

GE Healthcare

Amersham
High Sensitivity
Interleukin-1 Alpha
[(h)IL-1 α] Human,
Biotrak ELISA System

96 wells

Product Booklet

Code: RPN2780



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1. Legal

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GE Healthcare UK Limited.
Amersham Place, Little Chalfont,
Buckinghamshire, HP7 9NA UK

2. Handling

2.1. Safety warnings and precautions

Warning: For research use only.

Not recommended or intended for diagnosis of disease in humans or animals. Do not use internally or externally in humans or animals.

All chemicals should be considered as potentially hazardous. We therefore recommend that this product is handled only by those persons who have been trained in laboratory techniques and that it is used in accordance with the principles of good laboratory practice. Wear suitable protective clothing such as laboratory overalls, safety glasses and gloves. Care should be taken to avoid contact with skin or eyes. In the case of contact with skin or eyes wash immediately with water. See material safety data sheet(s) and/or safety statement(s) for specific advice.

2.2. Storage

Store at 2–8°C.

2.2. Expiry

The expiry date is stated on the package and will normally be at least 4 weeks from the date of despatch.

3. Contents of the assay system

This pack contains the following assay components, sufficient material for 96 wells.

All reagents are stored refrigerated at 2–8°C. Refer to the expiry date on the kit box.

(h)IL-1 α microplate – 96 well polystyrene microplate (12 strips of 8 wells) coated with an antibody against (h)IL-1 α .

Biotinylated antibody reagent – antibody against (h)IL-1 α conjugated to biotin, 11 ml.

(h)IL-1 α standard – 2 vials of recombinant human IL-1 α , lyophilized.

Amdex amplification reagent – lyophilized.

Standard diluent – 12 ml, 2 vials.

Wash buffer concentrate – 30-fold concentrated solution, 50 ml.

Pre-mixed TMB substrate reagent – with methanol, 13 ml.

Stop solution – 0.18 M sulfuric acid, 15 ml.

Plate covers – 6 adhesive strips.

4. Description

The Biotrak™ high sensitivity human interleukin-1 alpha ELISA system from GE Healthcare provides a simple, specific, reliable and precise quantitative determination of (h)IL-1 α in cell culture supernatants, plasma, serum and urine.

The assay system is based on a solid phase ELISA, which utilizes an antibody for (h)IL-1 α bound to the wells of a microplate together with a biotinylated antibody to (h)IL-1 α and Amdex™ amplification reagent. Although the Biotrak (h)IL-1 α immunoassay contains recombinant (h)IL-1 α and antibodies raised against recombinant (h)IL-1 α , it has been shown to quantitate accurately both natural (h)IL-1 α and recombinant (h)IL-1 α .

(h)IL-1 α can be measured in the range 0.63–20 pg/ml (0.063–2 pg/well) in less than 5 hours using the protocol provided with the kit. Each pack contains sufficient material for 96 wells. If one standard curve is constructed, 41 unknowns can be measured in duplicate.

- High sensitivity – 0.1 pg/ml
- Same day protocol
- Pre-coated plate
- Specific for (h)IL-1 α



5. Introduction

IL-1 α is one of a group of three related polypeptide hormones that also includes IL-1 β and IL-1ra (receptor antagonist). The IL-1 molecules exert effects on a variety of cell types involved in the host response to injury and infection.

IL-1 α is produced from a 271 amino acid precursor which, although it is biologically active, is generally not secreted. The mature form of IL-1 α is a 153 amino acid protein of 17.5 kDa (determined by SDS-PAGE). Numerous cell types produce IL-1 α including: astrocytes, B cells, endothelial cells, keratinocytes, kidney epithelial cells, monocytes and myeloid cell lines.

IL-1 α can be induced by a variety of agents including: LPS, *S. aureus*, IL-1, leukotrienes, phorbol esters, TNF, C5a, GM-CSF, indomethacin and zymosan. Agents that inhibit IL-1 α production include: dexamethasone, prednisolone, cAMP, PGE₂, IL-4, IL-10, TGF β , and retinoic acid.

