Anti-LKM-1 ELISA (IgG)
Test instruction

ORDER NO.	ANTIBODIES AGAINST	IG CLASS	SUBSTRATE	FORMAT
EA 1321-9601 G	LKM-1	IgG	Ag-coated microplate wells	96 x 01 (96)

Indications: The ELISA test kit provides a semiquantitative or quantitative in vitro assay for human antibodies of the IgG class against liver-kidney microsomes (LKM) in serum or plasma for the diagnosis of inexplainable increase in transaminases, suspected autoimmune hepatitis.

Application: According to the simplified diagnostic criteria by EM Hennes and colleagues *(International Autoimmune Hepatitis Group*) published in 2008, the detection of autoantibodies against LKM belongs to the routine investigations performed to diagnose autoimmune hepatitis. Antibodies against LKM-1 are mostly observed in children, but may be also present in adult patients with AIH. For delimitation from a virus hepatitis, the parallel determination of the other autoantibodies associated with AIH, such as ANA, pANCA, ASMA or antibodies against LC-1 and SLA/LP is recommended.

Principles of the test: The test kit contains microtiter strips each with 8 break-off reagent wells coated with LKM-1. In the first reaction step, diluted patient samples are incubated in the wells. In the case of positive samples, specific IgG antibodies (also IgA and IgM) will bind to the antigens. To detect the bound antibodies, a second incubation is carried out using an enzyme-labelled anti-human IgG (enzyme conjugate) catalysing a colour reaction.

Contents of the test kit:

Component	Colour	Format	Symbol
1. Microplate wells coated with antigens 12 microplate strips each containing 8 individual break-off wells in a frame, ready for use	---	12 x 8	STRIPS
2. Calibrator 1 200 RU/ml (IgG, human), ready for use	dark red	1 x 2.0 ml	CAL 1
3. Calibrator 2 20 RU/ml (IgG, human), ready for use	red	1 x 2.0 ml	CAL 2
4. Calibrator 3 2 RU/ml (IgG, human), ready for use	light red	1 x 2.0 ml	CAL 3
5. Positive control (IgG, human), ready for use	blue	1 x 2.0 ml	POS CONTROL
6. Negative control (IgG, human), ready for use	green	1 x 2.0 ml	NEG CONTROL
7. Enzyme conjugate peroxidase-labelled anti-human IgG (rabbit), ready for use	green	1 x 12 ml	CONJUGATE
8. Sample buffer ready for use	light blue	1 x 100 ml	SAMPLE BUFFER
9. Wash buffer 10x concentrate	colourless	1 x 100 ml	WASH BUFFER 10x
10. Chromogen/substrate solution TMB/H_2O_2, ready for use	colourless	1 x 12 ml	SUBSTRATE
11. Stop solution 0.5 M sulphuric acid, ready for use	colourless	1 x 12 ml	STOP SOLUTION
12. Test instruction	---	1 booklet	
13. Quality control certificate	---	1 protocol	

LOT Lot description
IVD In vitro diagnostic medical device
CE
Storage temperature
Unopened usable until

Preparation and stability of the reagents

Note: All reagents must be brought to room temperature (+18°C to +25°C) approx. 30 minutes before use. After first use, the reagents are stable until the indicated expiry date if stored at +2°C to +8°C and protected from contamination, unless stated otherwise below.

- **Coated wells:** Ready for use. Tear open the resealable protective wrapping of the microplate at the recesses above the grip seam. Do not open until the microplate has reached room temperature to prevent the individual strips from moistening. Immediately replace the remaining wells of a partly used microplate in the protective wrapping and tightly seal with the integrated grip seam (Do not remove the desiccant bag).
  Once the protective wrapping has been opened for the first time, the wells coated with antigens can be stored in a dry place and at a temperature between +2°C and +8°C for 4 months.

- **Calibrators and controls:** Ready for use. The reagents must be mixed thoroughly before use.

- **Enzyme conjugate:** Ready for use. The enzyme conjugate must be mixed thoroughly before use.

- **Sample buffer:** Ready for use.

- **Wash buffer:** The wash buffer is a 10x concentrate. If crystallisation occurs in the concentrated buffer, warm it to 37°C and mix well before diluting. The quantity required should be removed from the bottle using a clean pipette and diluted with deionised or distilled water (1 part reagent plus 9 parts distilled water).
  For example: For 1 microplate strip, 5 ml concentrate plus 45 ml water.
  The working strength wash buffer is stable for 4 weeks when stored at +2°C to +8°C and handled properly.

