

ABIN6953432

# Sandwich ELISA Kit for Activin AB

Human

96 tests

For research use only

Not for use in clinical diagnostic procedures

Version Jan 2025

## Intended use

The kit is a sandwich enzyme immunoassay for in vitro quantitative measurement of ACVAB in human serum, plasma, tissue homogenates.

## Reagents and materials provided

- Pre-coated, ready to use 96-well strip plate, flat bottom
- Plate sealer for 96 wells
- Reference Standard
- Standard Diluent
- Detection Reagent A
- Detection Reagent B
- Assay Diluent A
- Assay Diluent B
- Reagent Diluent (if Detection Reagent is lyophilized)
- TMB Substrate
- Stop Solution
- Wash Buffer (30 x concentrate)
- Instruction manual

## Materials required but not supplied

1. Microplate reader with  $450 \pm 10\text{nm}$  filter.
2. Precision single or multi-channel pipettes and disposable tips.
3. Microcentrifuge tubes for diluting samples.
4. Deionized or distilled water.
5. Absorbent paper for blotting the microtiter plate.
6. Container for Wash Solution
7. Incubator capable of maintaining  $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
8.  $0.01\text{mol/L}$  (or  $1\times$ ) Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS),  $\text{pH}7.0\text{-}7.2$ .

## Storage of the kit

1. For unopened kit: All reagents should be stored according to the labels on the vials. The Standard, Detection Reagent, and 96-well Strip Plate should be stored at -20 °C upon receipt, while the other reagents should be stored at 4 °C.
2. For opened kits: the remaining reagents must be stored according to the above storage conditions. In addition, please return the unused wells to the foil pouch containing the desiccant and seal the foil pouch with the zipper.

### Note:

It is strongly recommended to use the remaining reagents within 1 month, if this is done before the expiry date of the kit. Please refer to the label on the kit packaging for the expiration date of the kit. All components are stable until the expiration date.

## Sample collection and storage

| Sample type        | Collection procedure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Plasma             | Collect plasma using EDTA or heparin as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples for 15 min at 1000×g at 2-8°C within 30 min of collection. Collect the supernatant and assay immediately or store samples in aliquot at -20°C or -80°C for later use. Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles. Hemolysed samples are not suitable for ELISA assay!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Serum              | Use a serum separator tube and allow samples to clot for 2 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C before centrifugation for 20 min at 1000×g. Collect the supernatant and assay freshly prepared serum immediately or store samples in aliquot at -20°C or -80°C for later use. Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Tissue homogenates | The preparation of tissue homogenates will vary depending upon tissue type. For general information, hemolysed blood may affect the results, so the tissues should be minced into small pieces and rinsed in ice-cold PBS (0.01M, pH=7.4) to remove excess blood thoroughly. Tissue pieces should be weighed and then homogenized in PBS (tissue weight (g): PBS (mL) volume=1:9) with a glass homogenizer on ice. To further break down the cells, sonicate the suspension with an ultrasonic cell disrupter or subject it to freeze-thaw cycles. Centrifuge the homogenates for 5 min at 5000×g to get the supernatant and assay immediately or aliquot |

| Sample type | Collection procedure                      |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|
|             | and store at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . |

Note:

1. Samples to be used within 5 days may be stored at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , otherwise samples must be stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\leq 1$  month) or  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\leq 2$  months) to avoid loss of bioactivity and contamination.
2. Sample hemolysis will influence the result, so hemolytic specimen should not be used.
3. When performing the assay, bring samples to room temperature.

