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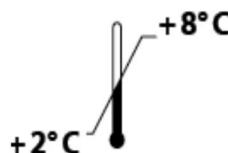
Manual

IDK® **Kynurenine ELISA**

For the in vitro determination of L-kynurenine in human EDTA plasma, serum and dried blood spots

Valid from 2023-10-15

REF **K 7728**

+8°C
+2°C
96

IVD C E

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1. INTENDED USE

This Immundiagnostik AG assay is intended for the quantitative determination of L-kynurenine in human EDTA plasma, serum and dried blood spots. For *in vitro* diagnostic use only.

For rodent specimens (mouse, rat) and for cell culture supernatant and CSF we recommend our *IDK®* Kynurenine high sensitive ELISA KR3728.

2. INTRODUCTION

L-kynurenine is the main product of the degradation of L-tryptophan, catalysed by Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO).

L-kynurenine plays a key role as an immune suppressor in the course of infectious diseases (HIV[1], tuberculosis[2], borreliosis[3] etc.) and malignant diseases (colon cancer[4], lung cancer[5, 6], leukemia[7], Hodgkin lymphoma[8], cervical cancer[9]), where high kynurenine levels indicate a poor prognosis. Thus, L-kynurenine could serve as a prognostic marker to predict the progression and the severity of the disease.

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[2] Suzuki Y et al. (2012) Serum Indoleamine 2,3-Dioxygenase Activity Predicts Prognosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Clinical and Vaccine Immunology p. 436-442

[3] Love AC. et al. (2015) Induction of indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase by Borrelia burgdorferi in human immune cells correlates with pathogenic potential. J Leukoc Biol 97(2): 379–390.

[4] Cavia-Saiz M. et al. (2014) The role of plasma IDO activity as a diagnostic marker of patients with colorectal cancer. *Molecular Biology Reports*, 41:2275-2279

[5] Creelan BC et al. (2013) Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase activity and clinical outcome following induction chemotherapy and concurrent chemoradiation in Stage III non-small cell lung cancer. *Oncoimmunology*, *2* (March) e23428

[6] Chuang SC et al. (2014) Circulating biomarkers of tryptophan and the kynurenine pathway and lung cancer risk. *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention*, *23*, 461-468

[7] Folgiero V et al. (2014) Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase 1 (IDO1) activity in leukemia blasts correlates with poor outcome in childhood acute myeloid leukemia. *Oncotarget*, *5*(8), 2052-64

[8] Choe J et al. (2014) Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) is frequently expressed in stromal cells of Hodgkin lymphoma and is associated with adverse clinical features : a retrospective cohort study, *BMC Cancer 14*(1), 1-9

[9] Ferns DM et al. (2015) Indoleamine-2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) metabolic activity is detrimental for cervical cancer patient survival. *Oncoimmunology.* Feb 25;4(2)

3. MATERIAL SUPPLIED

Cat. No.	Label	Kit Components	Quantity
K 7728	PLATE	Microtiter plate, pre-coated	12 x 8 wells
K 7728	STD	Standards, ready-to-use (0, 0.2, 0.6, 2, 6, 20 µmol/l)	6 x 500 µl
K 7728	CTRL 1	Control, ready-to-use (see specification for range)	1 x 500 µl
K 7728	CTRL 2	Control, ready-to-use (see specification for range)	1 x 500 µl
K 0001.C.100	WASHBUF	Wash buffer concentrate, 10x	2 x 100 ml
K 7728	AB	L-kynurenine antibody, lyophilised	1 x 1 vial
K 7728	CONJ	Conjugate, ready-to-use	1 x 12 ml
K 7728	REABUF	Reaction buffer, ready-to-use	1 x 110 ml
K 7728	DER	Derivatisation reagent, lyophilised	4 x 25 mg
K 0008.07	DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO)	1 x 7 ml
K 0002.15	SUB	Substrate (tetramethylbenzidine), ready-to-use	1 x 15 ml
K 0003.15	STOP	Stop solution, ready-to-use	1 x 15 ml

For reorders of single components, use the catalogue number followed by the label as product number.

4. MATERIAL REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

- Ultrapure water*
- Calibrated precision pipets and 10-1000 µl single use tips
- Foil to cover the microtiter plate
- Horizontal microtiter plate shaker
- Multi-channel pipets or repeater pipets
- Vortex
- Standard single use laboratory glass or plastic vials, cups, etc.
- Microtiter plate reader (required filters see chapter 7)

    * Immundiagnostik AG recommends the use of ultrapure water (water type 1; ISO 3696), which is free of undissolved and colloidal ions and organic molecules (free of particles > 0.2 µm) with an electrical conductivity of 0.055 µS/cm at 25 °C (≥18.2 MΩ cm).

