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LABOR DIAGNOSTIKA NORD GmbH & Co. KG | Am Eichenhain 1 | 48531 Nordhorn | Germany | Tel. +49 5921 8197-0 | Fax +49 5921 8197-222 | info@ldn.de | www.ldn.de

Instructions for use

Chromogranin A ELISA

REF **TM E-9000R**

2°C – 8°C

Σ 96

RUO For research use only – Not for use in diagnostic procedures

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1. Introduction

1.1 Intended use and principle of the test

Enzyme immunoassay for the quantitative determination of human Chromogranin A in serum. This product is not intended for clinical diagnosis.
The quantitative determination of Chromogranin A (CgA) follows the basic principles of the enzyme immunoassay. First, the Chromogranin A in the samples, controls and standards binds to CgA-specific antibodies fixed to a 96 wells microtiter plate. After incubation and following washing steps, a sandwich is formed by adding CgA antibodies conjugated to horseradish peroxidase. After incubation the wells are washed thoroughly and the complex bound to the solid phase is detected by using TMB as a substrate resulting in a colour reaction. The reaction is monitored at a wavelength of 450 nm.
By means of a standard curve the CgA concentrations in the samples are determined. Manual processing of the ELISA is recommended. The use of automatic laboratory equipment is the responsibility of the user.

1.2 Background

Chromogranin A (CgA) is an acid glycoprotein with 439 amino acids that is present in the secretory dense core granules of most neuroendocrine cells [1]. The chromogranin family consists of at least three different water-soluble acidic glycoproteins (CgA, CgB, and secretogranin II, sometimes called Chromogranin C) [1].

2. Procedural cautions, guidelines, warnings and limitations

2.1 Procedural cautions, guidelines and warnings

(1) This kit is intended for professional use only. Users should have a thorough understanding of this protocol for the successful use of this kit. Only the test instruction provided with the kit is valid and must be used to run the assay. Reliable performance will only be attained by strict and careful adherence to the instructions provided.
(2) The principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) must be followed.
(3) In order to reduce exposure to potentially harmful substances, wear lab coats, disposable protective gloves and protective glasses where necessary.
(4) All kit reagents and specimens should be brought to room temperature and mixed gently but thoroughly before use. For dilution or reconstitution purposes, use deionized, distilled, or ultra-pure water. Avoid repeated freezing and thawing of reagents and specimens.
(5) The microplate contains snap-off strips. Unused wells must be stored at 2 – 8 °C in the sealed foil pouch with desiccant and used in the frame provided. Microtiter strips which are removed from the frame for usage should be marked accordingly to avoid any mix-up.
(6) Duplicate determination of sample is highly recommended.
(7) Once the test has been started, all steps should be completed without interruption. Make sure that the required reagents, materials, and devices are prepared for use at the appropriate time.
(8) Incubation times do influence the results. All wells should be handled in the same order and time intervals.
(9) To avoid cross-contamination of reagents, use new disposable pipette tips for dispensing each reagent, sample, standard and control.
(10) A standard curve must be established for each run.
(11) The controls should be included in each run and fall within established confidence limits. The confidence limits are listed in the QC-Report provided with the kit.
(12) Do not mix kit components with different lot numbers within a test and do not use reagents beyond expiry date as shown on the kit labels.
(13) Avoid contact with Stop Solution containing 0.25 M H_2SO_4. It may cause skin irritation and burns. In case of contact with eyes or skin, rinse off immediately with water.
(14) TMB substrate has an irritant effect on skin and mucosa. In case of possible contact, wash eyes with an abundant volume of water and skin with soap and abundant water. Rinse contaminated items before reuse.
(15) For information about hazardous substances included in the kit please refer to Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The Safety Data Sheet for this product is made available directly on the website of the manufacturer or upon request.
(16) Kit reagents must be regarded as hazardous waste and disposed of according to national regulations.
(17) In case of any severe damage to the test kit or components, the manufacturer has to be informed in writing, at the latest, one week after receiving the kit. Severely damaged single components must not be used for a test run. They must be stored properly until the manufacturer decides what to do with them. If it is decided that they are no longer suitable for measurements, they must be disposed of in accordance with national regulations.
(18) Reagents of this kit which contain human serum or plasma have been tested and confirmed negative for HIV I/II, HBsAg and HCV by approved procedures. All reagents however, should be treated as potential biohazards in use and for disposal.

