High Sensitivity Corticosterone

ELISA kit

(96 Tests)

Zellbio GmbH (Germany)

CAT No. ZX-55110-96

www.zellx.de

Sample Types Validated for:

Serum, EDTA and Heparin Plasma, Urine, Saliva, Dried Fecal Extracts, and Tissue Culture Media

!!! Caution: This product is for Research Use Only. Not for *in vitro* Diagnostics !!!

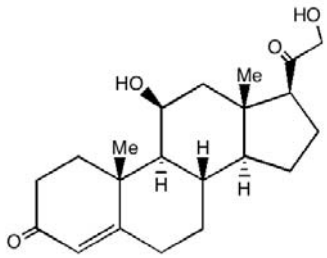
Table of Contents

Please read this insert completely prior to using the product.

Introduction

Background

Corticosterone ($C_{21}H_{30}O_4$, Kendall's Compound 'B') is a glucocorticoid secreted by the cortex of the adrenal gland. Corticosterone is secreted in response to stimulation of the adrenal cortex by Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH), and is the precursor of aldosterone. Corticosterone is a major indicator of stress in non-human mammals. Studies have shown a link between corticosterone-mediated increased level of stress and impairment of long term memory retrieval, as well as chronic corticosterone elevation due to dietary restrictions and in response to burn injuries. In addition to stress levels, corticosterone is assumed to play a decisive role in sleep-wake patterns.



Assay principle

The ZellX® Corticosterone Immunoassay kit is designed to quantitatively measure Corticosterone present in serum, plasma, urine, extracted dried fecal samples, and tissue culture media samples. A corticosterone stock solution is provided to generate a standard curve for the assay and all samples should be read off the standard curve.

The kit includes a 96-well plate that is pre-coated with a secondary donkey anti-sheep antibody. The function of this antibody is to capture the sheep anti-corticosterone antibody bound to corticosterone conjugate (peroxidase-labeled) and hold this complex to the plate during the subsequent detection steps. The corticosterone-conjugate (labeled) and the sample corticosterone (unlabeled) compete for binding to the sheep antibody. After 1 hour of incubation, the substrate is added to react with the peroxidase-labeled antibody-antigen conjugate. After stopping the reaction, the intensity of the generated color can be measured at 450 nm. The lower the amount of corticosterone in the sample, the stronger the signal due to more labeled corticosterone bound to the well.

General information

Materials supplied in the Kit

Component	*Quantity*
Corticosterone Standard (100 ng/mL)	125 µL
Corticosterone Antibody	2.6 mL
Corticosterone Conjugate	2.6 mL
Assay Buffer Concentrate (5x)	11 mL
Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x)	25 mL
Dissociation Reagent	1 mL
TMB Substrate	11 mL
Stop Solution	5 mL
Coated Clear 96-Well Plate & Sealer	1 plate

Storage instruction

All reagents should be stored at 4° C until the expiration date of the kit.

Materials required but not supplied

Deionized water (diH_2O)

Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS)

Microplate/ELISA reader capable of reading optical absorption at 450 nm

Microplate shaker, Centrifuge, Vortex mixer

Precision pipettes, multichannel/repeater pipettes and disposable pipette tips

For Dried Fecal Sample:

ACS Grade Ethanol

Glass test tubes

Precautions

This kit should only be used by qualified personnel who have had laboratory safety instruction. The complete insert should be read and understood before attempting to use the product.

Stop Solution is an acidic solution and should not come in contact with skin or eyes. Handling this reagent needs appropriate precaution.

General remarks

- Equilibrate all kit components to room temperature (RT) 30 minutes before use.
- The instruction must be strictly followed.
- The reading of Microplate/ELISA reader must be set at the appropriate wavelength.
- Pipette tips should not be used more than once in order to avoid cross contamination.
- Reagents of different batches should not be mixed or used after their expiration dates.
- The antibody-coated plate needs to be stored desiccated. The silica gel pack included in the foil ziploc bag will keep the plate dry. The silica gel pack will turn from blue to pink if the ziploc has not been closed properly.
- This kit utilizes a peroxidase-based readout system. Buffers, including Wash Buffers from other manufacturers, containing sodium azide will inhibit color production by the enzyme. Make sure all buffers used for samples are azide-free. Ensure that any plate washing system is rinsed well with deionized water prior to using the supplied Wash Buffer.