## Reagent preparation

1. Bring all kit components and samples to room temperature ( $18-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) before use.
2. Standard - Reconstitute the Standard with 1.0 mL of Standard Diluent, keep for 10 minutes at room temperature, shake gently (not to foam). The concentration of the standard in the stock solution is 1,000pg/mL. Prepare 7 tubes containing 0.5 mL Standard Diluent and produce a double dilution series. Mix each tube thoroughly before the next transfer. Set up 7 points of diluted standard such as 1,000pg/mL, 500pg/mL, 250pg/mL, 125pg/mL, 62.5pg/mL, 31.2pg/mL, 15.6pg/mL, and the last microcentrifuge tube with Standard Diluent is the blank as 0pg/mL.
3. Detection Reagent A and Detection Reagent B - Briefly spin or centrifuge the stock Detection A and Detection B before use. Dilute to the working concentration with Assay Diluent A and B, respectively (1:100).
4. Wash Solution - Dilute 20 mL of Wash Solution concentrate (30x) with 580 mL of deionized or distilled water to prepare 600 mL of Wash Solution (1x).
5. TMB substrate - Aspirate the needed dosage of the solution with sterilized tips and do not dump the residual solution into the vial again.

Note:

1. Making serial dilution in the wells directly is not permitted.
2. Prepare standard within 15 minutes before assay. Please do not dissolve the reagents at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  directly.
3. Please carefully reconstitute Standards or working Detection Reagent A and B according to the instruction, and avoid foaming and mix gently until the crystals are completely dissolved. To minimize imprecision caused by pipetting, use small volumes and ensure that pipettors are calibrated. It is recommended to suck more than  $10\mu\text{L}$  for once pipetting.
4. The reconstituted Standards, Detection Reagent A and Detection Reagent B can be

used only once.

5. If crystals have formed in the Wash Solution concentrate (30x), warm to room temperature and mix gently until the crystals are completely dissolved.
6. Contaminated water or container for reagent preparation will influence the detection result.

## Sample preparation

- It is recommended to use fresh samples without long storage, otherwise protein degradation and denaturation may occur in these samples, leading to false results. Samples should therefore be stored for a short period at 2 - 8 °C or aliquoted at -20 °C ( $\leq 1$  month) or -80 °C ( $\leq 3$  months). Repeated freeze-thaw cycles should be avoided. Prior to assay, the frozen samples should be slowly thawed and centrifuged to remove precipitates.
- If the sample type is not specified in the instructions, a preliminary test is necessary to determine compatibility with the kit.
- If a lysis buffer is used to prepare tissue homogenates or cell culture supernatant, there is a possibility of causing a deviation due to the introduced chemical substance. The recommended dilution factor is for reference only.
- Please estimate the concentration of the samples before performing the test. If the values are not in the range of the standard curve, the optimal sample dilution for the particular experiment has to be determined.

## Assay procedure

1. Determine wells for the diluted standard, blank and sample.  
Add 100 $\mu$ L each of the dilutions of standard (see Reagent Preparation), blank and samples to the appropriate wells. Cover with a plate sealer. Incubate for 1 hour at 37°C.
2. Remove the liquid from each well, do not wash.
3. Add 100 $\mu$ L of Detection Reagent A Working Solution to each well, cover the wells with a plate sealer, and incubate at 37 °C for 1 hour.
4. Aspirate the solution and add 350 $\mu$ L of 1x Wash Solution into each well using a squirt bottle, multichannel pipette, manifold dispenser, or automated washer and let it soak for 1-2 minutes. Remove the remaining liquid from all wells completely by tapping the plate on absorbent paper. Wash a total of 3 times. After the last wash, remove all remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or decanting. Turn the plate over and blot it against absorbent paper.

5. Add 100µL of the Detection Reagent B Working Solution to each well, cover the wells with a Plate Sealer and incubate for 30 minutes at 37°C.
6. Repeat the aspiration/washing procedure a total of 5 times as performed in step 4.
7. Add 90µL of Substrate Solution to each well. Cover with a new Plate Sealer. Incubate for 10-20 minutes at 37°C (do not exceed 30 minutes). Protect from light. The liquid will turn blue with the addition of Substrate Solution.
8. Add 50µL of Stop Solution to each well. The liquid turns yellow due to the addition. Mix the liquid by tapping the side of the plate. If the color change does not appear even, gently tap the plate to mix thoroughly.
9. Remove all water droplets and fingerprints from the bottom of the plate and make sure there are no bubbles on the surface of the liquid. Then run the microplate reader and immediately take a measurement at 450 nm.