2.2 Limitations

Any inappropriate handling of samples or modification of this test might influence the results.
In about 10% of the samples used in the method comparison, a discrepancy was detected between the Kryptor CgA II and the ELISA measurements. These were exclusively samples whose CgA concentrations were in the range of 350 to 900 µg/l.

The sequence of the specific antibodies used was checked for possible cross-reactions. Even if no significant cross-reactivities could be detected, it cannot be excluded that in rare individual cases and depending on medication or disease status, influences on the values may occur.

2.2.1 Interfering substances

Serum samples containing precipitates or fibrin strands might cause inaccurate results. Biotin (up to 1,200 ng/ml), hemolytic samples (up to 1 mg/ml hemoglobin), icteric samples (up to 50 mg/dl bilirubin) and lipemic samples (up to 1,700 mg/dl triglycerides) have no influence on the assay results. When in doubt, it is recommended that hemolytic, icteric, and lipemic samples not be used in the assay.

2.2.2 Drug interferences

Medications like proton pump inhibitors, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, histamine type-2 receptor antagonists and somatostatin analogues can influence CgA level in serum.

2.2.3 High-Dose-Hook effect

No hook effect was observed in this test.

3. Storage and stability

Store kit and reagents at 2 – 8 °C until expiration date. Do not use kit and components beyond the expiry date indicated on the kit labels. Once opened, the reagents are stable for 2 months when stored at 2 – 8 °C. Once the resealable pouch of the ELISA plate has been opened, care should be taken to close it tightly again including the desiccant.

4. Materials

4.1 Contents of the kit

BA E-0030	**WASH-CONC** **50x** **Wash Buffer Concentrate** – concentrated 50x
Content:	Buffer with a non-ionic detergent and physiological pH
Volume:	1 x 20 ml/vial, purple cap
BA E-0055	**SUBSTRATE** **Substrate** – ready to use
Content:	Chromogenic substrate containing 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine, substrate buffer and hydrogen peroxide
Volume:	1 x 12 ml/vial, black cap
BA E-0080	**STOP-SOLN** **Stop Solution** – ready to use
Content:	0.25 M sulfuric acid
Volume:	1 x 12 ml/vial, grey cap
TM E-9010	**CONJUGATE** **Antibody Conjugate** – ready to use
Content:	Rabbit anti-chromogranin A antibody, conjugated with peroxidase
Volume:	1 x 6 ml/vial, red cap
Description:	Species is rabbit
Hazard pictograms:	 GHS07
Signal word:	Warning
Hazardous ingredients:	2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one
Hazard statements:	H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.
Precautionary statements:	P280 Wear protective gloves. P302+P352 IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water. P333+P313 If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention. P501 Dispose of contents/container to an authorised waste collection point.
TM E-9013	**ASSAY-BUFF** **Assay Buffer** – ready to use
Content:	Buffer with proteins and non-mercury preservatives
Volume:	1 x 50 ml/vial, blue cap
Description:	Species of protein in the buffer is bovine

TM E-9031	**96**	**Chromogranin A Microtiter Strips** – ready to use
Content:	1 x 96 wells (12x8) goat anti-chromogranin A antibody precoated microwell plate in a resealable pouch with desiccant	
Description:	Species is goat	

4.2 Calibration and Controls

Standards and Controls – ready to use

Cat. no.	Component	Colour/Cap	Concentration [µg/l] CgA	Volume/Vial
TM E-9001	**STANDARD A**	white	0	1 ml
TM E-9002	**STANDARD B**	yellow	30	1 ml
TM E-9003	**STANDARD C**	orange	110	1 ml
TM E-9004	**STANDARD D**	blue	450	1 ml
TM E-9005	**STANDARD E**	grey	900	1 ml
TM E-9051	**CONTROL 1**	green	Refer to QC-Report for expected value and acceptable range.	1 ml
TM E-9052	**CONTROL 2**	red		1 ml
Content:	Assay Buffer with a defined quantity of human Chromogranin A and stabilizing protein.			
Description:	Chromogranin A is derived from human, the stabilizing protein is from bovine origin.			

