

HBcAb

**Competitive Enzyme Immunoassay for
the determination of antibodies
to Hepatitis B core Antigen
in human serum and plasma**

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -



DIA.PRO

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HBcAb

A. INTENDED USE

Competitive Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the determination of antibodies to Hepatitis B core Antigen in human plasma and sera.

The kit is intended for the screening of blood units and the follow-up of HBV-infected patients.

For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Hepatitis B as follows:

"Hepatitis B is one of the major diseases of mankind and is a serious global public health problem. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver, and the most common cause is infection with one of 5 viruses, called hepatitis A,B,C,D, and E. All of these viruses can cause an acute disease with symptoms lasting several weeks including yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice); dark urine; extreme fatigue; nausea; vomiting and abdominal pain. It can take several months to a year to feel fit again. Hepatitis B virus can cause chronic infection in which the patient never gets rid of the virus and many years later develops cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer.

HBV is the most serious type of viral hepatitis and the only type causing chronic hepatitis for which a vaccine is available. Hepatitis B virus is transmitted by contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person in the same way as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. However, HBV is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV. The main ways of getting infected with HBV are: (a) perinatal (from mother to baby at the birth); (b) child-to-child transmission; (c) unsafe injections and transfusions; (d) sexual contact.

Worldwide, most infections occur from infected mother to child, from child to child contact in household settings, and from reuse of un-sterilized needles and syringes. In many developing countries, almost all children become infected with the virus. In many industrialized countries (e.g. Western Europe and North America), the pattern of transmission is different. In these countries, mother-to-infant and child-to-child transmission accounted for up to one third of chronic infections before childhood hepatitis B vaccination programmes were implemented. However, the majority of infections in these countries are acquired during young adulthood by sexual activity, and injecting drug use. In addition, hepatitis B virus is the major infectious occupational hazard of health workers, and most health care workers have received hepatitis B vaccine.

Hepatitis B virus is not spread by contaminated food or water, and cannot be spread casually in the workplace. High rates of chronic HBV infection are also found in the southern parts of Eastern and Central Europe. In the Middle East and Indian sub-continent, about 5% are chronically infected. Infection is less common in Western Europe and North America, where less than 1% are chronically infected.

Young children who become infected with HBV are the most likely to develop chronic infection. About 90% of infants infected during the first year of life and 30% to 50% of children infected between 1 to 4 years of age develop chronic

infection. The risk of death from HBV-related liver cancer or cirrhosis is approximately 25% for persons who become chronically infected during childhood.

Chronic hepatitis B in some patients is treated with drugs called *interferon or lamivudine*, which can help some patients. Patients with cirrhosis are sometimes given liver transplants, with varying success. It is preferable to prevent this disease with vaccine than to try and cure it.

Hepatitis B vaccine has an outstanding record of safety and effectiveness. Since 1982, over one billion doses of hepatitis B vaccine have been used worldwide. The vaccine is given as a series of three intramuscular doses. Studies have shown that the vaccine is 95% effective in preventing children and adults from developing chronic infection if they have not yet been infected. In many countries where 8% to 15% of children used to become chronically infected with HBV, the rate of chronic infection has been reduced to less than 1% in immunized groups of children. Since 1991, WHO has called for all countries to add hepatitis B vaccine into their national immunization programmes."

Hepatitis B core Antigen (or HBcAg) is the major component of the core particles of HBV.

HBcAg is composed of a single polypeptide of about 17 kD that is released upon disaggregating the core particles; the antigen contains at least one immunological determinant.

Upon primary infection, anti HBcAg antibodies are one of the first markers of HBV hepatitis appearing in the serum of the patient, slightly later than HBsAg, the viral surface antigen.

Anti HBcAg antibodies are produced usually at high titers and their presence is detectable even years after infection. Isolated HBcAb, in absence of other HBV markers, have been observed in infected blood units, suggesting the use of this test for screening HBV, in addition of HBsAg.

The determination of HBcAb has become important for the classification of the viral agent, together with the detection of the other markers of HBV infection, in sera and plasma.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The assay is based on the principle of competition where the antibodies in the sample compete with a monoclonal antibody for a fixed amount of antigen on the solid phase.

A purified recombinant HBcAg is coated to the microwells.

The patient's serum/plasma is added to the microwell together with an additive able to block interferences present in the sample.

In the second incubation after washing, a monoclonal antibody, conjugated with Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) and specific for HBcAg is added and binds to the free rec-HBcAg coated on the plastic.

After incubation, microwells are washed to remove any unbound conjugate and then the chromogen/substrate is added. In the presence of peroxidase enzyme the colorless substrate is hydrolyzed to a colored end-product.

The color intensity is inversely proportional to the amount of antibodies to HBcAg present in the sample.

D. COMPONENTS

Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate **MICROPLATE**

8x12 microwell strips coated with recombinant HBcAg and sealed into a bag with desiccant. Allow the microplate to reach room temperature before opening; reseal unused strips in the bag with desiccant and store at 2..8°C.

2. Negative Control CONTROL -

1x1.0ml/vial. Ready to use. Contains 5% bovine serum albumin, 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4 +/-0.1, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The negative control is pale yellow color coded.

3. Positive Control CONTROL +

1x1.0ml/vial. Ready to use. Contains 5% bovine serum albumin, anti HBcAg antibodies at a concentration of about 10 PEI U/ml, (calibrated on PEI HBc Reference Material 82), 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4 +/-0.1, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The positive control is green color coded.

4. Calibrator CAL ...

n° 1 vial. Lyophilised. To be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. Contains fetal bovine serum, human antibodies to HBcAg at a concentration of 2 PEI U/ml +/-10% (calibrated on PEI HBc Reference Material 82) and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservative.

Note: The volume necessary to dissolve the content of the vial may vary from lot to lot. Please use the right volume reported on the label .

5. Wash buffer concentrate WASHBUF 20X

1x60ml/bottle. 20x concentrated solution. Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2, 0.05% Tween 20 and 0.1% Kathon GC.

6. Enzyme Conjugate CONJ

1x16ml/vial. Ready-to-use solution. Contains 5% bovine serum albumine, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.8 +/-0.1, Horseradish peroxidase conjugated mouse monoclonal antibody to HBcAg in presence of 0.3 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The component is red colour coded .

7. Chromogen/Substrate SUBS TMB

1x16ml/vial. Contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.6 +/-0.1, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (TMB), 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and 4% dimethylsulphoxide

Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

8. Specimen Diluent DILSPE

4x3ml/vial. 10 mM tris buffered solution pH 8.0 +/-0.1 containing 0.1% Kathon GC for the pre-treatment of samples and controls in the plate, blocking interference.

Note: Use all the content of one vial before opening a second one. The reagent is sensitive to oxidation.

9. Sulphuric Acid H₂SO₄ 0.3 M

1x15ml/vial. Contains 0.3 M H₂SO₄ solution. Attention: Irritant (Xi R36/38; S2/26/30)

10. Plate sealing foil n°2

11. Instruction manual n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (100ul and 50ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (double distilled or deionised, charcoal treated to remove oxidizing chemicals used as disinfectants).
3. Timer with 60 minute range or higher.
4. Absorbent paper tissues.
5. Calibrated ELISA microplate thermostatic incubator (dry or wet) set at +37°C.
6. Calibrated ELISA microwell reader with 450nm (reading) and with 620-630nm (blanking) filters.
7. Calibrated ELISA microplate washer.
8. Vortex or similar mixing tools.

F. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. The kit has to be used by skilled and properly trained technical personnel only, under the supervision of a medical doctor responsible of the laboratory.
2. When the kit is used for the screening of blood units and blood components, it has to be used in a laboratory certified and qualified by the national authority in that field (Ministry of Health or similar entity) to carry out this type of analysis.
3. All the personnel involved in performing the assay have to wear protective laboratory clothes, talc-free gloves and glasses. The use of any sharp (needles) or cutting (blades) devices should be avoided. All the personnel involved should be trained in biosafety procedures, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. and reported in the National Institute of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
4. All the personnel involved in sample handling should be vaccinated for HBV and HAV, for which vaccines are available, safe and effective.
5. The laboratory environment should be controlled so as to avoid contaminants such as dust or air-born microbial agents, when opening kit vials and microplates and when performing the test. Protect the Chromogen (TMB) from strong light and avoid vibration of the bench surface where the test is undertaken.
6. Upon receipt, store the kit at 2-8°C into a temperature controlled refrigerator or cold room.
7. Do not interchange components between different lots of the kits. It is recommended that components between two kits of the same lot should not be interchanged.
8. Check that the reagents are clear and do not contain visible heavy particles or aggregates. If not, advise the laboratory supervisor to initiate the necessary procedures.
9. Avoid cross-contamination between serum/plasma samples by using disposable tips and changing them after each sample.
10. Avoid cross-contamination between kit reagents by using disposable tips and changing them between the use of each one.
11. Do not use the kit after the expiration date stated on external (primary container) and internal (vials) labels.
12. Treat all specimens as potentially infective. All human serum specimens should be handled at Biosafety Level 2, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. in compliance with what reported in the Institutes of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
13. The use of disposable plastic-ware is recommended in the preparation of the washing solution or in transferring components into other containers of automated workstations, in order to avoid contamination.
14. Waste produced during the use of the kit has to be discarded in compliance with national directives and laws concerning laboratory waste of chemical and biological substances. In particular, liquid waste generated from the washing procedure, from residuals of controls and from samples has to be treated as potentially infective material and inactivated. Suggested procedures of inactivation are treatment with a 10% final concentration of household bleach for 16-18 hrs or heat inactivation by autoclave at 121°C for 20 min..
15. Accidental spills have to be adsorbed with paper tissues soaked with household bleach and then with water. Tissues should then be discarded in proper containers designated for laboratory/hospital waste.
16. The Sulphuric Acid is an irritant. In case of spills, wash the surface with plenty of water.
17. Other waste materials generated from the use of the kit (example: tips used for samples and controls, used microplates) should be handled as potentially infective and

disposed according to national directives and laws concerning laboratory wastes.

G. SPECIMEN: PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Blood is drawn aseptically by venepuncture and plasma or serum is prepared using standard techniques of preparation of samples for clinical laboratory analysis. No influence has been observed in the preparation of the sample with citrate, EDTA and heparin.
- Avoid any addition of preservatives to samples; especially sodium azide as this chemical would affect the enzymatic activity of the conjugate.
- Samples have to be clearly identified with codes or names in order to avoid misinterpretation of results. When the kit is used for the screening of blood units, bar code labeling and electronic reading is strongly recommended.
- Haemolysed (red) and visibly hyperlipemic ("milky") samples have to be discarded as they could generate false results. Samples containing residues of fibrin or heavy particles or microbial filaments and bodies should be discarded as they could give rise to false results.
- Sera and plasma can be stored at +2°.8°C for up to five days after collection. For longer storage periods, samples can be stored frozen at -20°C for several months. Any frozen samples should not be frozen/thawed more than once as this may generate particles that could affect the test result.
- If particles are present, centrifuge at 2.000 rpm for 20 min or filter using 0.2-0.8µ filters to clean up the sample for testing.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

A study conducted on an opened kit has not pointed out any relevant loss of activity up to 6 re-uses of the device and up to 6 months.

