TECHNICAL HINTS & LIMITATIONS

- We recommend the use of R&D Systems' Reagent Diluent Concentrate 2 (Catalog # DY995) to prepare Reagent Diluent for use in this assay.
- The use of high quality Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) for the Reagent Diluent is crucial for the optimum performance of the DuoSet ELISA Development kit. Impurities such as proteases, binding proteins, soluble receptors or other interfering substances can be found to varying degrees in virtually all BSA preparations and can inhibit or interfere with the detection of certain analytes. If the standard curve appears suppressed, consider evaluating a different preparation of BSA.
- It is suggested to start Reagent Diluent optimization for serum and plasma samples by using PBS supplemented with 10-50% animal serum. Do not use buffers with animal serum to reconstitute or dilute the Detection Antibody or Streptavidin-HRP.
- It is important that the Reagent Diluent selected for reconstitution and dilution of the standard reflects the environment of the samples being measured.
- Avoid microbial contamination of reagents and buffers.
- A thorough and consistent wash technique is essential for proper assay performance. Wash Buffer should be dispensed forcefully and removed completely from the wells by aspiration or decanting. Remove any remaining Wash Buffer by inverting the plate and blotting it against clean paper towels.
- Individual results may vary due to differences in technique, plasticware and water sources.
- It is recommended that all standards and samples be assayed in duplicate.
- The use of PBS from tablets may interfere in this assay.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Note: For more detailed troubleshooting, please visit: www.RnDSystems.com/ELISADevelopment

SPECIFICITY

The following factors prepared at 50 ng/mL were assayed and exhibited no cross-reactivity or interference.

Recombinant human:
- Activin B
- Activin RIIβ/Fc Chimera
- Activin RIIα/Fc Chimera
- Activin RIβ/Fc Chimera
- Activin RIα/Fc Chimera
Recombinant mouse:
- Activin B
- Activin RIIβ/Fc Chimera

A sample containing 25 ng/mL of recombinant human Activin AB reads as 139.3 pg/mL (0.6% cross-reactivity).
Recombinant human (rh) Follistatin 288, rhFollistatin 300, and rhFollistatin 315 do not cross-react in this assay but do interfere at concentrations > 6.25 ng/mL, 25 ng/mL, and 12.5 ng/mL, respectively.
Recombinant mouse Follistatin 288 does not cross-react in this assay but does interfere at concentrations > 25 ng/mL.

INTENDED USE

For the development of sandwich ELISAs to measure natural and recombinant human Activin A. The Reagent Diluent recommended may be suitable for most cell culture supernate, serum, and plasma samples. The Reagent Diluent selected for use can alter the performance of an immunoassay. Reagent Diluent optimization for samples with complex matrices such as serum and plasma, may improve their performance in this assay.

This kit contains sufficient materials to run ELISAs on at least fifteen 96 well plates, provided the following conditions are met:
- The reagents are prepared as described in this package insert.
- The assay is run as described in the General ELISA Protocol.
- The recommended microplates, buffers, diluents, substrates, and solutions are used.

This package insert must be read in its entirety before using this product. Refer to the Certificate of Analysis for component concentrations as they may vary. For research use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.
MATERIALS PROVIDED & STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store the unopened kit at 2-8 °C. Do not use past kit expiration date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PART #</th>
<th># VIALS</th>
<th>STORAGE OF OPENED/RECONSTITUTED MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Activin A Capture Antibody</td>
<td>840165</td>
<td>1 vial</td>
<td>Refer to the lot-specific Certificate of Analysis (C of A) for storage conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Activin A Detection Antibody</td>
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<td>Human Activin A Standard</td>
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<td>3 vials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptavidin-HRP</td>
<td>893410</td>
<td>1 vial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REAGENT PREPARATION

Bring all reagents to room temperature before use. Allow all components to sit for a minimum of 15 minutes with gentle agitation after initial reconstitution. Working dilutions should be prepared and used immediately.

Streptavidin-HRP: 1.0 mL of streptavidin conjugated to horseradish peroxidase. Dilute to the working concentration specified on the vial label using Reagent Diluent.

Mouse Anti-Human Activin A Capture Antibody: Refer to the lot-specific C of A for amount supplied. Reconstitute with 1.0 mL of PBS. Dilute in PBS without carrier protein to the working concentration indicated on the C of A.