4.3 Additional materials required but not provided in the kit

- Water (deionized, distilled, or ultra-pure)
- Absorbent material (paper towel)

4.4 Additional equipment required but not provided in the kit

- Calibrated precision pipettes to dispense volumes between 20 – 400 µl
- Microtiter plate washing device (manual, semi-automated or automated)
- ELISA reader capable of reading absorbance at 450 nm and if possible 620 – 650 nm
- Microtiter plate shaker (shaking amplitude 3 mm; approx. 600 rpm)
- Vortex mixer

5. Sample collection, handling and storage

Serum
Collect blood by venipuncture, allow to clot, and separate serum by centrifugation according to manufacturer's instructions. Do not centrifuge before complete clotting has occurred. Donors receiving anticoagulant therapy may require increased clotting time.
When in doubt, it is recommended that hemolytic, icteric, and lipemic samples not be used in the assay (see 2.2.1).
Storage: Up to 2 days at 2 – 8 °C; storage for a longer period (up to 6 months) at -20 °C.
Repeated freezing and thawing should be avoided.

6. Test procedure

Allow all reagents and samples to reach room temperature and mix thoroughly by gentle inversion before use. Number the microwell plates (Microtiter Strips which are removed from the frame for usage should be marked accordingly to avoid any mix-up). Duplicate determinations are recommended.
The binding of the antisera and of the enzyme conjugate and the activity of the enzyme are temperature dependent. The higher the temperature, the higher the absorption values will be. Varying incubation times will have similar influences on the absorbance. The optimal temperature during the enzyme immunoassay is between 20 – 25 °C.

⚠ *The use of a microtiter plate shaker with the following specifications is mandatory: shaking amplitude 3 mm; approx. 600 rpm. Shaking with differing settings might influence the results.*

6.1 Preparation of reagents and further notes

Wash Buffer
Dilute the 20 ml Wash Buffer Concentrate **WASH-CONC 50X** with water to a final volume of 1000 ml.
Storage: 2 months at 2 – 8 °C

Chromogranin A Microtiter Strips
In rare cases residues of the blocking and stabilizing reagent can be seen in the wells as small, white dots or lines. These residues do not influence the quality of the product.

6.2 Preparation of samples – Dilution

1.	Prior to use, the serum samples have to be diluted **1+20** with **ASSAY-BUFF** e. g. 20 µl of serum sample + 400 µl of **ASSAY-BUFF**.
	Serum samples which have been found off-curve should also be diluted accordingly with **ASSAY-BUFF** and re-assayed.

6.3 Chromogranin A ELISA

1.	Pipette **50 µl** of the **standards, controls** and **diluted samples** into the appropriate wells of the **Chromogranin A Microtiter Strips** **96** and incubate **1 h** at **RT** (20 – 25 °C) on a **shaker** (approx. 600 rpm).
2.	Discard or aspirate the content of the wells. Wash the plate **4 times** by adding **300 µl** of **Wash Buffer, discarding** the content and **blotting dry each time** by tapping the inverted plate on absorbent material.
3.	Pipette **50 µl** of the **CONJUGATE** into all wells and incubate **1 h** at **RT** (20 – 25 °C) on a **shaker** (approx. 600 rpm).
4.	Discard or aspirate the content of the wells. Wash the plate **4 times** by adding **300 µl** of **Wash Buffer, discarding** the content and **blotting dry each time** by tapping the inverted plate on absorbent material.
5.	Pipette **100 µl** of the **SUBSTRATE** into all wells.
6. ⚠	Incubate for **25 ± 5 min** at **RT** (20 – 25 °C) on a **shaker** (approx. 600 rpm). ***Avoid exposure to direct sunlight!***
7.	Add **100 µl** of the **STOP-SOLN** to all wells and shake the microtiter plate shortly.
8.	**Read** the absorbance of the solution in the wells within 10 min, using a microtiter plate reader set to **450 nm** (if available a reference wavelength between 620 nm and 650 nm is recommended).

7. Calculation of results

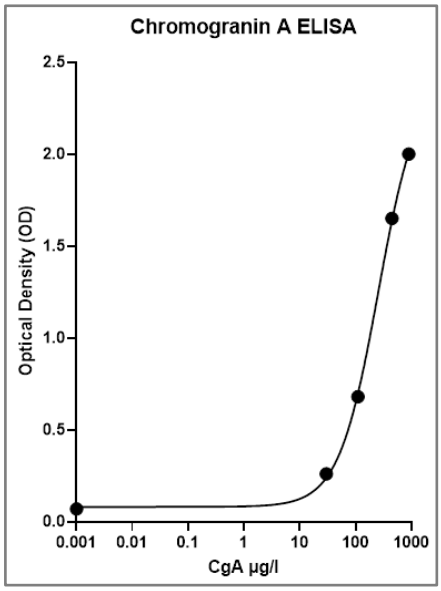
Measuring range	**Chromogranin A in serum**
	2.3 – 900 µg/l

The standard curve, which can be used to determine the concentration of the unknown samples, is obtained by plotting the absorbance readings (calculate the mean absorbance) of the standards (linear, y-axis) against the corresponding standard concentrations (logarithmic, x-axis) using a concentration of 0.001 µg/l for Standard A (this alignment is mandatory because of the logarithmic presentation of the data). Use non-linear regression for curve fitting (e. g. 4-parameter, marquardt).