1. Microplates:

Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant has not turned dark green, indicating a defect in storage. In this case, call Dia.Pro's customer service.

Unused strips have to be placed back inside the aluminum pouch, with the desiccant supplied, firmly zipped and stored at +2°.8°C. After first opening, remaining strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.

2. Negative Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

3. Positive Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

4. Calibrator:

Add the volume of ELISA grade water, reported on the label, to the lyophilised powder; let fully dissolve and then gently mix on vortex.

Note: *The dissolved calibrator is not stable. Store it frozen in aliquots at -20°C.*

5. Wash buffer concentrate:

The whole content of the concentrated solution has to be diluted 20x with bidistilled water and mixed gently end-over-end before use. During preparation avoid foaming as the presence of bubbles could impact on the efficiency of the washing cycles.

Note: *Once diluted, the wash solution is stable for 1 week at +2°.8°C.*

6. Enzyme conjugate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, dust or microbes. If this component has to be transferred, use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable containers.

7. Chromogen/Substrate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. Do not expose to strong light, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.

If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable container.

8. Specimen Diluent

Ready to use solution. Mix gently on vortex before use. Use all the content of one vial before opening a second one. The reagent is sensitive to oxidation.

9. Sulphuric Acid:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Attention: Irritant (Xi R36/38; S2/26/30)

Legenda: R 36/38 = Irritating to eyes and skin.

S 2/26/30 = In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

I. INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS USED IN COMBINATION WITH THE KIT

- Micropipettes have to be calibrated to deliver the correct volume required by the assay and must be submitted to regular decontamination (70% ethanol, 10% solution of bleach, hospital grade disinfectants) of those parts that could accidentally come in contact with the sample or the components of the kit. They should also be regularly maintained in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of ±2%.
- The ELISA incubator has to be set at +37°C (tolerance of ±0.5°C) and regularly checked to ensure the correct temperature is maintained. Both dry incubators and water baths are suitable for the incubations, provided that the instrument is validated for the incubation of ELISA tests.
- The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimized using the kit controls/calibrator and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350 µl/well of washing solution = 1 cycle) are sufficient to ensure that the assay performs as expected. A soaking time of 20-30 seconds between cycles is suggested. In order to set correctly their number, it is recommended to run an assay with the kit controls/calibrator and well characterized negative and positive reference samples, and check to match the values reported below in the sections "Validation of Test" and "Assay Performances". Regular calibration of the volumes delivered and maintenance (decontamination and cleaning of needles) of the washer has to be carried out according to the instructions of the manufacturer.
- Incubation times have a tolerance of ±5%.
- The ELISA microplate reader has to be equipped with a reading filter of 450nm and with a second filter (620-630nm, strongly recommended) for blanking purposes. Its standard performances should be (a) bandwidth ≤ 10 nm; (b) absorbance range from 0 to ≥ 2.0; (c) linearity to ≥ 2.0; repeatability ≥ 1%. Blanking is carried out on the well identified in the section "Assay Procedure". The optical system of the reader has to be calibrated regularly to ensure that the correct optical density is measured. It should be regularly maintained according to the manufacturer 's instructions.

- When using an ELISA automated work station, all critical steps (dispensation, incubation, washing, reading, shaking, data handling) have to be carefully set, calibrated, controlled and regularly serviced in order to match the values reported in the sections "Validation of Test" and "Assay Performances". The assay protocol has to be installed in the operating system of the unit and validated as for the washer and the reader. In addition, the liquid handling part of the station (dispensation and washing) has to be validated and correctly set. Particular attention must be paid to avoid carry over by the needles used for dispensing samples and for washing. This must be studied and controlled to minimize the possibility of contamination of adjacent wells due to strongly reactive samples, leading to false positive results. The use of ELISA automated work stations is recommended for blood screening and when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.
- Dia.Pro's customer service offers support to the user in the setting and checking of instruments used in combination with the kit, in order to assure full compliance with the requirements described. Support is also provided for the installation of new instruments to be used with the kit.

L. PRE ASSAY CONTROLS AND OPERATIONS

- Check the expiration date of the kit printed on the external label (primary container). Do not use if expired.
- Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette. Check that no breakage occurred in transportation and no spillage of liquid is present inside the box (primary container). Check that the aluminium pouch, containing the microplate, is not punctured or damaged.
- Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
- Dissolve the Calibrator as described above and gently mix.
- Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
- Set the ELISA incubator at +37°C and prepare the ELISA washer by priming with the diluted washing solution, according to the manufacturers instructions. Set the right number of washing cycles as found in the validation of the instrument for its use with the kit.
- Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
- If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
- Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
- Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
- In case of problems, do not proceed further with the test and advise the supervisor.

M. ASSAY PROCEDURE

The assay has to be performed according to the procedure given below, taking care to maintain the same incubation time for all the samples being tested.

- Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for controls, calibrator and samples.
- Leave the A1 well empty for blanking purposes.
- Dispense 50 µl Specimen Diluent into all the control and sample wells.
- Pipette 50 µl of the Negative Control in triplicate, 50 µl of the Calibrator in duplicate and then 50 µl of the Positive Control in single. Then dispense 50 µl of each of the samples.
- Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil, only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.

- When the first incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate in all the wells, except A1; incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Be careful not to touch the plastic inner surface of the well with the tip filled with the Enzyme Conjugate. Contamination might occur.

- When the second incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells, A1 included.

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light. as a high background might be generated.

- Incubate the microplate protected from light at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**. Wells dispensed with negative control and negative samples will turn from clear to blue (competitive method).
- Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9 to stop the enzymatic reaction. Addition of the stop solution will turn the negative control and negative samples from blue to yellow.
- Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5 using a 450nm filter (reading) and a 620-630nm filter (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

Important notes:

- If the second filter is not available, ensure that no finger prints are present on the bottom of the microwell before reading at 450nm. Finger prints could generate false positive results on reading.
- Reading has should ideally be performed immediately after the addition of the Stop Solution but definitely no longer than 20 minutes afterwards. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to a higher background.

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Specimen Diluent	50 µl
Controls&calibrator and samples	50 µl
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash	n° 4-5
Enzyme Conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash	n° 4-5
TMB/H ₂ O ₂ mix	100 µl
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 µl
Reading OD	450nm

An example of dispensation scheme is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S2										
B	NC	S3										
C	NC	S4										
D	NC	S5										
E	CAL	S6										
F	CAL	S7										
G	PC	S8										
H	S1	S9										

Legenda: BLK = Blank NC = Negative Control
CAL = Calibrator PC = Positive Control S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A check is performed on the controls/calibrator any time the kit is used in order to verify whether the expected OD450nm or Co/S values have been matched in the analysis.

Ensure that the following parameters are met:

Parameter	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.050 OD450nm value
Negative Control (NC)	> 1.000 OD450nm after blanking coefficient of variation < 20%
Calibrator (about 2 PEI U/ml)	Co/S > 1
Positive Control	< 0.200 OD450nm

If the results of the test match the requirements stated above, proceed to the next section.

If they do not, do not proceed any further and perform the following checks:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.050 OD450nm	that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Negative Control (NC) < 1.000 OD450nm after blanking coefficient of variation > 20%	1. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 2. that the proper washing solution has been used and the washer has been primed with it before use; 3. that no mistake has been done in the assay procedure (dispensation of positive control instead of negative control); 4. that no contamination of the negative control or of the wells where the control was dispensed has occurred due to positive samples, to spills or to the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes have not become contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
Calibrator Co/S < 1	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of negative control instead 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Positive Control > 0.200 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during the distribution of the control (dispensation of negative control instead of positive control). 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the positive control has occurred.

If any of the above problems have occurred, report the problem to the supervisor for further actions.

P. RESULTS

The results are calculated by means of a cut-off value determined with the following formula:

$$\text{Cut-Off} = (\text{NC} + \text{PC}) / 5$$

Important note: When the calculation of results is performed by the operating system of an ELISA automated work station, ensure that the proper formulation is used to calculate the cut-off value and generate the correct interpretation of results.

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Results are interpreted as ratio between the cut-off value and the sample OD450nm or Co/S.

Results are interpreted according to the following table:

Co/S	Interpretation
< 0.9	Negative
0.9 - 1.1	Equivocal
> 1.1	Positive

A negative result indicates that the patient has not been infected by HBV.

Any patient showing an equivocal result should be re-tested on a second sample taken 1-2 weeks after the initial sample. The blood unit should not be transfused.

A positive result is indicative of HBV infection and therefore the patient should be treated accordingly or the blood unit should be discarded.

Important notes:

1. Interpretation of results should be done under the supervision of the laboratory supervisor to reduce the risk of judgement errors and misinterpretations.
2. When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.
3. Diagnosis of viral hepatitis infection has to be taken by and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.

An example of calculation is reported below.

The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Negative Control: 2.000 – 2.200 – 2.000 OD450nm
Mean Value: 2.100 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Positive Control: 0.100 OD450nm
Lower than 0.200 – Accepted

$$\text{Cut-Off} = (2.100 + 0.100) / 5 = 0.440$$

Calibrator: 0.400-0.360 OD450nm
Mean value: 0.380 OD450nm
Co/S > 1 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.028 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.890 OD450nm
Sample 1 Co/S > 1.1 positive
Sample 2 Co/S < 0.9 negative

R. PERFORMANCES

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what reported in the Common Technical Specifications or CTS (art. 5, Chapter 3 of IVD Directive 98/79/EC).

1. LIMIT OF DETECTION:

The sensitivity of the assay has been calculated by means of the reference preparation for HBcAb supplied by Paul Erlich Institute (PEI HBc Reference Material 82). The assay shows a sensitivity of about 1.25 PEI U/ml.

The table below reports the Co/S values shown by the PEI standard diluted as suggested by the manufacturer to prepare a limiting dilution curve in Fetal Calf Serum (FCS).

PEI U/ml	Lot 1001	Lot 0702	Lot 0702/2	Lot 1202
5	22.6	18.0	19.0	17.7
2.5	8.0	5.5	5.4	5.0
1.25	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.0
0.625	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

In addition Accurun 1 – series 3000 – supplied by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA, was tested to determine its Co/S value. Results are reported in the table below:

Accurun 1 – series 3000

Value	Lot 1001	Lot 0702	Lot 1202
Co/S	2.9	2.3	2.2

2. DIAGNOSTIC SPECIFICITY AND SENSITIVITY

The Performance Evaluation of the device was carried out in a trial conducted on more than total 6000 samples.

2.1 Diagnostic Specificity

It is defined as the probability of the assay of scoring negative in the absence of specific analyte. A total of more 5000 unselected donors, including 1st time donors, were examined.

In a first study 2023 samples were tested against a US company as reference. A specificity of 99.5% was found. In a second study 1588 samples were examined against a European company. A specificity of 99.7% was found. In the last study 1565 samples were assayed against the same US company; a value of 99.8% was found.

In addition to the above population, 206 samples from hospitalized patients were tested against the European company. A value of 99.3% specificity was found.

Moreover, diagnostic specificity was assessed by testing 164 potentially interfering specimens (other infectious diseases, patients affected by non viral hepatic diseases, dialysis patients, pregnant women, hemolyzed, lipemic, etc.) against the European company. A value of specificity of 100% was assessed.

Finally, both human plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and human sera have been used to determine the specificity.