Two distinct IL-1 receptors (IL-1R) have been identified, termed type I (80 kDa) and type II (68 kDa). Both receptors bind IL-1 α and IL-1 β with high affinity ($\sim 10^{-10}$ M). IL-1RI is expressed by T cells, endothelial cells and fibroblasts while IL-1RII is expressed by B cells and other monomyelocytic cell types. Receptor density ranges from 0–30 000 per cell with fibroblasts and keratinocytes displaying the highest levels. Both IL-1RI and IL-1RII are members of the Ig superfamily.

Although IL-1 has been demonstrated to play an important role in several *in vivo* phenomena, the detection of IL-1 *in vivo* using bioassays has been difficult. IL-1 is an endogenous pyrogen and induces fever in animal models. IL-1 is also involved in muscle proteolysis, bone resorption, wound healing, haematopoiesis and inflammatory diseases, including diabetes, periodontitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

6. Summary of the assay

This assay employs the quantitative 'sandwich' enzyme immunoassay technique. An antibody specific for (h)IL-1 α has been coated on the microplate provided in the kit. Samples are pipetted into the wells and the (h)IL-1 α , if present, is bound by the immobilized antibody. A biotinylated antibody reagent is added to the wells and allowed to bind to any (h)IL-1 α bound by the immobilized antibody in the first incubation. After washing away any unbound biotinylated antibody an Amdex amplification reagent is added, any (h)IL-1 α which was bound by both the immobilized and the biotinylated antibody will be bound by the amplification reagent. Following a wash to remove any unbound amplification reagent, a substrate solution is added to the wells and color develops in proportion to the amount of (h)IL-1 α bound in the initial step.

The Amdex amplification reagent is a high performance conjugate based on a unique chemistry that utilizes a hydrophilic straight chain dextran backbone to which many hundreds of horseradish peroxidase molecules are covalently coupled, together with, on average, ten streptavidin molecules. The result is a multifunctional conjugate with a significantly enhanced activity and with well controlled non-specific binding properties.

In addition to the samples to be tested, a series of wells is prepared using known concentrations of the human IL-1 α standard. A curve, plotting the optical density versus the concentration of the standard well, is prepared. By comparing the optical density of the samples to this standard curve, the concentration of the (h)IL-1 α in the unknown samples is then determined.

When assaying plasma samples, users are strongly advised to read the section on sample preparation before starting.

7. Assay methodology

Users are recommended to read this entire section before starting work.

7.1. Materials and equipment required

The following materials and equipment are required:

Pipettes or pipetting equipment with disposable tips (20 µl, 100 µl, 500 µl, 1.00 ml and 5.00 ml)

Disposable polypropylene test tubes - do not use polystyrene, polycarbonate or glass

Measuring cylinder, 2 L

Distilled or deionized water

Plate reader capable of reading at 450 nm

Plate shaker

Optional equipment

Assays may be performed with commercially available microplate washers to aid convenience and assay throughput.

7.2. Sample preparation

Serum, plasma, urine and cell culture supernatants.

Neat plasma collected over EDTA interferes with IL-1 α measurements in this ELISA. We therefore recommend the use of plasma collected over sodium citrate or heparin. However, EDTA plasma may be used if the sample is diluted 1:5 prior to assay. A recommended dilution is 50 µl of sample + 450 µl of standard diluent.

Serum, plasma, urine and culture supernatant samples that are to be assayed within 24 hours should be stored at 2–8°C. Specimens to be stored for longer periods of time should be frozen at -70°C to avoid

loss of activity. Avoid freezing and thawing samples more than once. Test samples should be assayed in duplicate each time the ELISA is performed. 100 µl of sample per well is required in this assay.

The measurement of cytokines in serum and plasma has been reported to be affected by non-specific matrix effects which may vary between samples from different individuals(1–3). Dilution of such samples in the diluent supplied may help to reduce these interference effects.

Dilution of test samples

If it is suspected that the (h)IL-1 α concentration of a sample exceeds the highest point of the standard curve, prepare one or more five-fold dilutions of the test sample. Mix thoroughly between dilutions and before assaying.