Assay protocol

Reagent preparation

i. **Assay Buffer:** Prepare a 1:5 dilution of Assay Buffer Concentrate with diH_2O (1 part Assay Buffer Conc. with 4 parts diH_2O), and mix well. Assay Buffer can be stored at 4°C for up to 3 months.

ii. **Wash Buffer:** Prepare a 1:20 dilution of Wash Buffer Concentrate with diH_2O (1 part Wash Buffer Conc. with 19 parts diH_2O), and mix well. Assay Buffer can be stored at room temperature for up to 3 months.

Sample preparation

Since Corticosterone is identical across all species, it is expected that this kit can measure corticosterone in human and other species.

Samples containing visible particulate should be centrifuged prior to conducting the assay. Moderate to severely hemolyzed samples should not be used for this assay.

Dissociation Reagent must be used only with Serum and Plasma samples.

All samples and standards must be used within 2 hours of preparation or must be stored at ≤ -20 for later analysis.

I. **Serum, Plasma:**

- Collect the fresh serum or plasma with heparin or EDTA.
- Centrifuge at 600 g for 10 min at 4˚C.
- Separate the serum or plasma from the red blood cells, and transfer into fresh tubes.
- Serum and plasma samples need to be treated with the supplied Dissociation Reagent. Adding this reagent will yield the total corticosterone concentration in serum or plasma.
- Allow the Dissociation Reagent to warm completely to Room Temperature before use.
- Add 5 µL of Dissociation Reagent into 1 mL Eppendorf tubes.
- Add 5 µL of serum or plasma to the Dissociation Reagent in the tube, vortex gently and incubate at room temperature for at least 5 minutes.
- Add 490 µL of Assay Buffer to the tube.
- This 1:100 dilution can be diluted further with Assay Buffer. Final serum and plasma dilutions should be ≥ 1:100.

II. **Urine:**

- Urine should be diluted ≥ 1:20 by taking one part of sample and adding 19 or more parts of Assay Buffer prior to conducting assay.
- **Normalize the sample value based on creatinine levels using our Urine Creatinine assay kit Cat NO. ZX-44110-96 in random urine specimen.**

III. **Dried Fecal Sample:**

- Ensure that the sample is completely dry, and powder the sample to improve extraction recovery. Remove any large particles if possible.
- Weigh out ≥ 0.2 gram of dried fecal solid into a tube. Samples can be dried by passive drying, gentle heating (≤ 60°C), or freeze-drying (lyophilization).
- Add 1 mL of ethanol per 0.1 gram of solid fecal sample (100 mg/mL) and seal.
- Shake strongly for at least 30 minutes.
- Centrifuge at 5000 rpm at 4°C for 15 minutes and collect supernatant in a clean tube. This material can be stored at ≤ -20°C for at least a month if properly sealed.
  - **Note:** Samples containing low levels of analyte can be concentrated by drying down the extract and resuspension in a reduced volume of Assay Buffer.
- Supernatant should be diluted ≥ 1:5 by taking one part of sample and adding 4 or more parts of Assay Buffer.
- Vortex well and allow to rest 5 minutes at room temperature
- Repeat the vortex step 2 more times to ensure complete steroid solubility.
- The final concentration of ethanol in the sample to be added to the wells should be ≤ 5%. **(≥ 1:4 dilution with Assay Buffer is needed.)**

IV. **Saliva:**

- Frozen the collected saliva at -20°C.
- Upon thawing, centrifuge it at 2500 g for 20 minutes and collect the clear supernatant. Analyze collected supernatant immediately or aliquot and freeze at -20°C.
- Saliva should be diluted ≥ 1:2 by taking one part of sample and adding 1 or more parts of Assay Buffer prior to conducting assay.