No false reactivity due to the method of specimen preparation has been observed.

2.2 Diagnostic Sensitivity

It defined as the probability of the assay of scoring positive in the presence of specific analyte.

373 positive specimens were tested against the European company; a diagnostic sensitivity of 99.7 was found.

3. PRECISION

The mean values obtained from a study conducted on three lots and on two samples of different anti-HBcAg reactivity, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs is reported below:

BCAB.CE: lot # 1202

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.943	1.939	1.924	1.935
Std.Deviation	0.081	0.078	0.103	0.087
CV %	4.2	4.0	5.3	4.5

Calibrator (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.143	0.147	0.148	0.146
Std.Deviation	0.014	0.017	0.018	0.016
CV %	9.8	11.4	12.1	11.1
Co/S	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7

BCAB.CE: lot # 0702

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.163	2.110	2.106	2.126
Std.Deviation	0.105	0.088	0.139	0.111
CV %	4.9	4.2	6.6	5.2

Calibrator (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.182	0.193	0.195	0.190
Std.Deviation	0.018	0.023	0.019	0.020
CV %	10.0	12.0	9.9	10.6
Co/S	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3

BCAB.CE: lot # 0702/2

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.278	2.098	2.130	2.169
Std.Deviation	0.135	0.126	0.159	0.140
CV %	5.9	6.0	7.5	6.5

Calibrator (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.193	0.190	0.199	0.134
Std.Deviation	0.023	0.023	0.027	0.025
CV %	12.1	12.3	13.5	12.6
Co/S	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3

The variability shown in the tables did not result in sample misclassification.

S. LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

Bacterial contamination or heat inactivation of the specimen may affect the absorbance values of the samples with consequent alteration of the level of the analyte. This test is suitable only for testing single samples and not pooled ones.

Diagnosis of an infectious disease should not be established on the basis of a single test result. The patient's clinical history, symptomatology, as well as other diagnostic data should be considered.

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All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System approved by an EC Notified Body. Each lot is submitted to a quality control and released into the market only if conforming with the EC technical specifications and acceptance criteria.

Produced by
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CE
0318

HBc IgM

**“Capture” Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA)
for the quantitative/qualitative
determination of IgM class antibody to
Hepatitis B Virus core Antigen
in human plasma and sera**

- for “in vitro” diagnostic use only -



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HBc IgM

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgM class antibodies to Hepatitis B Virus core Antigen in human plasma and sera with the "capture" system.

The kit is intended for the classification of the viral agent and for the follow-up of chronic patients under therapy.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B core Antigen (or HBcAg) is the major component of the core particles of Hepatitis B virus (or HBV).

Particles have a size of 27nm and contain a circular double-stranded DNA molecule, a specific DNA-polymerase and HBcAg. HBcAg is composed of a single polypeptide of about 17 kD that is released upon disaggregation of the core particles ; the antigen contains at least one immunological determinant.

Upon primary infection, anti HBcAg IgM antibodies are one of the first markers of HBV hepatitis appearing in the serum of the patient, together or slightly later than HBsAg, the viral surface antigen.

Anti HBcAg IgM titers, very high during the acute phase, decrease along the illness, as IgG antibodies appear, down to undetectable levels in convalescent patients.

In chronic hepatitis, however, spikes of anti HBcAg IgM synthesis are present, confirming reactivation of HBV in hepatocytes and giving origin to permanent IgM low titers.

The determination of anti HBcAg IgM antibodies has become very important for the fast classification of the virus, of the phase of the illness and for the monitoring of patients under treatment with interferon.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The assay is based on the principle of "IgM capture" where IgM class antibodies in the sample are first captured by the solid phase coated with anti hIgM antibody.

After washing out all the other components of the sample and in particular IgG antibodies, the specific IgM captured on the solid phase are detected by the addition of a purified preparation of recombinant HBcAg, labelled with a monoclonal antibody conjugated with peroxidase (HRP).

After incubation, microwells are washed to remove unbound conjugate and then the chromogen/substrate is added.

In the presence of peroxidase the colourless substrate is hydrolysed to a coloured end-product, whose optical density may be detected and is proportional to the amount of IgM antibodies to HBcAg present in the sample.

D. COMPONENTS

Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE

8x12 microwell strips coated with purified anti human IgM specific mouse monoclonal antibody, post-coated with bovine serum proteins and sealed into a bag with desiccant. Allow the microplate to reach room temperature before opening; reseal unused strips in the bag with desiccant and store at 4°C.

2. Calibration Curve: CAL N° ...

6x2.0 ml/vial. Ready to use and color coded standard curve calibrated on the HBcIgM reference preparation supplied by Paul Ehrlich Institute (HBc-Referenzserum-IgM 84), ranging: CAL1 = 0 U/ml // CAL2 = 5 U/ml // CAL3 = 10 U/ml // CAL4 = 20 U/ml // CAL 5 = 50 U/ml // CAL 6 = 100 U/ml.

It contains chemical inactivated HBcIgM positive human plasma, 100 mM Tris buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.5% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives. The Calibration Curve is coded with blue alimentary dye.

Important Note: Even if plasma has been chemically inactivated, handle this component as potentially infectious.

3. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X

1x60ml/bottle. 20x concentrated solution.

Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2, 0.05% Tween 20 and 0.045% ProClin 300.

4. Enzyme Conjugate (Immunocomplex) : CONJ

1x16.0 ml/vial. Ready-to-use solution. Contains an immunocomplex formed by a specific mouse monoclonal antibody, labelled with HRP, and a purified recombinant HBcAg. The reagent is dissolved into a buffer solution 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.045% ProClin 300 and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives. The component is red colour coded.

5. Specimen Diluent : DILSPE

2x60.0 ml/vial. Buffered solution for the dilution of samples; it contains 100 mM Tris buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.5% Tween 20, 2% Casein, 0.045% ProClin 300 and 0.09% sodium azide as preservatives. The component is blue color coded.

6. Control Serum : CONTROL ...ml

1 vial. Lyophilized. Contains fetal bovine serum, human HBcIgM positive human plasma calibrated at 20 ± 10% PEI U/ml. 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives.

Important Notes

1. The volume necessary to dissolve the content of the vial may vary from lot to lot. Please use the right volume reported on the label .

2. Important Note: Even if plasma has been chemically inactivated, handle this component as potentially infectious.

7. Chromogen/Substrate : SUBS TMB

1x16ml/vial. Contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine or TMB and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide or H₂O₂.

Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

8. Sulphuric Acid: H2SO4 0.3 M

1x15ml/vial. Contains 0.3 M H₂SO₄ solution.

Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

9. Plate sealing foils: n° 2

10. Package insert: n° 1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (150ul, 100ul and 50ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (double distilled or deionised, charcoal treated to remove oxidizing chemicals used as disinfectants).
3. Timer with 60 minute range or higher.
4. Absorbent paper tissues.
5. Calibrated ELISA microplate thermostatic incubator (dry or wet) set at +37°C.
6. Calibrated ELISA microwell reader with 450nm (reading) and with 620-630nm (blanking) filters.
7. Calibrated ELISA microplate washer.
8. Vortex or similar mixing tools.

F. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. The kit has to be used by skilled and properly trained technical personnel only, under the supervision of a medical doctor responsible of the laboratory.
2. All the personnel involved in performing the assay have to wear protective laboratory clothes, talc-free gloves and glasses. The use of any sharp (needles) or cutting (blades) devices should be avoided. All the personnel involved should be trained in biosafety procedures, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. and reported in the National Institute of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
3. All the personnel involved in sample handling should be vaccinated for HBV and HAV, for which vaccines are available, safe and effective.
4. The laboratory environment should be controlled so as to avoid contaminants such as dust or air-born microbial agents, when opening kit vials and microplates and when performing the test. Protect the Chromogen/Substrate (TMB) from strong light and avoid vibration of the bench surface where the test is undertaken.
5. Upon receipt, store the kit at 2-8°C into a temperature controlled refrigerator or cold room.
6. Do not interchange components between different lots of the kits. It is recommended that components between two kits of the same lot should not be interchanged.
7. Check that the reagents are clear and do not contain visible heavy particles or aggregates. If not, advise the laboratory supervisor to initiate the necessary procedures.
8. Avoid cross-contamination between serum/plasma samples by using disposable tips and changing them after each sample. Do not reuse disposable tips.
9. Avoid cross-contamination between kit reagents by using disposable tips and changing them between the use of each one. Do not reuse disposable tips.
10. Do not use the kit after the expiration date stated on external (primary container) and internal (vials) labels.
11. Treat all specimens as potentially infective. All human serum specimens should be handled at Biosafety Level 2, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. in compliance with what reported in the Institutes of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
12. The use of disposable plastic-ware is recommended in the preparation of the washing solution or in transferring components into other containers of automated workstations, in order to avoid contamination.
13. Waste produced during the use of the kit has to be discarded in compliance with national directives and laws concerning laboratory waste of chemical and biological substances. In particular, liquid waste generated from the washing procedure, from residuals of controls and from samples has to be treated as potentially infective material and inactivated. Suggested procedures of inactivation are treatment with a 10% final concentration of household bleach for 16-18 hrs or heat inactivation by autoclave at 121°C for 20 min..
14. Accidental spills have to be adsorbed with paper tissues soaked with household bleach and then with water. Tissues should then be discarded in proper containers designated for laboratory/hospital waste.
15. The Stop Solution is an irritant. In case of spills, wash the surface with plenty of water
16. Other waste materials generated from the use of the kit (example: tips used for samples and controls, used microplates) should be handled as potentially infective and disposed according to national directives and laws concerning laboratory wastes.

G. SPECIMEN: PREPARATION AND RECOMMANDATIONS

1. Blood is drawn aseptically by venepuncture and plasma or serum is prepared using standard techniques of preparation of samples for clinical laboratory analysis. No influence has been

observed in the preparation of the sample with citrate, EDTA and heparin.

2. Avoid any addition of preservatives; especially sodium azide as this chemical would affect the enzymatic activity of the conjugate, generating false negative results.
3. Samples have to be clearly identified with codes or names in order to avoid misinterpretation of results.
4. Haemolysed and visibly hyperlipemic ("milky") samples have to be discarded as they could generate false results. Samples containing residues of fibrin or heavy particles or microbial filaments and bodies should be discarded as they could give rise to false results.
5. Sera and plasma can be stored at +2°...+8°C in primary collection tubes for up to five days after collection. Do not freeze primary tubes of collection. For longer storage periods, sera and plasma samples, carefully removed from the primary collection tube, can be stored frozen at -20°C for at least 12 months. Any frozen samples should not be frozen/thawed more than once as this may generate particles that could affect the test result.
6. If particles are present, centrifuge at 2.000 rpm for 20 min or filter using 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

A study conducted on an opened kit has not pointed out any relevant loss of activity up to 6 re-uses of the device and up to 3 months.

Microplate:

Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant has not turned dark green, indicating a defect in manufacturing. In this case, call Dia.Pro's customer service. Unused strips have to be placed back into the aluminium pouch, with the desiccant supplied, firmly zipped and stored at +2°-8°C. When opened the first time, unused strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.

Calibration Curve:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Wash buffer concentrate:

The whole content of the 20x concentrated solution has to be diluted with bidistilled water up to 1200ml and mixed gently end-over-end before use.