It remains the investigators responsibility to validate the chosen sample dilution.

7.3. Critical parameters

- Plasma collected over EDTA interferes with IL-1 α measurements in this ELISA. See section on sample preparation.
- First select the number of strips to be run and allow samples and all reagents to reach room temperature prior to performing the assays. Do not use water baths to thaw samples or reagents.
- Mix samples and all reagents thoroughly before use.
- Avoid excessive foaming of reagents. Also avoid exposure of reagents to excessive heat or light during storage and incubation.
- Avoid handling the tops of the wells both before and after filling.
- Standards and samples should be assayed in duplicate.
- Run a separate standard curve for each assay.

- The total dispensing time for each plate should not exceed 20 minutes.
- Use only coated wells from the same reagent batch for each assay. Also do not mix reagents from different kit lots.
- It is important that all the wells are washed thoroughly and uniformly. If using an automatic washer, check operation of heads before starting. If washing by hand ensure wells are completely filled at each wash.
- Timings in this assay are critical and should be adhered to strictly. Failure to do so could alter optical densities significantly.
- A small amount of precipitate may be present in some vials. It will not affect assay performance and should be ignored.

7.4. Assay procedure

Reagent preparation

Wash buffer concentrate

Any precipitate formed during storage will redissolve upon dilution. Dilute the contents of the bottle to 1500 ml using distilled water. Store at 2–8°C until the expiry date of the kit. Do not use wash buffer if it becomes visibly contaminated on storage.

Amdex amplification reagent

Reconstitute the Amdex reagent in 11 ml of distilled or deionized water approximately 15 minutes before use. Reconstituted reagent may be stored at –15°C to –30°C for up to 1 week.

(h)IL-1 α standard

Reconstitute 1 vial of (h)IL-1 α standard with distilled or deionized water. Reconstitution volume is shown on the vial label. Mix by gently inverting the vial.

It is important that the diluent selected for dilution of the standard reflects the environment of the samples being measured. Standard

diluent will be suitable for serum, plasma or urine measurements. If your samples are cell culture supernatants, the culture media will be suitable for preparation of the standard curve.

Testing of RPMI with different lots and concentrations of fetal bovine serum has shown that this ELISA is not adversely affected by culture medium. Therefore when culture supernatants, serum and plasma samples are assayed on the same plate, standards prepared in standard diluent may be used.

Preparation of working standards

1. Label 6 polypropylene tubes, 0.63, 1.25, 2.5, 5, 10 and 20 pg/ml.
2. Pipette 980 µl of standard diluent into the 20 pg/ml tube.
3. Pipette 500 µl of standard diluent into all remaining tubes.
4. Into the 20 pg/ml tube pipette 20 µl of reconstituted (h)IL-1 α standard and mix thoroughly.
5. Transfer 500 µl from the 20 pg/ml tube to the 10 pg/ml tube and mix thoroughly.
6. Repeat this doubling dilution successively with the remaining tubes.
7. 100 µl aliquots from each serial dilution will give rise to 6 standard levels of (h)IL-1 α ranging from 0.63 to 20 pg/ml.

NOTE: Working standards should be freshly prepared before each assay, and not re-used.

Running partial plates

This ELISA provides the flexibility to run two partial plates on separate occasions. Decide the number of strips you wish to run, leaving the strips to be used in the frame. Remove the unnecessary strips and store them in the foil pouch with the desiccant provided at 2–8°C, making sure the foil pouch is sealed tightly.