Biotinylated Mouse Anti-Human Activin A Detection Antibody: Refer to the lot-specific C of A for amount supplied. Reconstitute with 1.0 mL of Reagent Diluent. Dilute in Reagent Diluent to the working concentration indicated on the C of A.

Recombinant Human Activin A Standard: Refer to the lot-specific C of A for amount supplied. Reconstitute each vial with 0.5 mL of deionized or distilled water. A seven point standard curve using 2-fold serial dilutions in Reagent Diluent is recommended. Prepare 1000 μL of high standard per plate assayed at the concentration indicated on the C of A.

CALIBRATION

This DuoSet is calibrated against a highly purified CHO cell-expressed recombinant human Activin A produced at R&D Systems.

OTHER MATERIALS & SOLUTIONS REQUIRED

DuoSet Ancillary Reagent Kit 2 (5 plates): (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY008) containing 96 well microplates, plate sealers, substrate solution, stop solution, plate coating buffer (PBS), wash buffer, and Reagent Diluent Concentrate 2.

The components listed above may be purchased separately: 96 well microplates: (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY990).

Plate Sealers: (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY992).

PBS: 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 8.1 mM Na2HPO4, 1.5 mM KH2PO4, pH 7.2-7.4, 0.2 μm filtered (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY006).

Wash Buffer: 0.05% Tween® 20 in PBS, pH 7.2-7.4 (R&D Systems, Catalog # WA126).

Reagent Diluent: 1% BSA in PBS, pH 7.2-7.4, 0.2 μm filtered (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY995).

Stop Solution: 2 N H2SO4 (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY994).

1M Urea in PBS, pH 5.0-5.8. Prepare immediately before use. Mix well.

PRECAUTIONS

Activin A is detectable in saliva. Take precautionary measures to prevent contamination of kit reagents while running this assay.

Some components in this kit contain ProClin® which may cause an allergic skin reaction. Avoid Breathing mist.

The Stop Solution suggested for use with this kit is an acid solution.

The Color Reagent B suggested for use with this kit may cause skin, eye, and respiratory irritation. Avoid breathing fumes.

Wear protective gloves, clothing, eye, and face protection. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Please refer to the MSDS on our website prior to use.

CALIBRATION

This DuoSet is calibrated against a highly purified CHO cell-expressed recombinant human Activin A produced at R&D Systems.

GENERAL ELISA PROTOCOL

Plate Preparation

1. Dilute the Capture Antibody to the working concentration in PBS without carrier protein. Immediately coat a 96-well microplate with 100 μL per well of the diluted Capture Antibody. Seal the plate and incubate overnight at room temperature.

2. Aspirate each well and wash with Wash Buffer, repeating the process two times for a total of three washes. Wash by filling each well with Wash Buffer (400 μL) using a squirt bottle, manifold dispenser, or autowasher. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the last wash, remove any remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or by inverting the plate and blotting it against clean paper towels.

3. Block plates by adding 300 μL of Reagent Diluent to each well. Incubate at room temperature for a minimum of 1 hour.

4. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2. The plates are now ready for sample addition.

Assay Procedure

1. Add 100 μL of sample or standards in Reagent Diluent, or an appropriate diluent, per well. Add 100 μL/well of prepared 1M Urea in PBS to samples and standards. Tap the plate gently to mix. Final volume is 200 μL/well. Cover with an adhesive strip and incubate 2 hours at room temperature.

2. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2 of Plate Preparation.

3. Add 100 μL of the Detection Antibody, diluted in Reagent Diluent, to each well. Cover with a new adhesive strip and incubate 2 hours at room temperature.

4. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2 of Plate Preparation.

5. Add 100 μL of the working dilution of Streptavidin-HRP to each well. Cover the plate and incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature. Avoid placing the plate in direct light.

6. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2.

7. Add 100 μL of Substrate Solution to each well. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature. Avoid placing the plate in direct light.

8. Add 50 μL of Stop Solution to each well. Gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing.

9. Determine the optical density of each well immediately, using a microplate reader set to 450 nm. If wavelength correction is available, set to 540 nm or 570 nm. If wavelength correction is not available, substract readings at 540 nm or 570 nm from the readings at 450 nm. This subtraction will correct for optical imperfections in the plate. Readings made directly at 450 nm without correction may be higher and less accurate.