During preparation avoid foaming as the presence of bubbles could impact on the efficiency of the washing cycles.

Note: Once diluted, the wash solution is stable for 1 week at +2..8° C.

Enzyme conjugate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, dust or microbes. If this component has to be transferred, use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable containers.

Specimen Diluent

Ready to use. Mix on vortex before use.

Control Serum

Dissolve the content of the vial with EIA grade water as reported in the label. Mix well on vortex before use. The dissolved control serum is ready to use.

Note: The control after dissolution is not stable. Store frozen in aliquots at -20°C.

Chromogen/Substrate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. Do not expose to strong light, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.

If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable container

Sulphuric Acid:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

Legenda:

Warning H statements:

H315 – Causes skin irritation.

H319 – Causes serious eye irritation.

Precautionary P statements:

P280 – Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

P302 + P352 – IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water.

P332 + P313 – If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

P305 + P351 + P338 – IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

P337 + P313 – If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.

P362 + P363 – Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

I. INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS USED IN COMBINATION WITH THE KIT

1. Micropipettes have to be calibrated to deliver the correct volume required by the assay and must be submitted to regular decontamination (household alcohol, 10% solution of bleach, hospital grade disinfectants) of those parts that could accidentally come in contact with the sample. They should also be regularly maintained. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly. They should also be regularly maintained in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of $\pm 2\%$.
2. The ELISA incubator has to be set at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$ (tolerance of $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) and regularly checked to ensure the correct temperature is maintained. Both dry incubators and water baths are suitable for the incubations, provided that the instrument is validated for the incubation of ELISA tests.
3. The **ELISA washer** is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated in advance, checked for the delivery of the right dispensation volume and regularly submitted to maintenance according to the manufacturer's instructions for use. In particular the washer, at the end of the daily workload, has to be extensively cleaned out of salts with deionized water. Before use, the washer has to be extensively primed with the diluted Washing Solution. The instrument weekly has to be submitted to decontamination according to its manual (NaOH 0.1 M decontamination suggested). 5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/well of washing solution + 20 sec soaking = 1 cycle) are sufficient to ensure the assay with the declared performances. If soaking is not possible add one more cycle of washing. An incorrect washing cycle or salt-blocked needles are the major cause of false positive reactions.
4. Incubation times have a tolerance of $\pm 5\%$.
5. The ELISA reader has to be equipped with a reading filter of 450nm and with a second filter of 620-630nm, mandatory for blanking purposes. Blanking is carried out on the well identified in the section "Assay Procedure". The optical

system of the reader has to be calibrated regularly to ensure the correct optical density is measured. It should be regularly maintained according to the manufacturer 's instructions.

6. When using an ELISA automated work station, all critical steps (dispensation, incubation, washing, reading, data handling) have to be carefully set, calibrated, controlled and regularly serviced in order to match the values reported in the sections "Validation of Test" and "Assay Performances". The assay protocol has to be installed in the operating system of the unit and validated as for the washer and the reader. In addition, the liquid handling part of the station (dispensation and washing) has to be validated and correctly set. Particular attention must be paid to avoid carry over by the needles used for dispensing and for washing. This must be studied and controlled to minimize the possibility of contamination of adjacent wells. The use of ELISA automated work stations is recommended when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.
7. Dia.Pro's customer service offers support to the user in the setting and checking of instruments used in combination with the kit, in order to assure compliance with the requirements described. Support is also provided for the installation of new instruments to be used with the kit.

L. PRE ASSAY CONTROLS AND OPERATIONS

1. Check the expiration date of the kit printed on the external label (primary container). Do not use if expired.
2. Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen/Substrate (TMB+H₂O₂) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette. Check that no breakage occurred in transportation and no spillage of liquid is present inside the box (primary container). Check that the aluminium pouch, containing the microplate, is not punctured or damaged.
3. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
4. Dissolve the Control Serum as described above and gently mix.
5. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
6. Set the ELISA incubator at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$ and prepare the ELISA washer by priming with the diluted washing solution, according to the manufacturers instructions. Set the right number of washing cycles as reported in the specific section.
7. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
8. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
9. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
10. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.

In case of problems, do not proceed further with the test and advise the supervisor.

M. ASSAY PROCEDURE

The assay has to be carried out according to what reported below, taking care to maintain the same incubation time for all the samples in testing.

Two procedures can be carried out with the device according to the request of the clinician.

M.1 Quantitative analysis

1. Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for standards and samples.

- Dilute samples **1:101** dispensing 1 ml Sample Diluent into a disposable tube and then 10 µl sample; mix on vortex before use. Do not dilute the Calibrators and the dissolved Control Serum as they are ready-to-use.
- Leave the A1+B1 wells empty for blanking purposes.
- Pipette 100 µl of the Calibrators in duplicate, 100 µl dissolved Control Serum in duplicate followed by 100 µl of diluted samples. The Control Serum is used to verify that the whole analytical system works as expected. Check that Calibrators, Control Serum and samples have been correctly added.
- Incubate the microplate **for 60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil, only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.

- When the first incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- In all the wells except A1+B1, pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate. Incubate the microplate **for 60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Be careful not to touch the inner surface of the well with the pipette tip and not to immerse the top of it into samples or controls. Contamination might occur.

- When the second incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells, A1+B1 included.

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light. as a high background might be generated.

- Incubate the microplate protected from light at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**. Wells dispensed with positive samples, the control serum and the positive calibrators, as well, will turn from clear to blue.
- Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9 to block the enzymatic reaction.. Addition of the stop solution will turn the positive control and positive samples from blue to yellow.
- Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5 using a 450nm filter (reading) and a 620-630nm filter (background subtraction, mandatory), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

M.2 Qualitative analysis

- Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for standards and samples.
- Dilute samples **1:101** dispensing 1 ml Sample Diluent into a disposable tube and then 10 µl sample; mix on vortex before use. Do not dilute the Calibrators as they are ready-to-use.
- Leave the A1 well empty for blanking purposes.
- Pipette 100 µl Calibrator 0 U/ml in duplicate, 100 µl Calibrator 10 U/ml in duplicate and 100 µl Calibrator 100 U/ml in single. Then dispense 100 µl diluted samples in proper sample wells. Check that Calibrators and samples have been correctly added.
- Incubate the microplate **for 60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil, only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.

- When the first incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- In all the wells except A1, pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate. Incubate the microplate **for 60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Be careful not to touch the inner surface of the well with the pipette tip and not to immerse the top of it into samples or controls. Contamination might occur.

- When the second incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells, A1 included.

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light. as a high background might be generated.

- Incubate the microplate protected from light at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**. Wells dispensed with positive samples, the control serum and the positive calibrators, as well, will turn from clear to blue.
- Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9 to block the enzymatic reaction. Addition of the stop solution will turn the positive control and positive samples from blue to yellow.
- Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5 using a 450nm filter (reading) and a 620-630nm filter (background subtraction, mandatory), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

Important notes:

- Ensure that no finger prints are present on the bottom of the microwell before reading. Finger prints could generate false positive results on reading.
- Reading has should ideally be performed immediately after the addition of the Stop Solution but definitely no longer than 20 minutes afterwards. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to a higher background.
- The Control Serum (CS) does not affect the cut-off calculation and therefore the test results calculation. The Control Serum may be used only when a laboratory internal quality control is required by the management

N. ASSAY SCHEME

The assay protocol can be summarized in the table below:

Calibrators & diluted samples & dissolved Control Serum	100 ul
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Washing steps	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
Enzyme Conjugate	100 ul
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Washing steps	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
Chromogen/Substrate	100ul
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	room
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm /620-630nm

An example of dispensation scheme in quantitative assays is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S1									
B	BLK	CAL4	S2									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S3									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S4									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S5									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S6									
G	CAL3	CS	S7									
H	CAL3	CS	S8									

Legenda: BLK = Blank // CAL = Calibrators
CS = Control Serum // S = Sample

An example of dispensation scheme in qualitative assays is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S 3	S 11									
B	CAL1	S 4	S 12									
C	CAL1	S 5	S 13									
D	CAL3	S 6	S 14									
E	CAL3	S 7	S 15									
F	CAL6	S 8	S 16									
G	S 1	S 9	S 17									
H	S 2	S 10	S 18									

Legenda: BLK = Blank // CAL = Calibrators// S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A validation check is carried out on the controls any time the kit is used in order to verify whether the performances of the assay are as qualified.

Control that the following data are matched:

Parameter	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm
Calibrator 0 PEI U/ml	< 0.150 OD450nm after blanking
coefficient of variation	< 30%
Calibrator 5 PEI U/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm Cal 0 U/ml + 5SD and anyway > OD450nm Cal 0 U/ml + 0.100
Calibrator 10 PEI U/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm Cal 0 U/ml + 0.200
Calibrator 100 PEI U/ml	> 1.000 OD450nm
Control Serum	OD450nm = OD450nm of the Calibrator 20 U/ml ± 10%

If the results of the test match the requirements stated above, proceed to the next section.

If they do not, do not proceed any further and perform the following checks:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Calibrator 0 U/ml > 0.150 OD450nm after blanking	1. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study;
coefficient of variation > 30%	2. that the proper washing solution has been used and the washer has been primed with it before use;
	3. that no mistake has been done in the assay procedure (dispensation of positive calibrators instead of Cal 0);
	4. that no contamination of the Cal 0, or of the wells where this was dispensed, has occurred due to positive samples, to spills or to the enzyme conjugate;
	5. that micropipettes have not become contaminated

	with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
Calibrator 5 U/ml < CAL 0 + 5SD or < CAL 0 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution; 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Calibrator 10 U/ml < CAL 0 + 0.200	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution; 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Calibrator 100 U/ml < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during the distribution of the calibrator; 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Control Serum Different from expected value	First verify that: 1. the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong sample); 3. the washing procedure and the washer settings are correct; 4. no external contamination of the standard has occurred. 5. the Control Serum has been dissolved with the right volume reported on the label. If a mistake has been pointed out, the assay has to be repeated after eliminating the reason of this error. If no mistake has been found, proceed as follows: a) a value up to +/-20% is obtained: the overall Precision of the laboratory might not enable the test to match the expected value +/-10%. Report the problem to the Supervisor for acceptance or refusal of this result. b) a value higher than +/-20% is obtained: in this case the test is invalid and the DiaPro's customer service has to be called.

If any of the above problems have occurred, report the problem to the supervisor for further actions.

Important note:

The analysis must be done proceeding as the reading step described in the section M, point 12.

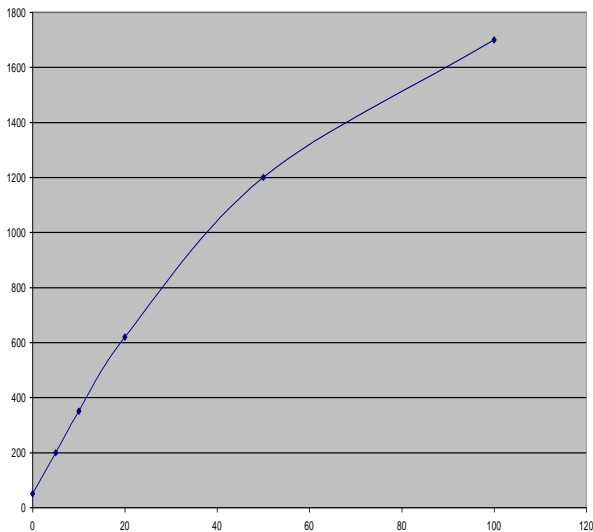
P. RESULTS

P.1 Quantitative method

If the test turns out to be valid, use for the quantitative method an approved curve fitting program to draw the calibration curve from the values obtained by reading at 450nm/620-630nm (4-parameters interpolation is suggested).