5. STORAGE AND PREPARATION OF REAGENTS

- To run the assay more than once, ensure that reagents are stored at the conditions stated on the label. **Prepare only the appropriate amount necessary for each assay**. The kit can be used up to 4 times within the expiry date stated on the label.

- **Preparation of the wash buffer**: The **wash buffer concentrate (WASHBUF)** has to be diluted with ultrapure water **1:10** before use (100 ml WASHBUF + 900 ml ultrapure water), mix well. Crystals could occur due to high salt concentration in the concentrate. Before dilution, the crystals have to be redissolved at room temperature or in a water bath at 37 °C. The **WASHBUF** can be used until the expiry date stated on the label when stored at **2-8 °C**. **Wash buffer** (1:10 diluted WASHBUF) can be stored in a closed flask at **2-8 °C for 1 month**.

- **DMSO** crystallises at 2-8 °C. Before use, bring to room temperature to dissolve the crystals.

- Reconstitute the content of one vial of **derivatisation reagent (DER)** (25 mg) **with 1.5 ml DMSO.** Allow to dissolve for 10 minutes and mix thoroughly with a vortex-mixer. The derivatisation reagent must be **prepared immediately before use**. When more than one vial is to be used, combine the contents and mix prior to use. Discard any rest of the reagent after use. Please note: DMSO attacks all plastics but not polypropylene products and laboratory glass.

- The **lyophilised L-kynurenine antibody (AB)** is stable at **2-8 °C** until the expiry date stated on the label. Reconstitute the AB with **6 ml of wash buffer**. **L-kynurenine antibody** (reconstituted AB) can be stored at **2-8 °C for 2 months.**

- All other test reagents are ready-to-use. Test reagents can be used until the expiry date stated on the label when stored at **2-8 °C.**

6. STORAGE AND PREPARATION OF SAMPLES

EDTA plasma and serum samples

Samples are stable for 72 h at 2-8 °C or at room temperature. For longer storage keep samples frozen at -20 °C.

EDTA plasma and serum samples are analysed **undiluted**.

For sample preparation, a derivatisation reagent is added (see derivatisation procedure).

Dried blood spots

Collection and storage of dried blood spots

50 µl whole blood dripped on a dried sample carrier cleared by Immundiagnostik AG are suitable as sample material after complete drying. We recommend DrySpot-ID (catalogue no. DZ9020ID or DZ9021ID) as dried blood spot carrier. The moistened cards are stable for 8 days at room temperature. For longer storage, store at -20°C in a dry place.

For sample preparation, a derivatisation reagent is added (see derivatisation procedure).

7. ASSAY PROCEDURE

Principle of the test

This ELISA is designed for the quantitative determination of L-kynurenine. The assay is based on the method of competitive enzyme linked immunoassays.

The sample preparation includes the addition of a derivatisation reagent for kynurenine derivatisation. Afterwards, the treated samples and a polyclonal L-kynurenine-antiserum are incubated in the wells of a microtiter plate coated with L-kynurenine-derivative (tracer). During the incubation period, the target L-kynurenine in the sample competes with the tracer, immobilised on the wall of the microtiter wells, for the binding of the polyclonal antibodies.

During the second incubation step, a peroxidase-conjugated antibody is added to each microtiter well to detect the anti-kynurenine antibodies. After washing away the unbound components, tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) is added as a peroxidase substrate. Finally, the enzymatic reaction is terminated by an acidic stop solution. The colour changes from blue to yellow, and the absorbance is measured in the photometer at 450 nm. The intensity of the yellow colour is inverse proportional to the L-kynurenine concentration in the sample; this means, high L-kynurenine concentration in the sample reduces the concentration of tracer-bound antibodies and lowers the photometric signal. A dose response curve of absorbance unit (optical density, OD at 450 nm) vs. concentration is generated, using the values obtained from the standards. L-kynurenine, present in the patient samples, is determined directly from this curve.

Derivatisation procedure

Bring **all reagents and samples to room temperature** (15-30 °C) and mix well.

Derivatisation of standards, controls and samples is carried out in single analysis in 1.5 ml polypropylene tubes.