V. **Tissue Culture Media:**

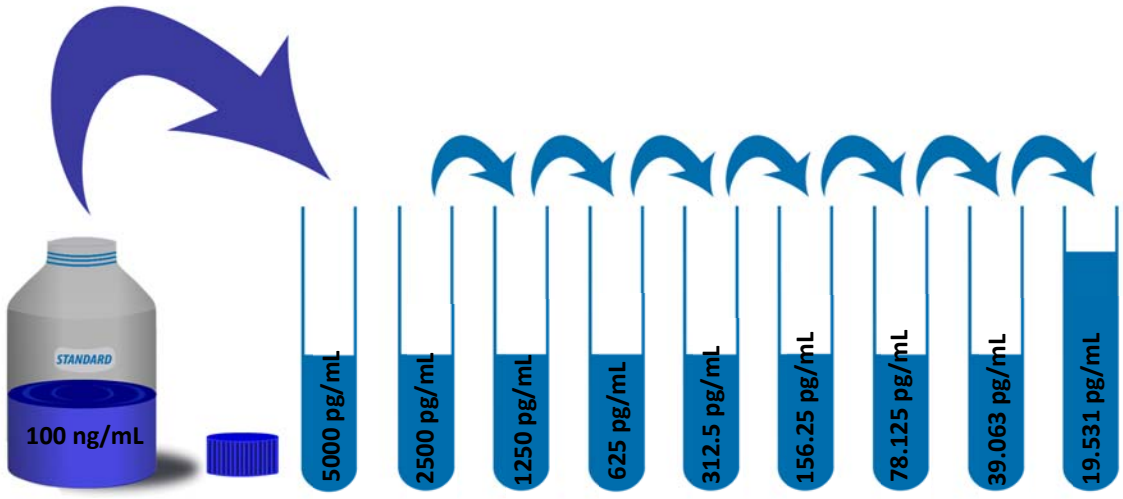
- For measuring corticosterone in tissue culture media (TCM), samples should be read off a standard curve generated in TCM. Samples may need to be diluted further in TCM. The assay has been validated using RPMI-1640.

All the samples must be used within 2 hours of preparation; otherwise, aliquots of the sample should be kept at ≤ -20˚C for later use.

Standard preparation

- Prepare a 1:20 dilution of corticosterone Standard with Assay Buffer (mix 25 µL of standard with 475 µL of Assay Buffer), and label as the Standard No.9 (5000 pg/mL).
- Make series of lower dilutions as described in the table.
- The Assay Buffer is used as the 0 pg/mL standard.

No.	*Concentration*	*Material needed*
Standard No.9	5000 pg/mL	25 µL corticosterone Standard + 475 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.8	2500 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.9 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.7	1250 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.8 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.6	625 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.7 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.5	312.5 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.6 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.4	156.25 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.5 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.3	78.125 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.4 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.2	39.063 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.3 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.1	19.531 pg/mL	250 µL Standard No.2 + 250 µL Assay Buffer
Standard No.0	0 pg/mL	250 µL Assay Buffer