Then on the calibration curve calculate the concentration of anti HBc IgM antibody in samples.

An example of Calibration curve is reported below.



Important Note: Do not use this example to make real calculations on samples.

P.2 Qualitative method

In the qualitative method, calculate the mean OD450nm/620-630nm values for the Calibrators 0 and 10 U/ml and then check that the assay is valid.

Example of calculation (data obtained proceeding as the the reading step described in the section M, point 12).

The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Calibrator 0 U/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
 Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
 Lower than 0.150 – Accepted
 Calibrator 10 U/ml: 0.350 – 0.330 OD450nm
 Mean Value: 0.340 OD450nm
 Higher than Cal 0 + 0.200 – Accepted
 Calibrator 100 U/ml: 2.845 OD450nm
 Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Q.1 Qualitative results

For qualitative interpretations, the medical literature generally considers positive samples showing a concentration of HBc IgM ≥ 10 PEI U/ml.

Test results are therefore interpreted as a ratio of the sample OD450nm and the OD450nm/620-630nm of the Cal 10 PEI U/ml (or S/Co) according to the following table:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 0.9	Negative
0.9 - 1.1	Equivocal
> 1.1	Positive

Q.2 Quantitative results

The calibration curve is used to determine the concentration of IgM antibodies to HBcAg in samples.

Samples with a concentration lower than 5 PEI U/ml are considered negative for HBcIgM.

Samples with a concentration between 5 and 10 PEI U/ml are considered in a gray-zone.

In the follow up of chronic hepatitis, however, values higher of 5 PEI U/ml may be considered positive for HBcIgM, when in presence of other clinical signs.

Samples with a concentration higher than 10 PEI U/ml are considered positive for HBcIgM.

Important general notes:

- When the calculation of results is performed by the operating system of an ELISA automated work station, ensure that the proper formulation is used to produce the calibration curve, calculate sample concentration and generate the correct interpretation of results.
- Interpretation of results should be done under the supervision of the laboratory supervisor to reduce the risk of judgement errors and misinterpretations.
- A positive result is indicative of HBV infection and therefore the patient should be treated accordingly.
- When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.
- Diagnosis of viral hepatitis infection has to be taken by and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.

R. PERFORMANCES

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what reported in the Common Technical Specifications or CTS (art. 5, Chapter 3 of IVD Directive 98/79/EC).

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of :

- the HBcIgM reference preparation supplied by Paul Erlich Institute, Germany (HBc-Referenzserum-IgM 84), on which the Standard Curve has been calibrated.
- Accurun 113 (cat. N° A113-5001) supplied by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA

Results of Quality Control for three lots are given in the following tables:

BCM.CE	Lot #	0103	Lot #	0103/2	Lot #	0303
PEI U/ml	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
100	2.752	8.9	2.883	9.7	2.911	9.1
50	1.917	6.2	1.972	6.7	2.053	6.4
20	0.980	3.2	0.914	3.1	1.095	3.4
10	0.544	1.8	0.513	1.7	0.592	1.8
5	0.310	1.0	0.296	1.0	0.321	1.0
2.5	0.155	0.5	0.149	0.5	0.161	0.5
1.25	0.084	0.3	0.084	0.3	0.093	0.3
negative	0.040		0.035		0.044	

BBI Accurun # 113 lot # 48-9999-0621

BCM.CE	Lot #	0103	Lot #	0103/2	Lot #	0303
BBI 113	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
1 x	3.336	10.8	3.195	10.4	3.269	10.3
2 x	2.472	8.0	2.385	7.8	2.385	7.5
4 x	1.467	4.7	1.413	4.6	1.429	4.5
8 x	0.865	2.8	0.807	2.6	0.856	2.7
16 x	0.430	1.4	0.427	1.4	0.410	1.3
32 x	0.234	0.8	0.234	0.8	0.248	0.8
64 x	0.129	0.4	0.133	0.4	0.122	0.4
128 x	0.086	0.3	0.082	0.3	0.089	0.3
negative	0.040		0.040		0.052	

Moreover the BBI's panel # PHE 102 was also examined in three lots of product; data are reported below with reference to a European kit (BBI's results).

BBI – Panel code PHE 102

	Lot # 0103	Lot # 0103/2	Lot # 0303	Sorin EIA
Member	S/Co	S/Co	S/Co	S/Co
01	6.7	6.3	6.5	2.0
02	11.3	10.0	10.7	6.1
03	9.5	7.2	8.4	3.0
04	5.8	3.4	4.1	2.1
05	11.3	11.4	11.2	3.1
06	12.1	11.6	11.8	4.1
07	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
08	9.2	8.5	8.8	2.3
09	12.2	11.7	11.9	4.2
10	11.7	10.2	10.8	2.8
11	5.9	5.8	5.8	2.1
12	12.7	11.4	11.7	5.2
13	11.6	11.0	11.3	3.6
14	7.0	6.3	6.6	2.3
15	12.4	11.5	11.8	4.5

2. Diagnostic Sensitivity:

It is defined as the probability of the assay of scoring positive in the presence of the specific analyte.

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested internally and externally in a qualified Clinical Laboratory on panels of samples classified positive by a US FDA approved kit.

Positive samples were collected from different patients and from different HBV pathologies (acute and chronic hepatitis).

An overall value > 98% has been found in the study conducted on a total number of more than 200 samples.

A Seroconversion panel produced by BBI, USA, code # PHM 935A, has also been studied; results are reported below with reference to two commercial kits (BBI's results).

BBI Panel PHM 935A

	Lot # 0103	Abbott EIA	DiaSorin EIA
Member #	S/Co	S/Co	S/Co
01	0.2	0.1	0.1
02	0.2	0.1	0.1
03	0.2	0.1	0.1
04	0.1	0.1	0.1
05	0.2	0.1	0.1
06	0.2	0.1	0.1
07	0.2	0.1	0.1
08	0.1	0.1	0.1
09	0.1	0.1	0.1
10	0.1	0.1	0.1
11	0.2	0.1	0.1
12	0.2	0.1	0.1
13	2.8	3.7	0.7
14	5.0	6.4	0.9
15	> 12	6.2	4.5
16	> 12	5.6	4.5
17	> 12	5.5	4.3
18	> 12	4.8	4.3
19	> 12	> 6.6	4.4
20	> 12	> 6.6	5.2

3. Diagnostic Specificity:

It is defined as the probability of the assay of scoring negative in the absence of the specific analyte.

The diagnostic specificity has been determined internally and externally in a qualified Clinical Laboratory on panels of negative samples from normal individuals and blood donors, classified negative with a US FDA approved kit.

A total number of more than 400 negative specimens were tested. A diagnostic specificity > 98% has been found.

Moreover, the diagnostic specificity was assessed by testing more than 50 potentially interfering specimens (other infectious diseases, patients affected by non viral hepatic diseases, dialysis patients, pregnant women, hemolyzed, lipemic, etc.). No interference was observed in the study.

Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been

used to determine the specificity. No false reactivity due to the method of specimen preparation has been observed.

Frozen specimens have also been tested to check whether this interferes with the performance of the test. No interference was observed on clean and particle free samples.

4. Precision:

It has been calculated on three samples examined in 16 replicate in three different runs, carried out on three different lots. The values found were as follows:

BCM.CE: lot # 0103

Cal 0 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.055	0.053	0.051	0.053
Std.Deviation	0.005	0.006	0.005	0.006
CV %	9.9	12.3	10.7	10.9

Cal 5 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.324	0.308	0.321	0.318
Std.Deviation	0.022	0.018	0.024	0.021
CV %	6.8	5.7	7.5	6.7

Cal 50 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.109	2.048	2.052	2.070
Std.Deviation	0.101	0.088	0.136	0.109
CV %	4.8	4.3	6.7	5.2

BCM.CE: lot # 0103/2

Cal 0 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.057	0.053	0.054	0.055
Std.Deviation	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.004
CV %	8.3	9.0	7.3	8.2

Cal 5 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.332	0.331	0.322	0.328
Std.Deviation	0.017	0.018	0.016	0.017
CV %	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.1

Cal 50 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.311	2.208	2.212	2.244
Std.Deviation	0.110	0.090	0.095	0.098
CV %	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.4

BCM.CE: lot # 0303

Cal 0 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.043	0.042	0.040	0.042
Std.Deviation	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.004
CV %	10.3	11.1	10.9	10.8

Cal 5 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.320	0.326	0.314	0.320
Std.Deviation	0.023	0.024	0.026	0.024
CV %	7.1	7.4	8.2	7.6

Cal 50 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.150	2.163	2.092	2.135
Std.Deviation	0.057	0.067	0.076	0.067
CV %	2.6	3.1	3.6	3.1

Important note:

The performance data have been obtained proceeding as the reading step described in the section M, point 12.

S. LIMITATIONS

Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates may generate false positive results.

Bacterial contamination or heat inactivation of the specimen may affect the absorbance values of the samples with consequent alteration of the level of the analyte.

This test is suitable only for testing single samples and not pooled ones.

Diagnosis of an infectious disease should not be established on the basis of a single test result. The patient's clinical history, symptomatology, as well as other diagnostic data should be considered.

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All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System approved by an EC Notified Body. Each lot is submitted to a quality control and released into the market only if conforming with the EC technical specifications and acceptance criteria.

Manufacturer:

Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes S.r.l.

Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni (MI) – Italy



0318

HBc IgM

**Ensayo inmunoenzimático de “Captura”
(ELISA) para la determinación
cualitativa/cuantitativa de anticuerpos clase
IgM al Antígeno core del virus de la
Hepatitis B en plasma y suero humanos**

- Uso exclusivo para diagnóstico “in vitro”-



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HbC IgM

A. OBJETIVO DEL EQUIPO.

Ensayo inmunoenzimático (ELISA) para la determinación cualitativa/cuantitativa de anticuerpos clase IgM al Antígeno core del virus de la Hepatitis B (HBV) en plasma y suero humanos mediante el sistema de "Captura".

El equipo ha sido diseñado para la clasificación del agente viral y para el seguimiento de pacientes crónicos sometidos a terapia.

Uso exclusivo para diagnóstico "in vitro".

B. INTRODUCCIÓN.

El antígeno core del virus de la Hepatitis B (HbCAg) es el elemento principal de las partículas del núcleo del virus.

Las partículas tienen un tamaño de 27nm y contienen una molécula de ADN circular de doble cadena, una ADN polimerasa específica y HbCAg. El antígeno del core está compuesto por un polipéptido simple de 17 kD, el cual es liberado en el proceso de desagregación de la partícula viral. Este antígeno contiene al menos un determinante inmunogénico. Durante la infección primaria, los anticuerpos IgM anti-HbCAg, son unos de los primeros marcadores del HBV que aparecen en el suero, conjuntamente o ligeramente antes de que aparezca el antígeno de superficie (HBsAg).