We recommend preparing one derivatisation per standard, control and sample and transferring it in duplicate determinations into the wells of the microtiter plate.

EDTA plasma and serum samples, standards and controls

1.	Add **25 µl standard** (STD)/**control** (CTRL)/**sample** in labelled 1.5 ml poly-propylene tubes.
2.	Add **500 µl reaction buffer** (REABUF) into each tube (STD, CTRL, sample).
3.	Add **50 µl** of freshly prepared **derivatisation reagent** into each tube (STD, CTRL, sample) and **mix thoroughly** by repeated inversion or several seconds on a vortex mixer.
4.	Incubate for **45 min** at room temperature (15-30°C) on a **horizontal shaker**.

2 x 50 µl of the derivatised standards, controls and samples are used in the ELISA as duplicates.

Dried blood spots, standards and controls

1.	Remove filter from sampling device and put it in a labelled 1.5 ml poly-propylene tube. Add **1 ml reaction buffer** (REABUF) to each sample, mix thoroughly. Allow sample to stand for **30 min** at room temperature (15-30°C), afterwards mix thoroughly.
2.	Add **25 µl standard** (STD)/**control** (CTRL) in labelled 1.5 ml polypropylene tubes. Add **1 ml reaction buffer** (REABUF) to the standards and controls.
3.	Add **50 µl** of freshly prepared **derivatisation reagent** into each tube (STD, CTRL, sample) and **mix thoroughly** by repeated inversion or several seconds on a vortex mixer.
4.	Incubate for **45 min** at room temperature (15-30°C) on a **horizontal shaker.**

2 x 50 µl of the derivatised standards, controls and samples are used in the ELISA as duplicates.

Test procedure

Mark the positions of standards/controls/samples in duplicate on a protocol sheet.

Take as many microtiter strips (PLATE) as needed from the kit. Store unused strips covered with foil at 2-8 °C. Strips are stable until expiry date stated on the label.

5.	**Before use**, wash the wells **5 times** with **250 µl wash buffer**. After the final washing step, remove residual wash buffer by firmly tapping the plate on absorbent paper.
6.	For the analysis in duplicate take **2 x 50 µl** of the **derivatised standards/ controls/samples** out of the tubes and add into the respective wells of the microtiter plate.
7.	Add **50 µl L-kynurenine antibody** into each well.
8.	Cover the strips tightly and incubate for **2 hours** at room temperature (15-30℃) on a **horizontal shaker,** or incubate over night at 2-8 °C.
9.	Discard the content of each well and wash **5 times** with **250 µl wash buffer**. After the final washing step, remove residual wash buffer by firmly tapping the plate on absorbent paper.
10.	Add **100 µl conjugate** (CONJ) into each well.
11.	Cover the strips and incubate for **1 hour** at room temperature (15-30 °C) on a **horizontal shaker**.
12.	Discard the content of each well and wash **5 times** with **250 µl wash buffer**. After the final washing step, remove residual wash buffer by firmly tapping the plate on absorbent paper.
13.	Add **100 µl substrate** (SUB) into each well.
14.	Incubate for **10-15 min*** at room temperature (15-30 °C) in the **dark.**
15.	Add **100 µl stop solution** (STOP) into each well and mix well.
16.	Determine **absorption immediately** with an ELISA reader at **450 nm** against 620 nm (or 690 nm) as a reference. If no reference wavelength is available, read only at 450 nm. If the extinction of the highest standard exceeds the range of the photometer, absorption must be measured immediately at **405 nm** against 620 nm (690 nm) as a reference.

> * The intensity of the colour change is temperature sensitive. We recommend observing the colour change and stopping the reaction upon good differentiation.

For automated ELISA processors, the given protocol may need to be adjusted according to the specific features of the respective automated platform. Attention should be paid to the following points:

Derivatisation of the samples is possible in 45 minutes on a horizontal shaker or, after thorough mixing, in 90 minutes without shaking in an automated processor. In automated processing, the volumes of samples and diluents may be scaled while maintaining the respective dilutions. Device-specific minimum and maximum volumes must be taken into account. The homogeneity of the resulting dilution must be ensured.

For further details please contact your supplier or Immundiagnostik AG.

8. RESULTS

The following algorithms can be used alternatively to calculate the results. We recommend using the 4 parameter algorithm.

1. **4 parameter algorithm**

   It is recommended to use a linear ordinate for optical density and a logarithmic abscissa for concentration. When using a logarithmic abscissa, the zero standard must be specified with a value less than 1 (e.g. 0.001).