All standard must be used within 2 hours of preparation

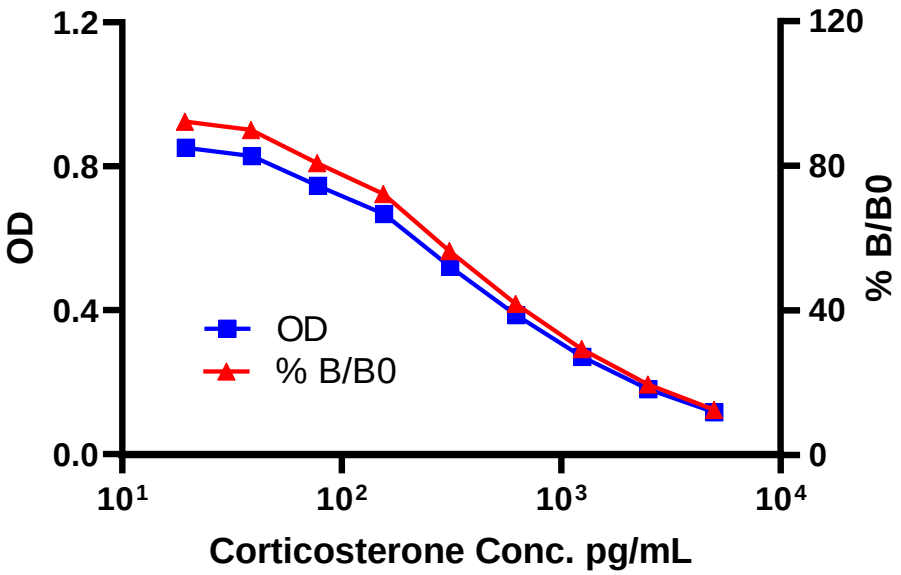
Assay Procedure

1. Pipette 100 µL of either samples or standards into duplicate wells in the plate.
2. Pipette 100 µL of Assay Buffer into duplicate wells of the Zero standard.
3. Pipette 125 µL of Assay Buffer into duplicate wells of the nonspecific binding (NSB).
4. Add 25 µL of Corticosterone Conjugate to each well, using a repeater pipette.
5. Add 25 µL of Corticosterone Antibody to each well except the NSB wells, using a repeater pipette.
6. Gently tap the sides of the plate to ensure adequate mixing of the reagents.
7. Cover the plate with the plate sealer and shake for 1 hour at room temperature. If the plate is not shaken, signals will be approximately 45 % lower.
8. Aspirate the plate and wash each well 4 times with 300 µL Wash Buffer.
9. Tap the plate on clean absorbent towels to dry.
10. Add 100 µL of TMB Substrate to each well using a multichannel/repeater pipette.
11. Incubate at room temperature for 30 minutes without shaking.
12. Add 50 µL of Stop Solution to each well using a multichannel/repeater pipette.
13. Read the optical density at 450 nm.

Calculation

- Average the duplicate optical density (OD) readings for each standard and sample.
- Subtract the mean ODs of the NSB from all OD values
- Create a standard curve by reducing the data using the four parameter logistic curve (4PLC) fitting routine on the plate reader
- Calculate the % B/B0 ratio.
  - **Note:** B0 is the binding for the zero standard or the maximum binding well, which represents the maximum signal from enzyme captured by the specific antibody in competitive ELISA. All other standards and samples are expressed as a percentage of this value (% B/B0).
- The concentrations obtained should be multiplied by the dilution factor to obtain sample values.

Conversion Factor: 100 pg/mL of Corticosterone is equivalent to 288.6 pM



A typical standard curve of ZellX® High Sensitivity Corticosterone ELISA kit

Run your own standard curves for calculation of results

Assay range

The detection limit of ZellX® Corticosterone ELISA assay was determined as 7.7 pg/mL.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the ZellX® Corticosterone ELISA assay was determined as 14.35 pg/mL.

Precision

Intra-Assay Precision (Precision within an assay): 4 human serum samples were tested 20 times in an assay.

Inter-Assay Precision (Precision between assays): 3 human serum samples were tested in duplicate on 14 different assays over multiple days.

