrifuge capable of 3,000 x g.
8. Microplate washer or washing bottle.
9. Incubator (37°C).
10. Data analysis and graphing software.

## SAMPLE PREPARATION

1. **Kamiya Biomedical Company** is only responsible for the kit itself, but not for the samples consumed during the assay. The user should calculate the possible amount of the samples used in the whole test. Please reserve sufficient amount of samples in advance.
2. Please predict the concentration before assaying. If values for these are not within the range of the calibration curve, **users must determine the optimal sample dilutions for their particular experiments**. We suggest pre-experimenting with neat (undiluted) samples, 1:2 or 1:4 dilutions. Please avoid diluting your samples more than 1:10 as it would exceed the dilution limit set for this kit. If the expected concentration of the target is beyond the detection range of the kit, please contact technical support.
3. If the samples are not indicated in the manual, a preliminary experiment to determine the validity of the kit is necessary.
4. Owing to the possibility of mismatching between antigen from other resource and antibody used in our kits (e.g. antibody targets conformational epitope rather than linear epitope), some native or recombinant proteins from other manufacturers may not be recognized by our products.
5. Influenced by the factors including cell viability, cell number and also sampling time, samples from cell culture supernatant may not be detected by the kit.
6. Fresh samples without long term storage are recommended for the test. Otherwise, protein degradation and denaturalization may occur in those samples and finally lead to wrong results.

## REAGENT PREPARATION

1. Bring all kit components and samples to room temperature (20-25°C) before use.
2. Samples - Please predict the concentration before assaying. If concentrations are unknown or not within the detection range, a preliminary experiment is recommended to determine the optimal dilution. PBS (pH 7.0-7.2) or 0.9% physiological saline can be used as dilution buffer.
3. Wash Solution - Dilute 10 mL of Wash Solution concentrate (100x) with 990 mL of deionized or distilled water to prepare 1,000 mL of Wash Solution (1x). If crystals have formed in the concentrate, warm to room temperature and mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. The 1x wash solution is stable for 2 weeks at 4°C.
4. Do not dilute the other components which are ready-to-use.

## ASSAY PROCEDURE

Please read Reagent Preparation before starting assay procedure. It is recommended that all Calibrators and Samples be assayed in duplicate. It is strongly recommended to do a preliminary experiment before measuring all samples.

1. Secure the desired number of coated wells in the holder then add 100 µL of **Calibrators** (Shake the bottle of each calibrator gently by hand and pipette up and down the solution of calibrator for 3 times before adding) or **Samples** to the appropriate well. Add 100 µL of PBS (pH 7.0-7.2) in the blank control well.
2. Dispense 10 µL of **Balance Solution** into 100 µL samples only, mix well. (**NOTE:** This step is required when the sample is cell culture supernatants, body fluid and tissue homogenate; if the sample is serum or plasma, then this step should be skipped.)
3. Add 50 µL of **Conjugate** to each well (NOT blank control well). Mix well. Mixing well in this step is important. Cover and incubate the plate for 1 hour at 37°C.
4. Wash the microtiter plate using one of the specified methods indicated below:
5. Manual Washing: Remove incubation mixture by aspirating contents of the plate into a sink or proper waste container. Fill in each well completely with 1x wash solution, and then aspirate contents of the plate into a sink or proper waste container. Repeat this procedure five times for a total of FIVE washes. After washing, invert plate, and blot dry by hitting the plate onto absorbent paper or paper

towels until no moisture appears. Note: Hold the sides of the plate frame firmly when washing the plate to assure that all strips remain securely in frame. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential to good performance.

6. Automated Washing: Wash plate FIVE times with diluted wash solution (350-400  $\mu$ L/well/wash) using an auto washer. After washing, dry the plate as above. It is recommended that the washer be set for a soaking time of 10 seconds and shaking time of 5 seconds between each wash.
7. Add 50  $\mu$ L **Substrate A** and 50  $\mu$ L **Substrate B** to each well including blank control well, subsequently. Cover and incubate for 15-20 minutes at 37°C. (Avoid sunlight. If the color is not dark, please prolong the incubation time. But the longest time is 30 min).
8. Add 50  $\mu$ L of **Stop Solution** to each well including blank control well. Mix well.
9. Determine the Optical Density (O.D.) at 450 nm using a microplate reader immediately.