2. **Point-to-point calculation**

   We recommend a linear ordinate for optical density and a linear abscissa for concentration.

3. **Spline algorithm**

   We recommend a linear ordinate for optical density and a linear abscissa for concentration.

The plausibility of the duplicate values should be examined before the automatic evaluation of the results. If this option is not available with the program used, the duplicate values should be evaluated manually.

EDTA plasma and serum

No factor is required.

In case another dilution factor has been used, multiply the obtained result by the dilution factor used.

Dried blood spots

The obtained results have to be multiplied by the **factor of 2** to get the actual concentrations.

9. LIMITATIONS

Samples with concentrations above the measurement range must be diluted with reaction buffer and re-assayed. Please consider this dilution factor when calculating the results.

Samples with concentrations lower than the measurement range cannot be clearly quantified.

The upper limit of the measurement range can be calculated as:

highest concentration of the standard curve × sample dilution factor to be used

The lower limit of the measurement range can be calculated as:

LoB × sample dilution factor to be used

LoB see chapter "Performance Characteristics".

Biotin interference

Samples containing a biotin concentration of < 133 ng/ml show a change of the results of ≤ 25 %. Higher concentrations of biotin can lead to false results. Patients taking > 5 mg biotin per day should wait at least 24 hours after taking biotin to have their samples collected. Results of patients taking biotin supplements or receiving a high-dose biotin therapy should generally be interpreted along with the total clinical picture.

10. QUALITY CONTROL

Immundiagnostik AG recommends the use of external controls for internal quality control, if possible.

Control samples should be analysed with each run. Results, generated from the analysis of control samples, should be evaluated for acceptability using appropriate statistical methods. The results for the patient samples may not be valid if within the same assay one or more values of the quality control samples are outside of the acceptable limits.

Reference Range

The normal range was generated from data of the Hordaland Health Study[1]. Based on the results of 5,519 persons[2] the following values for kynurenine were calculated:

Median:	1.5 µmol/l
10th percentile:	1 µmol/l
90th percentile:	2 µmol/l

We recommend each laboratory to establish its own reference range.

11. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Precision and reproducibility

Plasma, serum

Repeatability (Intra-Assay); n = 14

The repeatability was assessed with 2 samples under constant parameters (same operator, measurement system, day and kit lot) in single determinations.

sample	L-kynurenine [µmol/l]	CV [%]
1	0.82	7.6
2	2.86	6.2

Reproducibility (Inter-Assay); n = 8

The reproducibility was assessed with 2 samples under varying parameters (different operators, measurement systems, days and kit lots) in duplicate determinations.

sample	L-kynurenine [µmol/l]	CV [%]
1	0.80	9.2
2	2.80	6.2

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[1] Zuo H et al (2016): Plasma Biomarkers of Inflammation, the Kynurenine Pathway, and Risks of All-Cause, Cancer, and Cardiovascular Disease Mortality. *American Journal of Epidemiology*. 2016;**183**(4):249-258

[2] The study included 7,015 subjects. However, only the patients who were still alive at the conclusion of the study (after 14 years) were included in the assessment of the statistical data.

Dried blood spot

Repeatability (Intra-Assay); n = 10

The repeatability was assessed with 2 samples on 10 dried blood spot carriers each, under constant parameters (same operator, measurement system, day and kit lot) in duplicate determinations.

sample	L-kynurenine [µmol/l]	CV [%]
1	2.01	7.1
2	3.01	10.2

Reproducibility (Inter-Assay); n = 12

The reproducibility was assessed with 2 samples on 12 dried blood spot carriers each, under varying parameters (different operators, measurement systems, days and kit lots) in duplicate determinations.

sample	L-kynurenine [µmol/l]	CV [%]
1	1.22	12.6
2	2.78	8.9

Spiking recovery

3 serum samples were spiked with different L-kynurenine concentrations and measured in this assay (n = 2). The mean recovery rate was 102.5 %.

sample [µmol/l]	spike [µmol/l]	expected [µmol/l]	measured [µmol/l]	recovery [%]
2.48	1.5	3.98	4.49	112.8
	3.0	5.48	5.92	108.0
1.98	1.5	3.48	3.56	102.3
	3.0	4.98	4.81	96.6
2.03	1.5	3.53	3.45	97.7
	3.0	5.03	4.99	97.4

Dilution recovery

3 serum samples were diluted and analysed. The mean recovery rate was 100.3 % (n = 2).