When adding the TMB substrate reagent, pour out from the bottle **ONLY** the amount needed to run the first half plate. Do not combine left over substrate with that reserved for the second half of the plate. Care must be taken to ensure that the remaining TMB substrate reagent is not contaminated. **If the substrate reagent is bright blue prior to use, it has been contaminated. DO NOT USE.**

Protocol

1. Prepare assay reagents and working standards as described in the previous sections.
2. Set up the microplate with sufficient wells to enable the running of all standards and samples as required (see figure 1).
3. Remove excess microplate strips from the frame and store in the resealable foil bag.
4. Pipette 100 μ l of standard diluent or cell culture medium (see section on reagent preparation) into NSB wells.
5. Pipette 100 μ l of standard into the appropriate wells.
6. Pipette 100 μ l of sample into the appropriate wells.
7. Cover the plate with the adhesive strip provided and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature (20–25°C) with continuous shaking.
8. Aspirate or decant each well and wash, repeating the process three times for a total of four washes. Wash thoroughly by completely filling each well with wash buffer using a washbottle, or manifold dispenser. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the last wash, remove any remaining wash buffer by inverting the plate and blotting it against clean paper towelling.
9. Pipette 100 μ l of the biotinylated antibody reagent into all wells. Cover with a new adhesive strip and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature (20–25°C) with continuous shaking.

10. Repeat the aspiration/wash step as in step 8.
11. Pipette 100 μ l of Amdex amplification reagent to all wells. Cover with a new adhesive strip and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature (20–25°C) with continuous shaking.
12. Repeat the aspiration/wash step as in step 8.
13. Pipette 100 μ l of TMB substrate solution into all wells, incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature (20–25°C) with continuous shaking. If the substrate reagent is bright blue prior to use, do not use. Do not cover the plate with aluminium foil or an adhesive strip.
14. Pipette 100 μ l of stop solution into all wells.
15. Determine the optical density of each well within 30 minutes, using a spectrophotometer set to 450 nm.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
B	0.63	0.63	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
C	1.25	1.25	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
D	2.5	2.5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
E	5	5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
F	10	10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
G	20	20	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
H	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Figure 1. Recommended positioning of standard (0.63–20 pg/ml) and sample wells (S).

Table 1. Assay protocol (all volumes are in microlitres)

	Zero standard	Standards	Samples
Standard	–	100	–
Standard diluent or cell culture media*	100	–	–
Sample	–	–	100
Cover plate, incubate at room temperature (20–25°C) on a plate shaker for 2 hours.			
Aspirate/decant and wash thoroughly all wells four times with wash buffer			
Biotinylated antibody reagent	100	100	100
Cover plate, incubate at room temperature (20–25°C) on a plate shaker for 1 hour			
Aspirate/decant and wash thoroughly all wells four times with wash buffer			
Amdex amplification reagent	100	100	100
Cover plate, incubate at room temperature (20–25 °C) on a plate shaker for 30 minutes			
Aspirate/decant and wash thoroughly all wells four times with wash buffer			
Substrate	100	100	100
Incubate at room temperature (20–25°C) on a plate shaker for 30 minutes			
Stop solution	100	100	100
Determine optical density at 450 nm within 30 minutes.			

* Use 100 µl of cell culture media if your standard curve is diluted in cell culture media. See section on reagent preparation.

7.5. Calculation of results

Average the duplicate readings for each standard and sample and subtract the zero standard optical density.

Plot the optical density for the standards versus the concentration of the standards and draw the best curve. The data can be linearized by using a log/log plot and regression analysis can be applied to the log transformation.

Figure 2 shows such a plot of the data from table 2. The standard curve is provided for illustration only. A standard curve should be generated for each set of samples to be assayed. This allows for the measurement of 41 unknowns in duplicate.

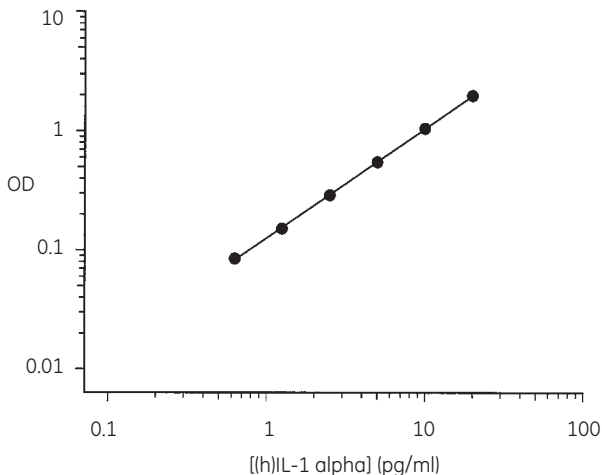


Figure 2. Standard curve

Typical assay data

The following data (table 2) were obtained for a standard curve using the protocol provided.