- **Chromogen/substrate solution:** Ready for use. Close the bottle immediately after use, as the contents are sensitive to light. The chromogen/substrate solution must be clear on use. Do not use the solution if it is blue coloured.

- **Stop solution:** Ready for use.

Storage and stability: The test kit has to be stored at a temperature between +2°C to +8°C. Do not freeze. Unopened, all test kit components are stable until the indicated expiry date.

Waste disposal: Patient samples, calibrators, controls and incubated microplate strips should be handled as infectious waste. All reagents must be disposed of in accordance with local disposal regulations.

Warning: The calibrators and controls of human origin have tested negative for HBsAg, anti-HCV, anti-HIV-1 and anti-HIV-2. Nonetheless, all materials should be treated as being a potential infection hazard and should be handled with care. Some of the reagents contain the agent sodium azide in a non-declarable concentration. Avoid skin contact.

Preparation and stability of the patient samples

Samples: Human serum or EDTA, heparin or citrate plasma.

Stability: Patient samples to be investigated can generally be stored at +2°C to +8°C for up to 14 days. Diluted samples should be incubated within one working day.

Sample dilution: Patient samples are diluted **1:101** in sample buffer. For example: dilute 10 µl of sample in 1.0 ml sample buffer and mix well by vortexing (sample pipettes are not suitable for mixing).

NOTE: Calibrators and controls are prediluted and ready for use, do not dilute them.

Incubation

For **semiquantative analysis** incubate **calibrator 2** along with the positive and negative controls and patient samples. For **quantitative analysis** incubate **calibrators 1, 2 and 3** along with the positive and negative controls and patient samples.

(Partly) manual test performance

Sample incubation: (1st step)
Transfer 100 µl of the calibrators, positive and negative controls or diluted patient samples into the individual microplate wells according to the pipetting protocol. Incubate for **30 minutes** at room temperature (+18°C to +25°C).

Washing:
Manual: Empty the wells and subsequently wash 3 times using 300 µl of working strength wash buffer for each wash.
Automatic: Wash reagent wells 3 times with 450 µl of working strength wash buffer (program setting: e.g. TECAN Columbus Washer "Overflow Modus").

Leave the wash buffer in each well for 30 to 60 seconds per washing cycle, then empty the wells. After washing (manual and automated tests), thoroughly dispose of all liquid from the microplate by tapping it on absorbent paper with the openings facing downwards to remove all residual wash buffer.

Note: Residual liquid (> 10 µl) remaining in the reagent wells after washing can interfere with the substrate and lead to false low extinction values. Insufficient washing (e.g., less than 3 wash cycles, too small wash buffer volumes, or too short residence times) can lead to false high extinction values.
Free positions on the microplate strip should be filled with blank wells of the same plate format as that of the parameter to be investigated.

Conjugate incubation: (2nd step)
Pipette 100 µl of enzyme conjugate (peroxidase-labelled anti-human IgG) into each of the microplate wells. Incubate for **30 minutes** at room temperature (+18°C to +25°C).

Washing:
Empty the wells. Wash as described above.

Substrate incubation: (3rd step)
Pipette 100 µl of chromogen/substrate solution into each of the microplate wells. Incubate for **15 minutes** at room temperature (+18°C to +25°C), protect from direct sunlight.

Stopping the reaction:
Pipette 100 µl of stop solution into each of the microplate wells in the same order and at the same speed as the chromogen/substrate solution was introduced.

Measurement:
Photometric measurement of the colour intensity should be made at a **wavelength of 450 nm** and a reference wavelength between 620 nm and 650 nm **within 30 minutes of adding the stop solution**. Prior to measuring, slightly shake the microplate to ensure a homogeneous distribution of the solution.

Test performance using fully automated analysis devices

Sample dilution and test performance are carried out fully automatically using an analysis device. The incubation conditions programmed in the respective software authorised by EUROIMMUN may deviate slightly from the specifications given in the ELISA test instruction. However, these conditions were validated in respect of the combination of the EUROIMMUN Analyzer I, Analyzer I-2P or the DSX from Dynex and this EUROIMMUN ELISA. Validation documents are available on enquiry.
Automated test performance using other fully automated, open system analysis devices is possible. However, the combination should be validated by the user.