## CALCULATION OF RESULTS

1. The calibration curve is used to determine the amount of samples.
2. First, average the duplicate readings for each calibrator and sample. All O.D. values are subtracted by the mean value of blank control before result interpretation. DO NOT subtract the O.D. of calibrator zero.
3. Construct a calibration curve by plotting the average O.D. for each calibrator on the horizontal (X) axis against the concentration on the vertical (Y) axis, and draw a best fit curve using graph paper or statistical software to generate a four parameter logistic (4-PL) curve-fit or logit-log linear regression curve. An x-axis for the optical density and a y-axis for the concentration is also a choice. The data may be linearized by plotting the log of the concentrations versus the log of the O.D. and the best fit line can be determined by regression analysis.
4. Calculate the concentration of samples corresponding to the mean absorbance from the calibration curve.

### NOTE:

5. Any variation in operator, pipetting and washing technique, incubation time or temperature, and kit age can cause variation in result. Each user should obtain their own calibration curve.
6. If samples have been diluted, the concentration read from calibration curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor.
7. If specimens generate values higher than the highest calibrator, dilute the specimens and repeat the assay.

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

1. In the same lot CV%: 4.4, 5.6
2. Different lot CV%: 6.6, 7.9
3. Spike Recovery: 94-103%
4. Linearity

	Range %
1:1	96 - 101
1:2	93 - 107
1:4	92 - 100
1:8	96 - 108

5. Sensitivity: The sensitivity in this assay is 1.0 pg/mL.
6. Specificity: This assay has high sensitivity and excellent specificity for detection of ACTH. No significant cross-reactivity or interference between ACTH and analogues was observed.

**NOTE:** Limited by current skills and knowledge, it is impossible for us to complete the cross-reactivity detection between ACTH and all the analogues, therefore, cross reaction may still exist in some cases.

## SAFETY NOTES

1. This kit contains small amount of 3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) in Substrate B. TMB is non-carcinogenic but it is hazardous in case of skin contact, eye contact, ingestion and inhalation. In case of contact, rinse affected area with plenty of water.
2. The Stop Solution provided with this kit is an acid solution. Wear protective gloves, clothing, and face protection.
3. Care should be taken when handling the Calibrator because of the known and unknown effects of it.

4. Care should also be taken to avoid contact of skin or eyes with other kit reagents or specimens. In the case of contact, wash immediately with water.
5. Do not pipette by mouth.
6. Avoid generation of aerosols.
7. Waste must be disposed of in accordance with federal, state and local environmental control regulations.
8. All blood components and biological materials should be handled as potentially hazardous. Decontaminate and dispose specimens and all potentially contaminated materials as they could contain infectious agents. The preferred method of decontamination is autoclaving for a minimum of 1 hour at 121.5°C.

## QUALITY CONTROL

1. It is recommended that all calibrators, controls and samples be run in duplicate. Calibrators and samples must be assayed at the same time.
2. The coefficient of determination of the calibration curve should be  $\geq 0.95$ .
3. Cover or cap all kit components and store at 4°C when not in use.
4. Microtiter plates should be allowed to come to room temperature before opening the foil bags. Once the desired number of strips has been removed, immediately reseal the bag with desiccants and store at 4°C to maintain plate integrity.
5. Samples should be collected in pyrogen/endotoxin-free tubes.
6. Samples should be frozen if not analyzed shortly after collection. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles of frozen samples. Thaw completely and mix well prior to analysis.
7. When possible, avoid use of badly hemolyzed or lipemic serum. If large amounts of particulate matter are present, centrifuge or filter prior to analysis.
8. When pipetting reagents, maintain a consistent order of addition from well-to-well. This ensures equal incubation times for all wells.
9. Do not mix or interchange different reagent lots from various kit lots.
10. Do not use reagents after the kit expiration date.
11. Read absorbance immediately after adding the stop solution.
12. Incomplete washing will adversely affect the test outcome. All washing must be performed with Wash Solution provided. All residual wash 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.
13. Because TMB is light sensitive, avoid prolonged exposure to light. Also avoid contact between TMB and metal, otherwise color may develop.

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