Los títulos de anticuerpos IgM al HbCAg, bastante altos durante la fase aguda, descienden en el transcurso de la enfermedad hasta alcanzar niveles no detectables en pacientes convalescentes. Sin embargo, en el caso de la hepatitis crónica, se aprecian picos de anticuerpos IgM anti-HbCAg, lo cual confirma la reactivación del virus en los hepatocitos y origina bajos títulos permanentes de IgM.

La determinación de anticuerpos IgM anti-HbCAg es de gran importancia para la rápida clasificación del virus, de las fases de la enfermedad, así como para el seguimiento de pacientes sometidos a tratamiento con interferón.

C. PRINCIPIOS DEL ENSAYO.

El ensayo se basa en el principio de "captura de IgM" donde esta clase de anticuerpos, si están presentes en la muestra, quedan capturados por la fase sólida, recubierta por anticuerpos anti-IgM humanos.

Después del lavado, mediante el cual se eliminan los restantes componentes de la muestra fundamentalmente los anticuerpos IgG, se detectan los anticuerpos IgM unidos a la fase sólida mediante la adición de una preparación de HbCAg recombinante purificada, marcada con un anticuerpo monoclonal conjugado con peroxidasa (HRP).

Después de la incubación y previo lavado, se añade la mezcla cromógeno/substrato, la cual se combina con la enzima conjugada unida a la fase sólida. El substrato es hidrolizado, en presencia de peroxidasa, a un producto coloreado final cuya densidad óptica es detectable y es proporcional a la cantidad de anticuerpos IgM al HbCAg presentes en la muestra.

D. COMPONENTES

Cada equipo contiene reactivos suficientes para realizar 96 pruebas.

1. Microplaca: **MICROPLATE**

8x12 tiras de pocillos recubiertos con un anticuerpo monoclonal de ratón anti-IgM humano, post-recubiertos con proteínas del suero bovino y almacenados en bolsas selladas con desecante. Se deben poner las placas a temperatura ambiente antes de abrirlas, sellar las tiras sobrantes en la bolsa con el desecante y almacenar a 4°C.

2. Curva de Calibración: **CAL N° ...**

6x2.0 ml/vial. Listo para el uso y curva estándar con código de color, calibrada a partir de una preparación de HbC IgM de referencia, suministrada por el Instituto Paul Erlich (HbC-Referenzserum-IgM 84), con rangos: CAL1 = 0 U/ml // CAL2 = 5 U/ml // CAL3 = 10 U/ml // CAL4 = 20 U/ml // CAL 5 = 50 U/ml // CAL 6 = 100 U/ml. Contiene plasma humano HbC IgM positivo sometido a inactivación química, tampón Tris 100 mM pH 7.4 +/- 0.1, 0.5% de Tween 20, así como azida sódica 0.09% y ProClin 300 0.045% como conservantes. La Curva de Calibración está codificada con el color azul.

Nota importante: Aunque el plasma esté inactivado por métodos químicos, se debe manipular como potencialmente infeccioso.

3. Tampón de Lavado Concentrado: **WASHBUF 20X**

1x60ml/botella. Solución concentrada 20x.

Una vez diluida, la solución de lavado contiene tampón fosfato 10mM a pH 7.0 +/- 0.1, Tween 20 al 0.05% y ProClin 300 al 0.045%.

4. Conjugado (Inmunocomplejo) : **CONJ**

1x16.0 ml/vial. Solución lista para el uso. Contiene un Inmunocomplejo formado por un anticuerpo monoclonal de ratón marcado con HRP y HbCAg recombinante purificado. El reactivo está disuelto en tampón Tris 10 mM pH 6.8 +/- 0.1, BSA 2%, además de sulfato de gentamicina 0.2 % y ProClin 300 0.045% como conservantes. El reactivo está codificado con el color rojo.

5. Diluyente de muestras : **DILSPE**

2x60.0 ml/vial. Solución tamponada para disolver las muestras. Contiene tampón Tris 100 mM pH 7.4 +/- 0.1, 0.5% de Tween 20, caseína al 2%, 0.045% de ProClin 300 y azida sódica al 0.09% como conservantes. El reactivo está codificado con el color azul.

6. Suero Control: **CONTROL ...ml**

1 vial. Liofilizado.

Contiene suero bovino fetal, plasma humano positivo a HbC IgM, concentrado a 20 ±10% PEI U/ml, 0.2 mg/ml de sulfato de gentamicina y ProClin 300 0.045% como conservantes.

Notas importantes:

1. El volumen necesario para disolver el contenido del vial varía en cada lote. Se recomienda usar el volumen correcto reportado en la etiqueta.

2. Aunque el plasma esté inactivado por métodos químicos, se debe manipular como potencialmente infeccioso.

7. Cromógeno/Substrato. **SUBS TMB**

1x16ml/vial. Contiene una solución tamponada citrato-fosfato 50 mM pH 3.5-3.8, dimetilsulfóxido 4%, tetra-metil-benzidina (TMB) 0.03% y peróxido de hidrógeno (H₂O₂) 0.02%.

Nota: Evitar la exposición a la luz, ya que la sustancia es fotosensible.

8. Ácido Sulfúrico: **H₂SO₄ 0.3 M**

1x15ml/vial. Contiene solución de H₂SO₄ 0.3M

Atención: Irritante (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

9. Sellador adhesivo, n° 2

10. Manual de instrucciones, n° 1

E. MATERIALES NECESARIOS NO SUMINISTRADOS.

1. Micropipetas calibradas (150µl, 100µl y 50µl) y puntas plásticas desechables.
2. Agua de calidad EIA (bidestilada o desionizada, tratada con carbón para remover químicos oxidantes usados como desinfectantes).
3. *Timer* con un rango de 60 minutos como mínimo.
4. Papel absorbente.
5. Incubador termostático de microplacas ELISA, calibrado (en seco o húmedo) fijo a 37°C (tolerancia+/-1°C).
6. Lector calibrado de microplacas de ELISA con filtros de 450nm (lectura) y de 620-630 nm.
7. Lavador calibrado de microplacas ELISA.
8. Vórtex o similar.

F. ADVERTENCIAS Y PRECAUCIONES.

1. El equipo debe ser usado por personal técnico adecuadamente entrenado, bajo la supervisión de un doctor responsable del laboratorio.
2. Todas las personas encargadas de la realización de las pruebas deben llevar las ropas protectoras adecuadas de laboratorio, guantes y gafas. Evitar el uso de objetos cortantes (cuchillas) o punzantes (aguja). El personal debe ser adiestrado en procedimientos de bioseguridad, según ha sido recomendado por el Centro de Control de Enfermedades de Atlanta, Estados Unidos, y publicado por el Instituto Nacional de Salud: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed.1984.
3. Todo el personal involucrado en el manejo de muestras debe estar vacunado contra HBV y HAV, para lo cual existen vacunas disponibles, seguras y eficaces.
4. Se debe controlar el ambiente del laboratorio para evitar la contaminación de los componentes con polvo o agentes microbianos cuando se abran los equipos, así como durante la realización del ensayo. Evitar la exposición del sustrato a la luz y las vibraciones de la mesa de trabajo durante el ensayo.
5. Conservar el equipo a temperaturas entre 2-8 °C, en un refrigerador con temperatura regulada o en cámara fría.
6. No intercambiar reactivos de diferentes lotes ni tampoco de diferentes equipos.
7. Comprobar que los reactivos no contienen precipitados ni agregados en el momento del uso. De darse el caso, informar al responsable para realizar el procedimiento pertinente.
8. Evitar contaminación cruzada entre muestras de suero/plasma usando puntas desechables y cambiándolas después de cada uso. No reutilizar puntas desechables.
9. Evitar contaminación cruzada entre los reactivos del equipo usando puntas desechables y cambiándolas después de cada uso. No reutilizar puntas desechables.
10. No usar el producto después de la fecha de caducidad indicada en el equipo e internamente en los reactivos.
11. Tratar todas las muestras como potencialmente infecciosas. Las muestras de suero humano deben ser manipuladas al nivel 2 de bioseguridad, según ha sido recomendado por el Centro de Control de Enfermedades de Atlanta, Estados Unidos y publicado por el Instituto Nacional de Salud: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed.1984.
12. Se recomienda el uso de material plástico desechable para la preparación de las soluciones de lavado y para la transferencia de los reactivos a los diferentes equipos automatizados a fin de evitar contaminaciones.
13. Los desechos producidos durante el uso del equipo deben de ser eliminados según lo establecido por las directivas nacionales y las leyes relacionadas con el tratamiento de los residuos químicos y biológicos de laboratorio. En particular, los desechos líquidos provenientes del proceso de lavado deben ser tratados como potencialmente infecciosos y deben ser inactivados. Se recomienda la

inactivación con lejía al 10% de 16 a 18 horas o el uso de la autoclave a 121°C por 20 minutos.

14. En caso de derrame accidental de algún producto, se debe utilizar papel absorbente embebido en lejía y posteriormente en agua. El papel debe eliminarse en contenedores designados para este fin en hospitales y laboratorios.
15. El ácido sulfúrico es irritante. En caso de derrame, se debe lavar la superficie con abundante agua.
16. Otros materiales de desecho generados durante la utilización del equipo (por ejemplo: puntas usadas en la manipulación de las muestras y controles, microplacas usadas) deben ser manipuladas como fuentes potenciales de infección de acuerdo a las directivas nacionales y leyes para el tratamiento de residuos de laboratorio.

G. MUESTRA: PREPARACIÓN Y RECOMENDACIONES.

1. Extraer la sangre asépticamente por punción venosa y preparar el suero o plasma según la técnica estándar de los laboratorios de análisis clínico. No se ha detectado que el tratamiento con citrato, EDTA o heparina afecte las muestras.
2. Evitar la adición de conservantes, especialmente azida sódica ya que puede afectar la actividad enzimática del conjugado, generando resultados falsos negativos.
3. Las muestras deben estar identificadas claramente mediante código de barras o nombres, a fin de evitar errores en los resultados.
4. Las muestras hemolizadas (color rojo) o hiperlipémicas (aspecto lechoso) deben ser descartadas para evitar falsos resultados, al igual que aquellas donde se observe la presencia de precipitados, restos de fibrina o filamentos microbianos.
5. El suero y el plasma pueden conservarse a una temperatura entre +2° y +8°C en tubos de recolección principales hasta cinco días después de la extracción. No congelar tubos de recolección principales. Para periodos de almacenamiento más prolongados, las muestras de plasma o suero, retiradas cuidadosamente del tubo de extracción principal, pueden almacenarse congeladas a -20°C durante al menos 12 meses. Evitar congelar/descongelar cada muestra más de una vez, ya que pueden generarse partículas que podrían afectar al resultado de la prueba.
6. Si hay presencia de agregados, la muestra se puede aclarar mediante centrifugación a 2000 rpm durante 20 minutos o por filtración con un filtro de 0,2-0,8 micras.

H. PREPARACIÓN DE LOS COMPONENTES Y PRECAUCIONES.

Según estudios realizados, no se ha detectado pérdida relevante de actividad en equipos utilizados hasta 6 veces, durante un período de hasta 3 meses.