Table 2. Typical assay data

Tube	Optical density	Zero standard subtracted
Zero standard	0.088	–
0.63 pg/ml standard	0.173	0.085
1.25 pg/ml standard	0.240	0.152
2.5 pg/ml standard	0.378	0.290
5 pg/ml standard	0.638	0.550
10 pg/ml standard	1.141	1.053
20 pg/ml standard	2.075	1.987

When running these high sensitivity assays some variation in OD values may be observed. However control and sample values will not be affected.

8. Additional information

8.1. Specificity

This assay recognizes both natural and recombinant (h)IL-1 α . It does not cross react with human IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, TNF α , IFN γ , IFN α or mouse IL-1

8.2. Calibration

The standards in this ELISA are calibrated to the NIBSC reference lot 86/632.

One (1) pg of Biotrak standard = 2.5 NIBSC pg.

8.3. Reproducibility

Within-assay precision

The within-assay coefficient of variation of the ELISA has been determined to be <10%.

Between-assay precision

The between-assay coefficient of variation of the ELISA has been determined to be <10%.

Precision profile

A precision profile was generated by preparing replicates of each of the standards and calculating the standard deviation and coefficient of variation at each concentration.

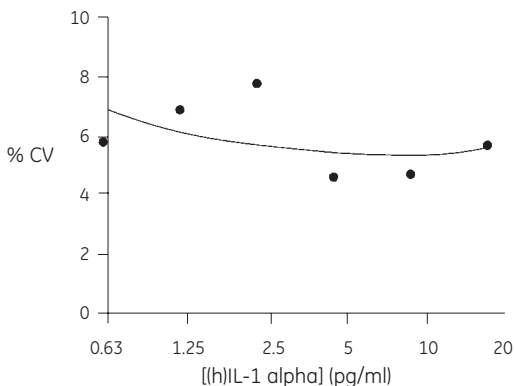


Figure 3. Precision profile

8.4. Sensitivity

The minimum detectable dose of (h)IL-1 α was determined to be 0.1 pg/ml (0.01 pg/well), by adding two standard deviations to the optical density value of zero and calculating the corresponding concentration from the standard curve.

8.5. Parallelism

The linearity of dilution was determined by serially diluting six different positive samples. The dilutions were run in the ELISA and 'observed' doses were plotted against 'expected' doses.

8.6. Expected values

Normal levels of (h)IL-1 α in serum samples are in the range 0–5.4 pg/ml.

Normal levels of (h)IL-1 α in plasma samples are 0 pg/ml.

Normal levels of (h)IL-1 α in urine samples are in the range 0–4.34 pg/ml.

9. References

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10. Related products

Biotrak range of human cytokine ELISA systems

Interleukin-1 α [(h)IL-1 α]	RPN2750
Interleukin-1 β [(h)IL-1 β]	RPN2751
Interleukin-2 [(h)IL-2]	RPN2752
Interleukin-4 [(h)IL-4]	RPN2753
Interleukin-6 [(h)IL-6]	RPN2754
Interleukin-10 [(h)IL-10]	RPN2755
Granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor [(h)GM-CSF]	RPN2756
Interferon-gamma [(h)IFN γ]	RPN2757
Tumour necrosis factor-alpha [(h)TNF α]	RPN2758
Interferon-alpha [(h)IFN α]	RPN2759
Interleukin-5 [(h)IL-5]	RPN2761

Biotrak range of high sensitivity human cytokine ELISA systems

Interleukin-1 β [(h)IL-1 β]	RPN2781
Interleukin-4 [(h)IL-4]	RPN2783
Interleukin-6 [(h)IL-6]	RPN2784
Interleukin-10 [(h)IL-10]	RPN2785
Granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor [(h)GM-CSF]	RPN2786
Interferon-gamma [(h)IFN γ]	RPN2787
Tumour necrosis factor-alpha [(h)TNF α]	RPN2788
Interferon-alpha [(h)IFN α]	RPN2789