## Test principle

The test principle applied in this kit is Sandwich enzyme immunoassay. The microtiter plate provided in this kit has been pre-coated with an antibody specific to target. Standards or samples are then added to the appropriate microtiter plate wells with a biotin-conjugated antibody specific to target. Next, Avidin conjugated to Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) is added to each microplate well and incubated. After TMB substrate solution is added, only those wells that contain target, biotin-conjugated antibody and enzyme-conjugated Avidin will exhibit a change in color. The enzyme-substrate reaction is terminated by the addition of sulphuric acid solution and the color change is measured spectrophotometrically at a wavelength of 450 nm. The concentration of target in the samples is then determined by comparing the O.D. of the samples to the standard curve.

## Calculation of results

Average the duplicate readings for each standard, control, and samples and subtract the average of the measured optical density of the zero standard. Create a standard curve by plotting the mean OD value and concentration for each standard and draw a best-fit curve through the points on the graph or create a standard curve on log-log graph paper with concentration on the y-axis and absorbance on the x-axis. The use of plotting software is also recommended. If the samples have been diluted, the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor.

## Typical data

In order to make the calculation easier, we plot the O.D. value of the standard (X-axis) against the log of concentration of the standard (Y-axis), although concentration is the independent variable and O.D. value is the dependent variable. The O.D. values of the

standard curve may vary according to the conditions of assay performance (e.g. operator, pipetting technique, washing technique or temperature effects).

## Detection range

The detection range of the kit is 15.6 pg/mL - 1000 pg/mL

The standard curve concentrations used for the ELISA's were 1000pg/mL, 500pg/mL, 250pg/mL, 125pg/mL, 62.5pg/mL, 31.2pg/mL, 15.6pg/mL, 0.00pg/mL

## Sensitivity

The minimum detectable dose of ACVAB is typically less than 5.6 pg/mL.

The sensitivity of this assay, or Lower Limit of Detection (LLD) was defined as the lowest protein concentration that could be differentiated from zero.

It was determined by adding two standard deviations to the mean optical density value of twenty zero standard replicates and calculating the corresponding concentration.

### Note:

Limited by current skills and knowledge, it is impossible for us to complete the cross-reactivity detection between ACVAB and all the analogues, therefore, cross reaction may still exist.

## Precision

Intra-assay Precision (Precision within an assay): 3 samples with low, middle and high level of target were tested 20 times on one plate, respectively.

Inter-assay Precision (Precision between assays): 3 samples with low, middle and high level of target were tested on 3 different plates, 8 replicates in each plate.

$CV(\%) = SD/mean \times 100$

Intra-Assay:  $CV < 10\%$

Inter-Assay:  $CV < 12\%$

## Stability

The stability of ELISA kit is determined by the loss rate of activity. The loss rate of this kit is less than 5 % prior to the expiration date under appropriate storage condition. To minimize extra influence on the performance, operation procedures and lab conditions, especially room temperature, air humidity, incubator temperature should be strictly monitored. It is also strongly suggested that the assay is performed by the same operator from the beginning to the end.

## Assay procedure summary

1. Prepare all reagents, samples and standards,
2. Add 100µL standard or sample to each well. Incubate 1 hours at 37 °C,
3. Aspirate and add 100µL prepared Detection Reagent A. Incubate 1 hour at 37 °C,
4. Aspirate and wash 3 times,
5. Add 100µL prepared Detection Reagent B. Incubate 30 minutes at 37 °C,
6. Aspirate and wash 5 times,
7. Add 90µL Substrate Solution. Incubate 10-20 minutes at 37 °C,
8. Add 50µL Stop Solution. Read at 450nm immediately.