The concentrations of the samples and controls can be read directly from the standard curve.
Samples found with concentrations higher than the highest standard (Standard E) should be diluted accordingly with **ASSAY-BUFF** and must be re-assayed. For the calculation of the concentrations this dilution factor has to be taken into account.

7.1 Typical standard curve

⚠ *Example: Do not use for calculation!*



8. Control samples

The confidence limits of the kit controls are indicated on the QC-Report.

9. Assay characteristics

9.1 Performance data

Analytical Sensitivity	
Limit of Blank (LOB)	0.9 µg/l
Limit of Detection (LOD)	1.4 µg/l
Limit of Quantification (LOQ)	2.3 µg/l

Precision					
Intra-Assay			**Inter-Assay**		
n = 12			n = 10		
Sample	Mean ± SD [µg/l]	CV [%]	Sample	Mean ± SD [µg/l]	CV [%]
1	43.6 ± 1.2	2.8	1	73.0 ± 3.8	5.2
2	73.5 ± 3.0	4.2	2	102 ± 3.5	3.5
3	103 ± 3.4	3.3	3	161 ± 5.7	3.6
4	161 ± 10.1	6.3	4	300 ± 16.0	5.3
5	283 ± 14.6	5.1			
6	502 ± 15.9	3.2			

Lot-to-Lot			
	Sample	Mean ± SD [µg/l]	CV [%]
Chromogranin A in serum (n = 3)	1	46.3 ± 2.3	5.1
	2	111 ± 7.2	6.5
	3	479 ± 61.8	12.9

Recovery			
	Range [µg/l]	Mean [%]	Range [%]
Chromogranin A	43.6 – 502	102	100 – 104

Linearity			
	Serial Dilution up to	Mean [%]	Range [%]
Chromogranin A	1:64	92	91 – 96

Method Comparison: **B·R·A·H·M·S Kryptor CgA II**	CgA ELISA = 1.05 x (Kryptor CgA II) – 15; R^2 = 0.97; n = 57

9.2 Metrological Traceability

The values assigned to the standards and controls of the Chromogranin A ELISA are traceable to the reference method B.R.A.H.M.S CgA II Kryptor.

Standards and Controls	Uncertainty [%]
	7.5

Chromogranin A ELISA	Expanded Uncertainty [%] k = 2*
	16.5

* This defines an interval about the measured result that will include the true value with a probability of 95%.

10. References/Literature

1. O'Toole, D., et al., *ENETS Consensus Guidelines for the Standards of Care in Neuroendocrine Tumors: biochemical markers.* Neuroendocrinology, 2009. **90**(2): p. 194-202.

For updated literature or any other information please contact your local supplier.

11. Changes

Version	Release Date	Chapter	Change
18.0-r	2021-07-09	All	– Revision of the assay due to lot-change of the matched antibody pair used – Sample Dilution changed from 1+8 to 1+20 (Chapter 6.2) – Assay characteristics changed (Chapter 9.1) – Lot-to-Lot was added to the assay characteristics – Metrological traceability was added (Chapter 9.2) – References/Literature was updated (Chapter 10)
19.0-r	2022-06-27	2.2.2	– Medications that can influence chromogranin level have been updated – Editorial changes
20.0-r	2023-03-20	9.1	– Lot-to-Lot updated
21.0-r	2023-11-06	4.1 9.1	– Hazard labelling updated according to SDS – Recovery updated
22.0-r	2024-01-02	5	– Sample storage/stability adapted
23.0-r	2024-08-07	4.1 7	– Hazard labelling updated according to SDS – Note added to the dilution factor in the calculation

Symbols:

	Storage temperature		Manufacturer		Contains sufficient for <n> tests
	Use-by date	LOT	Batch code		
	Consult instructions for use	CONT	Content		
	Caution	REF	Catalogue number		Distributor
	Date of manufacture			RUO	For research use only!