Pipetting protocol

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	**C 2**	**P 6**	**P 14**	**P 22**			**C 1**	**P 4**	**P 12**	**P 20**		
B	**pos.**	**P 7**	**P 15**	**P 23**			**C 2**	**P 5**	**P 13**	**P 21**		
C	**neg.**	**P 8**	**P 16**	**P 24**			**C 3**	**P 6**	**P 14**	**P 22**		
D	**P 1**	**P 9**	**P 17**				**pos.**	**P 7**	**P 15**	**P 23**		
E	**P 2**	**P 10**	**P 18**				**neg.**	**P 8**	**P 16**	**P 24**		
F	**P 3**	**P 11**	**P 19**				**P 1**	**P 9**	**P 17**			
G	**P 4**	**P 12**	**P 20**				**P 2**	**P 10**	**P 18**			
H	**P 5**	**P 13**	**P 21**				**P 3**	**P 11**	**P 19**			

The pipetting protocol for microtiter strips 1-4 is an example for the **semiquantitative analysis** of 24 patient samples (P 1 to P 24).
The pipetting protocol for microtiter strips 7-10 is an example for the **quantitative analysis** of 24 patient samples (P 1 to P 24).

The calibrators (C 1 to C 3), the positive (pos.) and negative (neg.) controls, and the patient samples have each been incubated in one well. The reliability of the ELISA test can be improved by duplicate determinations for each sample.
The wells can be broken off individually from the strips. This makes it possible to adjust the number of test substrates used to the number of samples to be examined and minimises reagent wastage.
Both positive and negative controls serve as internal controls for the reliability of the test procedure. They should be assayed with each test run.

Calculation of results

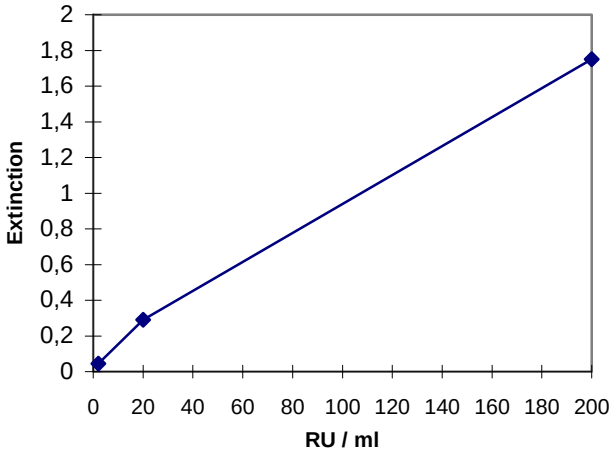
Semiquantitative: Results can be evaluated semiquantitatively by calculating a ratio of the extinction value of the control or patient sample over the extinction value of calibrator 2. Calculate the ratio according to the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Extinction of the control or patient sample}}{\text{Extinction of calibrator 2}} = \text{Ratio}$$

EUROIMMUN recommends interpreting results as follows:

Ratio <1.0:	**negative**
Ratio ≥1.0:	**positive**

Quantitative: The standard curve from which the concentration of antibodies in the serum samples can be taken is obtained by point-to-point plotting of the extinction values measured for the 3 calibration sera against the corresponding units (linear/linear). Use “point-to-point” plotting for calculation of the standard curve by computer. The following plot is an example of a typical calibration curve. Please do not use this curve for the determination of antibody concentrations in patient samples.



If the extinction for a patient sample lies above the value of calibrator 1 (200 RU/ml), the result should be reported as ">200 RU/ml". It is recommended that the sample be re-tested at a dilution of e.g. 1:400. The result in RU/ml read from the calibration curve for this sample must then be multiplied by a factor of 4.

The upper limit of the normal range **(cut-off)** recommended by EUROIMMUN is 20 relative units (RU)/ml. EUROIMMUN recommends interpreting results as follows:

<20 RU/ml:	**negative**
≥20 RU/ml:	**positive**

For duplicate determinations the mean of the two values should be taken. If the two values deviate substantially from one another, EUROIMMUN recommends to retest the samples.

For diagnosis, the clinical picture of the patient always needs to be taken into account along with the serological findings.

Test characteristics

Calibration: As no international reference serum exists for antibodies against LKM-1, the calibration is performed in relative units (RU).

For every group of tests performed, the extinction values of the calibrators and the relative units and/or ratio determined for the positive and negative controls must lie within the limits stated for the relevant test kit lot. A quality control certificate containing these reference values is included. If the values specified for the controls are not achieved, the test results may be inaccurate and the test should be repeated.

The binding activity of the antibodies and the activity of the enzyme used are temperature-dependent. It is therefore recommended using a thermostat in all three incubation steps. The higher the room temperature during the incubation steps, the greater will be the extinction values. Corresponding variations apply also to the incubation times. However, the calibrators are subject to the same influences, with the result that such variations will be largely compensated in the calculation of the result.