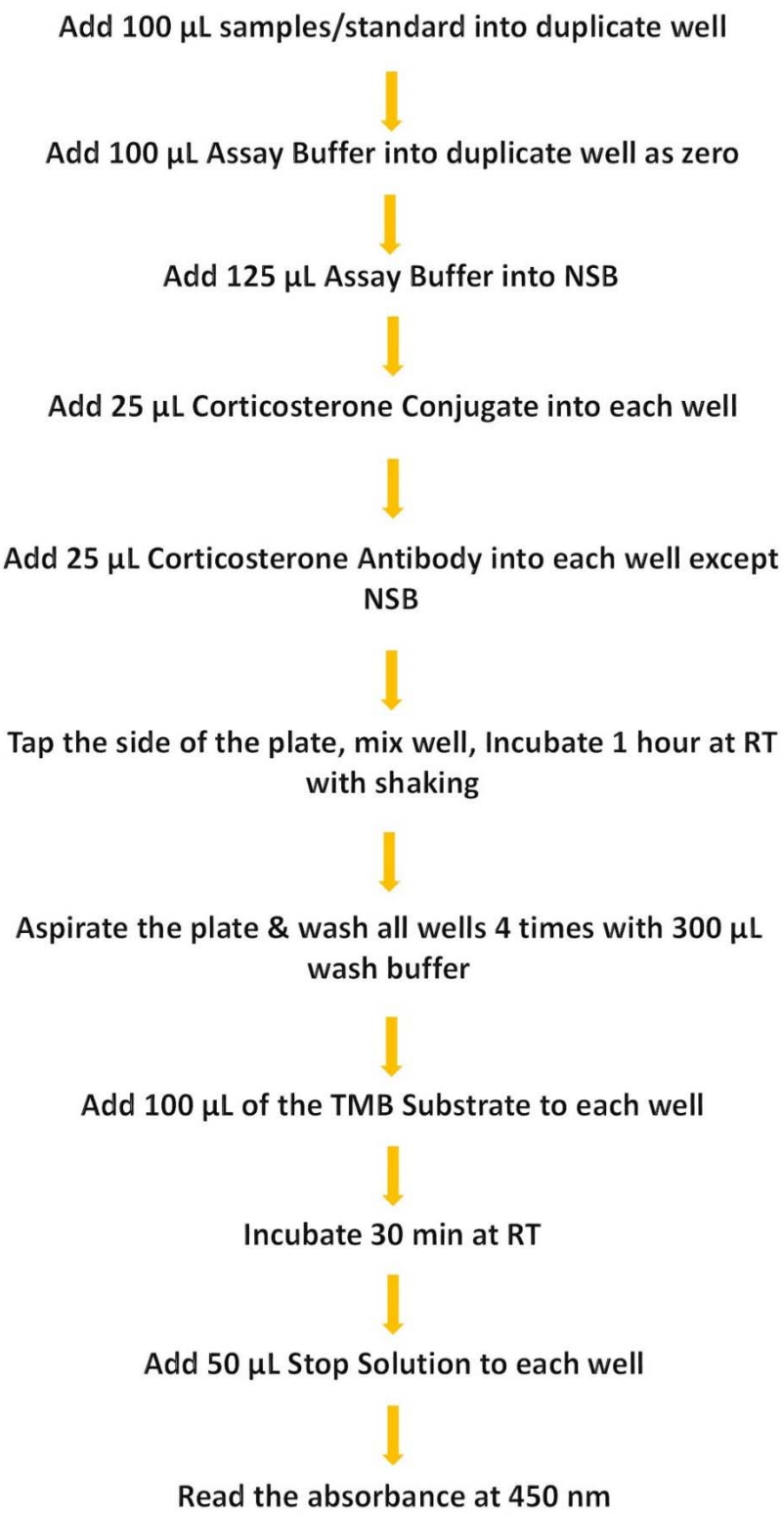
Item	*%CV*
Intra assay	6.3, 4.8, 6.5, 3.1
Inter assay	9.9, 7.5, 6.4

Cross Reactivity

The following cross reactants were tested in the assay and calculated at the 50% binding point.

Steroid	*Cross Reactivity (%)*
Corticosterone	100%
1-dehydrocorticosterone	18.90%
Desoxycorticosterone	12.30%
1α-hydroxycorticosterone	3.3%
11-dehydrocorticosterone	2.44%
Tetrahydrocorticosterone	0.76%
Aldosterone	0.62%
Cortisol	0.38%
Progesterone	0.24%
Dexamethasone	0.12%
Testosterone	0.03%
Corticosterone-21-Hemisuccinate	< 0.1%
Cortisone	< 0.08%
Estradiol	< 0.08%
17-hydroxyprogesterone	< 0.01%
Allopregnanolone	< 0.01%
Dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate	< 0.01%
Estrone-3-glucuronide	< 0.01%
Estrone-3-sulfate	< 0.01%

Protocol summary



References

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5. Vazquez-Palacios G, et al, “Further definition of the effect of corticosterone on the sleep-wake pattern in the male rat.” Pharmacol. Biochem Behavior, 2001: 70(2-3): 305-310.