Biotrak range of mouse cytokine ELISA systems

Interleukin-1 α [(m)IL-1 α]	RPN2719
Interleukin-1 β [(m)IL-1 β]	RPN2720
Interleukin-2 [(m)IL-2]	RPN2710
Interleukin-4 [(m)IL-4]	RPN2712
Interleukin-5 [(m)IL-5]	RPN2713

Granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor [(m)GM-CSF]	RPN2716
Tumour necrosis factor-alpha [(m)TNF α]	RPN2718
sICAM-1	RPN2721

Range of unlabelled and radiolabelled growth factors and cytokines

Cell proliferation assay system and reagents

Cell proliferation kit (for immunocytochemical/ immunohistochemical measurement)	RPN20
Monoclonal anti-bromodeoxyuridine	RPN202
Cell proliferation labelling reagent	RPN201

GE Healthcare offices:

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB
Björkgatan 30 751 84

Uppsala
Sweden

GE Healthcare Europe GmbH
Munzinger Strasse 5 D-79111
Freiburg
Germany

GE Healthcare UK Limited
Amersham Place
Little Chalfont
Buckinghamshire
HP7 9NA
UK

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences
Corp.
800 Centennial Avenue
P.O. Box 1327
Piscataway
NJ 08855-1327
USA

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences KK
Sanken Bldg. 3-25-1
Hyakunincho Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 169-0073
Japan

**GE Healthcare
regional office
contact numbers:****Asia Pacific**

Tel: + 85 65 6 275 1830
Fax: +85 65 6 275 1829

Australasia

Tel: + 61 2 8820 8299
Fax: +61 2 8820 8200

Austria

Tel: 01 /57606 1613
Fax: 01 /57606 1614

Belgium

Tel: 0800 73 890
Fax: 02 416 82 06

Canada

Tel: 1 800 463 5800
Fax: 1 800 567 1008

**Central, East, & South
East Europe**

Tel: +43 1 972720
Fax: +43 1 97272 2750

Denmark

Tel: 45 70 25 24 50
Fax: 45 16 24 24

Eire

Tel: 1 800 709992
Fax: 0044 1494 542010

Finland & Baltics

Tel: +358-(0)9-512 39 40
Fax: +358 (0)9 512 39 439

France

Tel: 01 6935 6700
Fax: 01 6941 9677

Germany

Tel: 0800 9080 711
Fax: 0800 9080 712

Greater China

Tel: +852 2100 6300
Fax: +852 2100 6338

Italy

Tel: 02 26001 320
Fax: 02 26001 399

Japan

Tel: +81 3 5331 9336
Fax: +81 3 5331 9370

Korea

Tel: 82 2 6201 3700
Fax: 82 2 6201 3803

Latin America

Tel: +55 11 3933 7300
Fax: + 55 11 3933 7304

Middle East & Africa

Tel: +30 210 9600 687
Fax: +30 210 9600 693

Netherlands

Tel: 0800 82 82 82 1
Fax: 0800 82 82 82 4

Norway

Tel: +47 815 65 777
Fax: 47 815 65 666

Portugal

Tel: 21 417 7035
Fax: 21 417 3184

**Russia & other C.I.S.
& N.I.S**

Tel: +7 (495) 956 5177
Fax: +7 (495) 956 5176

Spain

Tel: 902 11 72 65
Fax: 935 94 49 65

Sweden

Tel: 018 612 1900
Fax: 018 612 1910

Switzerland

Tel: 0848 8028 10
Fax: 0848 8028 11

UK

Tel: 0800 515 313
Fax: 0800 616 927

USA

Tel: +1 800 526 3593
Fax: +1 877 295 8102

<http://www.gehealthcare.com/lifesciences>

GE Healthcare UK Limited

Amersham Place, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, HP7 9NA
UK



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