## Important note

1. The kit is designed for research use only, we will not be responsible for any issue if the kit was used in clinical diagnostic or any other procedures.
2. Limited by the current conditions and scientific technology, we cannot perform a complete identification and analysis of the raw material used. Therefore, the use of the kit may be associated with some qualitative and technical risks.
3. We are only responsible for the kit itself, not for the samples used in the test. The possible amount of sample used in the whole test should be calculated in advance and sufficient sample material should be provided.
4. Each kit undergoes a very strict QC testing. Nevertheless, end-user results may differ from our internal results due to unexpected transport conditions or different laboratory equipment. Intra-assay deviations between kits from different lots can also be related to this.
5. The test results depend on the validity of the products, so the kit should be used before the expiration date and stored according to the instructions.
6. Even the same user may obtain different results in two separate experiments. To obtain reproducible results, each step of the assay should be controlled.
7. The standard of the kit and immunogen used for antibody preparation are commonly recombinant proteins, as different fragments, expression systems, purification methods might be used in recombinant protein preparation, we can not guarantee the kit could detect recombinant protein from other companies. So, it is not recommended to use the kit for the detection of recombinant protein.

8. Do not mix or substitute reagents from one kit lot to another. Use only the reagents supplied by the manufacturer.
9. Protect all reagents from strong light during storage and incubation. All reagent bottle caps should be tightly closed to prevent evaporation and contamination with microorganisms. The TMB substrate should remain colourless until it reacts with the enzyme.
10. A freshly opened ELISA plate may show a water-like substance, which is normal and does not affect the test results. Return unused wells to the foil pouch and store as before.
11. Mistakes in reagent preparation and application, as well as incorrect parameter setting for the plate reader, can lead to incorrect results. A microplate reader with a bandwidth of 10nm or less and an optical density range of 0-3 O.D. at a wavelength of  $450 \pm 10$  nm is suitable for absorbance measurement. Please read the instructions carefully and set up the instrument before the experiment.
12. Do not reuse the reconstituted standard and the prepared working solutions. The unused stock solutions should be stored according to the storage conditions.

## Precaution

The Stop Solution suggested for use with this kit is an acid solution. Wear eye, hand, face, and clothing protection when using this material.

## Troubleshooting

| Problem             | Possible Source                             | Corrective Action                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Poor Standard Curve | Improper standard curve preparation         | Ensure accurate operation of the dilution               |
|                     | Incomplete washing and aspiration           | Adequate washing and adequate aspiration                |
|                     | Inaccurate Pipetting                        | Check and Calibrate pipettes                            |
| Poor Precision      | Incomplete washing of wells                 | Ensure sufficient washing                               |
|                     | Inadequate mixing and aspiration reagents   | Adequate aspiration and mixing reagents                 |
|                     | Reused pipette tips, containers and sealers | Change and use new pipette tips, containers and sealers |

| Problem        | Possible Source                            | Corrective Action                                             |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | Inaccurate Pipetting                       | Check and Calibrate pipettes                                  |
| Low O.D Values | Inadequate reagent volumes added to wells  | Calibrate pipettes and add adequate reagents                  |
|                | Incorrect incubation times                 | Ensure sufficient incubation times                            |
|                | Incorrect incubation temperature           | Reagents balanced to room temperature                         |
|                | Conjugate or substrate reagent failure     | Mix conjugate and substrate, color should develop immediately |
|                | No stop solution added                     | Follow the assay protocol in the kit manual                   |
|                | Read beyond suggested reading time         | Read within the time recommended in the manual                |
| Sample Values  | Improper Sample Storage                    | Store the sample properly and use the fresh sample            |
|                | Improper sample collection and preparation | Take proper sample collection and preparation method          |
|                | Low quantity of analyte in samples         | Resample and repeat assay                                     |

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