Antigen: The reagent wells are coated with recombinant cytochrome P450 IID6 which constitutes the specific target antigen for antibodies against LKM1.

Linearity: The linearity of the Anti-LKM-1 ELISA (IgG) was determined by assaying 4 serial dilutions of different patient samples. The coefficient of determination R^2 for all sera was > 0.95. The Anti-LKM-1 ELISA (IgG) is linear at least in the tested concentration range (2 RU/ml to 194 RU/ml).

Detection limit: The lower detection limit is defined as the mean value of an analyte-free sample plus three times the standard deviation and is the smallest detectable antibody titer. The lower detection limit of the Anti-LKM-1 ELISA (IgG) is 1.4 RU/ml.

Cross reactivity: This ELISA showed no cross reactivity.

Interference: Haemolytic, lipaemic and icteric samples showed no influences on the result up to a concentration of 10 mg/ml for haemoglobin, 20 mg/ml for triglycerides and 0.4 mg/ml for bilirubin in this ELISA.

Reproducibility: The reproducibility of the test was investigated by determining the intra- and inter-assay coefficients of variation (CV) using 3 sera. The intra-assay CVs are based on 20 determinations and the inter-assay CVs on 4 determinations performed in 6 different test runs.

Intra-Assay Variation, n = 20		
Serum	**Mean value (RU/ml)**	**CV (%)**
1	55	3.0
2	96	2.7
3	158	2.3

Inter-Assay Variation, n = 4 x 6		
Serum	**Mean value (RU/ml)**	**CV (%)**
1	58	3.2
2	96	3.7
3	160	2.5

Specificity and sensitivity: 18 patient samples suffering from autoimmune hepatitis and 489 patient samples from a reference laboratory were investigated with the EUROIMMUN Anti-LKM-1 ELISA (IgG). The EUROIMMUN-IIFT (IgG) was used as a reference method. The ELISA has a specificity of 99.4% and a sensitivity of 100% with reference to the EUROIMMUN IIFT.

Serum panel (n = 507)		**IIFT (rat liver/rat kidney)**	
		positive	negative
Anti-LKM-1 ELISA	positive	27	3
	negative	0	477

A patient sample which reacted positive in ELISA and negative in IIFT belongs to a patient with characterised AIH.

Reference range: The levels of the anti-LKM-1 antibodies (IgG) were analysed with this EUROIMMUN ELISA in a panel of 200 healthy blood donors. With a cut-off of 20 RU/ml, 0.5% of the blood donors were anti-LKM-1 positive.

Clinical significance

In Western Europe the incidence of AIH is 1.9 cases per 100,000 in-habitants per year. Untreated, AIH soon develops into liver cirrhosis. However, if low-dose immunosuppressive therapy is started early enough and continued lifelong, patients have a normal life expectancy.

Circulating autoantibodies have come to play a significant role in the diagnosis of AIH. Antibodies against the following antigens are associated with AIH: soluble liver antigen/liver-pancreas antigen (SLA/LP), cell nuclei (ANA), nDNA, smooth muscles (SMA, the most important target antigen being F actin), liver-kidney microsomes (LKM-1, target antigen: cytochrome P450 IID6), liver cytosolic antigen type 1 (LC-1, target antigen: formiminotransferase cyclo-deaminase) and granulocytes (pANCA). Anti-mito-chondrial antibodies (AMA) are also investigated in this context to exclude the possibility of primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC). AIH is sometimes classified according to the antibody status, i.e., subtype I (ANA, SMA), subtype II (antibodies against LKM-1 and LC-1), or subtype III (antibodies against SLA/LP). However, this classification is probably neither clinically nor therapeutically or prognostically relevant, since 10 to 20% of patients with PBC develop secondary AIH (overlap). In these cases the same autoantibodies as in AIH are frequently detected.

Autoantibodies against LKM-1 (LKM-1, antigen: cytochrome P450 IID6) are present in 1% of adults with AIH. In children they are more common. Antibodies against LKM-1 are also found in 1 to 2% of patients with hepatitis C-positive serology.

The highest diagnostic accuray currently available for AIH is probably provided by the various EUROIMMUN enzyme immunoassays that detect autoantibodies against SLA/LP. Although SLA/LP autoantibodies have a prevalence of only 10 to 30% in AIH patients, the predictive value is nearly 100%. Every positive anti-SLA/LP result essentially indicates AIH (provided the relevant clinical symptoms are also present).

Literature references

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