Microplacas:

Dejar la microplaca a temperatura ambiente (aprox. 1 hora) antes de abrir el envase. Compruebe que el desecante no esté de un color verde oscuro, lo que indicaría un defecto de fabricación. De ser así, debe solicitar el servicio de Dia.Pro: Atención al cliente.

Las tiras de pocillos no utilizadas, deben guardarse herméticamente cerradas en la bolsa de aluminio con el desecante a 2-8°C. Una vez abierto el envase, las tiras sobrantes, se mantienen estables hasta que el indicador de humedad dentro de la bolsa del desecante cambie de amarillo a verde.

Curva de Calibración:

Listo para el uso. Mezclar bien con la ayuda de un vórtex, antes de usar.

Solución de Lavado Concentrada:

Todo el contenido de la solución concentrada 20x debe diluirse con agua bidestilada hasta alcanzar 1200ml y mezclarse suavemente antes de usarse. Durante la preparación evitar la formación de espuma y burbujas, lo que podría influir en la eficiencia de los ciclos de lavado.

Nota: Una vez diluida, la solución es estable por una semana a temperaturas entre +2 y 8°C.

Conjugado:

Listo para el uso. Mezclar bien con un vórtex antes de usar. Evitar posible contaminación del líquido con oxidantes químicos, polvo o microbios. En caso de que deba transferirse el reactivo, usar contenedores de plástico, estériles y desechables, siempre que sea posible.

Diluyente de muestras :

Solución lista para el uso. Mezclar bien con un vórtex antes de usar.

Suero Control:

Añadir al polvo liofilizado el volumen de agua de calidad ELISA indicado en la etiqueta. Dejar disolver totalmente y mezclar suavemente en el vórtex. El suero disuelto está listo para el uso.

Nota: Una vez reconstituida, la solución no es estable. Se recomienda mantenerla congelada en alícuotas a -20°C.

Cromógeno/ Substrato:

Listo para el uso. Mezclar bien con un vórtex antes de usar. Evitar posible contaminación del líquido con oxidantes químicos, polvo o microbios. Evitar la exposición a la luz, agentes oxidantes y superficies metálicas. En caso de que deba transferirse el reactivo, usar contenedores de plástico, estériles y desechables, siempre que sea posible.

Ácido Sulfúrico:

Listo para el uso. Mezclar bien con un vórtex antes de usar.
Atención: Irritante (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

Leyenda:

Indicación de peligro, Frases H

H315 – Provoca irritación cutánea.

H319 – Provoca irritación ocular grave.

Consejo de prudencia, Frases P

P280 – Llevar guantes/prendas/gafas/máscara de protección.

P302 + P352 – EN CASO DE CONTACTO CON LA PIEL: Lavar con agua y jabón abundantes.

P332 + P313 – En caso de irritación cutánea: Consultar a un médico.

P305 + P351 + P338 – EN CASO DE CONTACTO CON LOS OJOS: Aclarar cuidadosamente con agua durante varios minutos. Quitar las lentes de contacto, si lleva y resulta fácil. Seguir aclarando.

P337 + P313 – Si persiste la irritación ocular: Consultar a un médico.

P362 + P363 – Quitarse las prendas contaminadas y lavarlas antes de volver a usarlas.

I. INSTRUMENTOS Y EQUIPAMIENTO UTILIZADOS EN COMBINACIÓN CON EL EQUIPO.

1. Las micropipetas deben ser calibradas para dispensar correctamente el volumen requerido en el ensayo y sometidas a una descontaminación periódica de las partes que pudieran entrar accidentalmente en contacto con la muestra (etanol 70%, lejía 10%, de calidad de los desinfectantes hospitalarios). Deben además, ser

regularmente revisadas para mantener una precisión del 1% y una confiabilidad de +/- 2%.

2. La incubadora de ELISA debe ser ajustada a 37°C (+/- 0.5°C) y controlada periódicamente para mantener la temperatura correcta. Pueden emplearse incubadoras secas o baños de agua siempre que estén validados para la incubación de pruebas de ELISA.
3. El lavador ELISA es extremadamente importante para el rendimiento global del ensayo. El lavador debe ser validado de forma minuciosa previamente, revisado para comprobar que suministra el volumen de dispensación correcto y enviado regularmente a mantenimiento de acuerdo con las instrucciones de uso del fabricante. En particular, deben lavarse minuciosamente las sales con agua desionizada del lavador al final de la carga de trabajo diaria. Antes del uso, debe suministrarse extensivamente solución de lavado diluida al lavador. Debe enviarse el instrumento semanalmente a descontaminación según se indica en su manual (se recomienda descontaminación con NaOH 0.1 M). Para asegurar que el ensayo se realiza conforme a los rendimientos declarados, basta con 5 ciclos de lavado (aspiración + dispensado de 350 µl/pocillo de solución de lavado + 20 segundos de remojo = 1 ciclo). Si no es posible remojar, añadir un ciclo de lavado adicional. Un ciclo de lavado incorrecto o agujas obstruidas con sal son las principales causas de falsas reacciones positivas.
4. Los tiempos de incubación deben tener un margen de ±5%.
5. El lector de microplacas ELISA debe estar provisto de un filtro de lectura de 450nm y de un segundo filtro de 620-630nm, obligatorio para reducir interferencias en la lectura. El procedimiento estándar debe contemplar: a) Ancho de banda <= 10 b) Rango de absorbancia de 0 a >=2.0, c) Linealidad >=2.0, reproducibilidad >=1%. El blanco se prueba en el pocillo indicado en la sección "Procedimiento del ensayo". El sistema óptico del lector debe ser calibrado periódicamente para garantizar la correcta medición de la densidad óptica, según las normas del fabricante.
6. En caso de usar un sistema automatizado de ELISA, los pasos críticos (dispensado, incubación, lavado, lectura, agitación y procesamiento de datos) deben ser cuidadosamente fijados, calibrados, controlados y periódicamente ajustados, para garantizar los valores indicados en las secciones "Control interno de calidad" y "Procedimiento del ensayo". El protocolo del ensayo debe ser instalado en el sistema operativo de la unidad y validado tanto para el lavador como para el lector. Por otro lado, la parte del sistema que maneja los líquidos (dispensado y lavado) debe ser validada y fijada correctamente. Debe prestarse particular atención a evitar el arrastre por las agujas de dispensación y las de lavado, a fin de minimizar la posibilidad de ocurrencia de falsos positivos por contaminación de los pocillos adyacentes por muestras fuertemente reactivas. Se recomienda el uso de sistemas automatizados para el pesquaje en unidades de sangre y cuando la cantidad de muestras supera las 20-30 unidades por ensayo.
7. El servicio de atención al cliente en Dia.Pro, ofrece apoyo al usuario para calibrar, ajustar e instalar los equipos e instrumentos a usar en combinación con el equipo, con el propósito de asegurar el cumplimiento de los requerimientos descritos.

L. OPERACIONES Y CONTROLES PREVIOS AL ENSAYO.

1. Compruebe la fecha de caducidad indicada en la parte externa del equipo (envase primario). No usar si ha caducado.
2. Compruebe que los componentes líquidos no están contaminados con partículas o agregados visibles. Asegúrese de que el cromógeno (TMB) es incoloro o azul pálido, aspirando un pequeño volumen de este con una pipeta estéril de plástico. Compruebe que no han ocurrido rupturas ni derrames de líquido dentro de la caja (envase

primario) durante el transporte. Asegurarse de que la bolsa de aluminio que contiene la microplaca no esté rota o dañada.

- Diluir totalmente la Solución de Lavado Concentrada 20X, como se ha descrito anteriormente y mezclar suavemente.
- Disolver el Suero Control como se ha descrito anteriormente.
- Dejar los componentes restantes alcanzar la temperatura ambiente (aprox. 1 hora), mezclar después suavemente en el vórtex todos los reactivos líquidos.
- Ajustar la incubadora de ELISA a 37°C y cebar el lavador de ELISA utilizando la solución de lavado, según las instrucciones del fabricante. Fijar el número de ciclos de lavado según se indica en la sección específica.
- Comprobar que el lector de ELISA esté encendido al menos 20 minutos antes de realizar la lectura.
- En caso de trabajar automáticamente, encender el equipo y comprobar que los protocolos estén correctamente programados.
- Comprobar que las micropipetas estén fijadas en el volumen requerido.
- Asegurarse de que el equipamiento a usar esté en perfecto estado, disponible y listo para el uso.

En caso de surgir algún problema, se debe detener el ensayo y avisar al responsable.

M. PROCEDIMIENTO DEL ENSAYO.

El ensayo debe realizarse según las instrucciones que siguen a continuación, es importante mantener en todas las muestras el mismo tiempo de incubación.

Pueden realizarse dos procedimientos acorde a los requerimientos del clínico.

M.1 Análisis Cuantitativo

- Poner el número necesario de tiras en el soporte plástico e identificar los pocillos de las muestras y de los estándares.
- Diluir las muestras **1:101** dispensando en un tubo desechable 1 ml de Diluyente de Muestras y 10 µl de muestra, mezclar con ayuda de un vórtex, antes de usar. No diluir los Calibradores y el Suero Control disuelto ya que están listos para el uso.
- Dejar los pocillos A1 y B1 vacíos para el blanco.
- Dispensar 100µl de los Calibradores por duplicado, 100µl del Suero Control disuelto por duplicado y después 100µl de las muestras diluidas. El Suero Control se emplea para verificar que el sistema analítico funcione como es debido. Comprobar que el Suero Control, los Calibradores y las muestras han sido añadidos adecuadamente.
- Incubar la microplaca durante **60 minutos a +37°C**.

Nota importante: Las tiras se deben sellar con el adhesivo suministrado solo cuando se hace la prueba manualmente. No sellar cuando se emplean equipos automatizados de ELISA.

- Después de la primera incubación, lavar los pocillos según lo descrito previamente (sección I.3).
- Dispensar 100µl de Conjugado en todos los pocillos, excepto A1 y B1, controlar que los reactivos han sido correctamente añadidos. Incubar la microplaca durante **60 minutos a +37°C**.

Nota importante: Tener cuidado de no tocar la pared interna del pocillo con la punta de la pipeta y no sumergir la parte superior de la misma en los controles o muestras. Podría producirse contaminación.

- Después de la segunda incubación, lavar los pocillos según lo descrito previamente (sección I.3).
- Dispensar 100µl de Cromógeno/Substrato en todos los pocillos, incluidos los del blanco.

Nota importante: No exponer directamente a fuerte iluminación, de lo contrario se generan interferencias.

- Incubar la microplaca, protegida de la luz, durante **20 minutos a temperatura ambiente (18-24°C)**. Los pocillos correspondientes a las muestras positivas, el Suero Control y los Calibradores positivos deben cambiar de color claro a azul.
- Dispensar 100µl de ácido sulfúrico en todos los pocillos para detener la reacción enzimática, usar la misma secuencia que en el paso 9. La adición de la Solución de parada cambia el color del control positivo y las muestras positivas de azul a amarillo.
- Medir la intensidad del color con el lector, según se describe en la sección I.5, utilizando un filtro de 450 nm (lectura) y otro de 620-630 nm (substracción del fondo, obligatorio), calibrando el instrumento con los pocillos A1 y B1 (blanco).