sample [µmol/l]	dilution	expected [µmol/l]	measured [µmol/l]	recovery [%]
2.319	1:2	1.160	1.099	94.8
	1:3	0.773	0.748	96.8
	1:4	0.580	0.498	85.9
2.581	1:2	1.291	1.297	100.5
	1:3	0.860	0.877	101.9
	1:4	0.645	0.594	92.1
2.097	1:2	1.049	1.196	114.1
	1:3	0.699	0.822	117.6
	1:4	0.524	0.520	99.2

Analytical sensitivity

Limit of blank, LoB   0.076 µmol/l

Limit of detection, LoD   0.12 µmol/l

Limit of quantitation, LoQ   0.18 µmol/l

The evaluation was performed according to the CLSI guideline EP-17-A2. The specified accuracy goal for the LoQ was 15 % CV.

Specificity

The specificity of the antibody was tested by measuring the cross-reactivity against a range of compounds with structural similarity to L-kynurenine. The specificity is calculated in percent in relation to the L-kynurenine binding activity.

3-HK (3-hydroxy-DL-kynurenine)   < 0.5 %
D-kynurenine   < 0.6 %
L-tryptophan   < 0.08 %
5-HTP (5-hydroxytryptophan)   < 0.01 %
Serotonin (5-HT, 5-hydroxytryptamine)   < 0.01 %
5-HIAA (5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid)   < 0.01 %
Quinolinic acid   < 0.01 %
Kynurenic acid   < 0.01 %
Picolinic acid   < 0.01 %

12. PRECAUTIONS

- All reagents in the kit package are for *in vitro* diagnostic use only.

- Kit reagents contain sodium azide or ProClin as bactericides. Sodium azide and ProClin are harmful to health and the environment. Substrates for enzymatic colour reactions can also cause skin and/or respiratory irritation. Any contact with the substances should be avoided. Further safety information can be found in the safety data sheet, which is available from Immundiagnostik AG on request.

- The 10x Wash buffer concentrate (WASHBUF) contains surfactants which may cause severe eye irritation in case of eye contact.
  Warning: Causes serious eye irritation. **IF IN EYES:** Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.

- The stop solution consists of sulfuric acid, which is a strong acid. Although diluted, it still must be handled with care. It can cause burns and should be handled with gloves, eye protection, and appropriate protective clothing. Any spill should be wiped up immediately with copious quantities of water. Do not breathe vapour and avoid inhalation.

13. TECHNICAL HINTS

- Do not interchange different lot numbers of any kit component within the same assay. Furthermore, we recommend not assembling wells of different microtiter plates for analysis, even if they are of the same batch.

- Control Samples should be analysed with each run.

- Reagents should not be used beyond the expiration date stated on the kit label.

- Substrate solution should remain colourless until use.

- To ensure accurate results proper adhesion of plate sealers during incubation steps is necessary.

- Avoid foaming when mixing reagents.

- Do not mix plugs and caps from different reagents.

- The assay should always be performed according to the enclosed manual.

14. GENERAL NOTES ON THE TEST AND TEST PROCEDURE

- This assay was produced and distributed according to the IVD guidelines of 98/79/EC.

- The guidelines for medical laboratories should be followed.

- *IDK*® is a trademark of Immundiagnostik AG.

- Incubation time, incubation temperature, and pipetting volumes of the different components are defined by the producer. Any variation of the test procedure, which is not coordinated with the producer, may influence the results of the test. Immundiagnostik AG can therefore not be held responsible for any damage resulting from incorrect use.

- Warranty claims and complaints regarding deficiencies must be logged within 14 days after receipt of the product. The product should be sent to Immundiagnostik AG along with a written complaint.

15. REFERENCES

General Literature

Bipath P, Levay PF, Viljoen M: The kynurenine pathway activities in a sub-Saharan HIV/AIDS population. *BMC Infectious Diseases.* 2015;15(1):346. doi:10.1186/s12879-015-1087-5.

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Symbols:

Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
	Temperature limitation	REF	Catalogue number
IVD	In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device	→REF	To be used with
	Manufacturer	Σ	Contains sufficient for <n> tests
LOT	Lot number		Use by
	Contains plasma derivatives or human blood	i	Consult instructions for use
S	Consult specification data sheet		Do not re-use
UDI	Unique Device Identification	BIO	Contains material of animal origin
	Medicinal substance	BIO	Contains material of human origin