M.2 Análisis Cualitativo

- Poner el número necesario de tiras en el soporte plástico e identificar los pocillos de las muestras y de los estándares.
- Diluir las muestras **1:101** dispensando en un tubo desechable 1 ml de Diluyente de Muestras y 10 µl de muestra, mezclar con ayuda de un vórtex, antes de usar. No diluir los Calibradores disuelto ya que están listos para el uso.
- Dejar el pocillo A1 vacío para el blanco.
- Dispensar 100 µl del Calibrador 0 U/ml por duplicado, 100 µl del Calibrador 10 U/ml por duplicado, 100 µl del Calibrador 100 U/ml simple. Dispensar después 100 µl de las muestras diluidas en los pocillos correspondientes. Comprobar que el Suero Control, los Calibradores y las muestras han sido añadidos adecuadamente.
- Incubar la microplaca durante **60 minutos a +37°C**.

Nota importante: Las tiras se deben sellar con el adhesivo suministrado solo cuando se hace la prueba manualmente. No sellar cuando se emplean equipos automatizados de ELISA.

- Después de la primera incubación, lavar los pocillos según lo descrito previamente (sección I.3).
- Dispensar 100µl de Conjugado en todos los pocillos, excepto A1. Incubar la microplaca durante **60 minutos a +37°C**.

Nota importante: Tener cuidado de no tocar la pared interna del pocillo con la punta de la pipeta y no sumergir la parte superior de la misma en los controles o muestras. Podría producirse contaminación.

- Después de la segunda incubación, lavar los pocillos según lo descrito previamente (sección I.3).
- Dispensar 100µl de Cromógeno/Substrato en todos los pocillos, incluido el A1.

Nota importante: No exponer directamente a fuerte iluminación, de lo contrario pudieran generarse interferencias.

- Incubar la microplaca, protegida de la luz, durante **20 minutos a temperatura ambiente (18-24°C)**. Los pocillos correspondientes a las muestras positivas, el Suero Control y los Calibradores positivos deben cambiar de color claro a azul.
- Dispensar 100µl de ácido sulfúrico en todos los pocillos para detener la reacción enzimática, usar la misma secuencia que en el paso 9. La adición de la Solución de parada cambia el color del control positivo y las muestras positivas de azul a amarillo.
- Medir la intensidad del color con el lector, según se describe en la sección I.5, utilizando un filtro de 450 nm

(lectura) y otro de 620-630 nm (substracción del fondo, obligatorio), calibrando el instrumento con el pocillo A1.

Notas generales importantes:

1. Asegurarse de que no hay impresiones digitales en el fondo de los pocillos antes de leer. Podrían generarse falsos positivos en la lectura.
2. La lectura debe hacerse inmediatamente después de añadir la solución de parada y, en cualquier caso, nunca transcurridos 20 minutos después de su adición. Se podría producir auto oxidación del cromógeno causando un elevado fondo.
3. El suero de control (CS) no afecta al cálculo del valor de corte y, por lo tanto, no afecta al cálculo de los resultados de la prueba. El suero de control (CS) se usa solo si la gestión requiere un control interno de calidad del laboratorio.

N. ESQUEMA DEL ENSAYO

El protocolo del ensayo se resume en la siguiente tabla:

Calibradores & Muestras diluidas & Suero Control Disuelto	100 µl
1ª incubación	60 min
Temperatura	+37°C
Lavados	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
Conjugado	100 µl
2ª incubación	60 min
Temperatura	+37°C
Lavados	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
Cromógeno/Substrato	100µl
3ª incubación	20 min
Temperatura	t.a.*
Acido Sulfúrico	100 µl
Lectura D.O.	450nm / 620-630nm

t.a.*temperatura ambiente

A continuación se describe un ejemplo del esquema de dispensado en el análisis cuantitativo:

		Microplaca											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BL	CAL4	M1										
B	BL	CAL4	M2										
C	CAL1	CAL5	M3										
D	CAL1	CAL5	M4										
E	CAL2	CAL6	M5										
F	CAL2	CAL6	M6										
G	CAL3	SC	M7										
H	CAL3	SC	M8										

Leyenda: BL = Blanco // CAL = Calibradores // SC= Suero Control // M = Muestra

A continuación se describe un ejemplo del esquema de dispensado en el análisis cualitativo:

Microplaca

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BL	M3	M11										
B	CAL1	M4	M12										
C	CAL1	M5	M13										
D	CAL3	M6	M14										
E	CAL3	M7	M15										
F	CAL6	M8	M16										
G	M1	M9	M17										
H	M2	M10	M18										

Leyenda: BL = Blanco // CAL = Calibradores // M = Muestra

O. CONTROL DE CALIDAD INTERNO.

Se realiza un grupo de pruebas con los controles cada vez que se usa el equipo para verificar si el procedimiento durante el ensayo se ha realizado correctamente.

Asegurar el cumplimiento de los siguientes parámetros:

Parámetro	Exigencia
Pocillo Blanco	< 0.100 DO450nm
Calibrador 0 PEI U/ml	< 0.150 DO450nm después de leer el blanco
Coeficiente de variación	< 30%
Calibrador 5 PEI U/ml	DO450nm > DO450nm Cal 0 U/ml + 5DS y > DO450nm Cal 0 U/ml + 0.100
Calibrador 10 PEI U/ml	DO450nm > DO450nm Cal 0 U/ml + 0.200
Calibrador 100 PEI U/ml	> 1.000 DO450nm
Suero Control	DO450nm = DO450nm Calibrador 20 U/ml +/-10%

Si los resultados del ensayo coinciden con lo establecido anteriormente, pase a la siguiente sección.

En caso contrario, detenga el ensayo y compruebe:

Problema	Compruebe que
Pocillo blanco > 0.100DO450nm	la solución cromógeno/substrato no se ha contaminado durante el ensayo.
Calibrador 0 U/ml > 0.150 DO 450nm después de leer el blanco	1. el proceso de lavado y los parámetros del lavador estén validados según los estudios previos de calificación. 2. se ha usado la solución de lavado apropiada y que el lavador ha sido cebado con la misma antes del uso.
Coeficiente de variación > 30%	3. no se han cometido errores en el procedimiento del ensayo (dispensado de un Calibrador positivo en lugar del Cal 0) 4. no ha existido contaminación del Cal 0 o de sus pocillos debido a muestras positivas derramadas, o al conjugado. 5. las micropipetas no se han contaminado con muestras positivas o con el conjugado. 6. las agujas del lavador no estén parcial o totalmente obstruidas.

Calibrador 5 U/ml < CAL 0 + 5 DS or < CAL 0 + 0.100	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> el procedimiento ha sido realizado correctamente. no ha habido errores durante su distribución (dispensar el calibrador equivocado). el proceso de lavado y los parámetros del lavador estén validados según los estudios previos de calificación. no ha ocurrido contaminación externa del calibrador.
Calibrador 10 U/ml < CAL 0 + 0.200	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> el procedimiento ha sido realizado correctamente. no ha habido errores durante su distribución (dispensar el calibrador equivocado). el proceso de lavado y los parámetros del lavador estén validados según los estudios previos de calificación. no ha ocurrido contaminación externa del calibrador.
Calibrador 100 U/ml < 1.000 DO 450nm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> el procedimiento ha sido realizado correctamente. no ha habido errores durante su distribución. el proceso de lavado y los parámetros del lavador estén validados según los estudios previos de calificación. no ha ocurrido contaminación externa del calibrador.

Suero Control Valor distinto al esperado	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> el procedimiento ha sido realizado correctamente. no ha habido errores durante su distribución (dispensar una muestra equivocada). el proceso de lavado y los parámetros del lavador son correctos. no ha ocurrido contaminación externa de los controles. el Suero Control ha sido disuelto con el volumen correcto indicado en la etiqueta <p>Si se indica un error, el ensayo debe repetirse tras eliminar la causa del mismo. En caso de no encontrar un error, procedase como sigue:</p> <p>a) si se obtiene un valor hasta +/-20%: la precisión global del laboratorio podría no permitir alcanzar +/-10% del valor esperado. Comunicar el problema al responsable para aceptar ó rechazar este resultado.</p> <p>b) si se obtiene un valor superior a +/-20%: en este caso el test es inválido y hay que avisar al servicio de atención al cliente de DiaPro</p>
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Si se presenta alguno de los problemas anteriores, avisar al responsable para tomar las medidas pertinentes.

Nota importante:

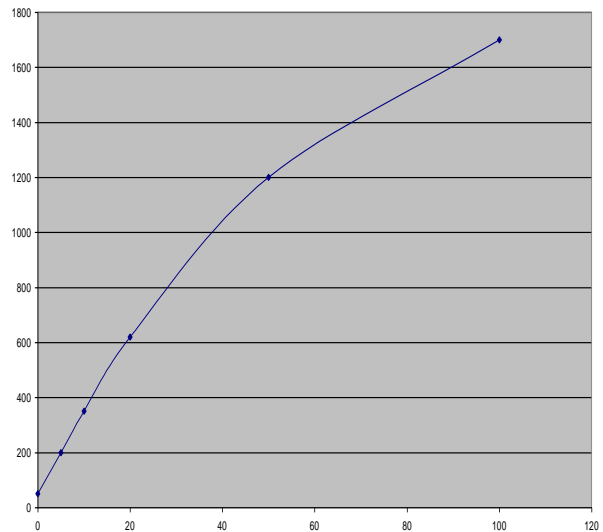
El análisis debe seguir el paso de lectura descrito en la sección M, punto 12.

P. RESULTADOS.

P.1 Método cuantitativo.

Si el ensayo resulta válido, usar para el método cuantitativo un programa de ajuste de curva para diseñar la curva de calibración con los valores obtenidos en la lectura a 450nm/620-630nm (se sugiere interpolar 4 parámetros). Después calcular sobre la curva de calibración la concentración de anticuerpos IgM anti-HBc presentes en la muestra.

A continuación, un ejemplo de curva de calibración:



Nota Importante:

No usar la curva anterior para formular los cálculos.

P.2 Método cualitativo.

En el método cualitativo, calcular los valores medios de DO450nm/620-630nm para los Calibradores 0 y 10 U/ml, después comprobar que el ensayo es válido.

A continuación, un ejemplo de los cálculos a realizar (datos obtenidos siguiendo el paso de lectura descrito en la sección M, punto 12):

Los siguientes datos no deben usarse en lugar de los valores reales obtenidos en el laboratorio.

Calibrador 0 U/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 DO 450nm
 Valor medio: 0.022 DO 450nm
 Menor de 0.150 – Válido

Calibrador 10 U/ml: 0.350 – 0.330 DO 450nm
 Valor medio: 0.340 DO 450nm
 Mayor de Cal 0 + 0.200 – Válido

Calibrador 100 U/ml: 2.845 DO 450nm
 Mayor de 1.000 – Válido

Q. INTERPRETACIÓN DE LOS RESULTADOS.

Q.1 Resultados cualitativos:

Para el método cualitativo, la literatura médica generalmente considera positivas aquellas muestras con una concentración de HBc IgM ≥ 10 PEI U/ml.

Los resultados se interpretan como la razón entre la DO 450nm /620-630nm de la muestra y la DO 450nm del Cal 10 PEI U/ml (M/Co), como se indica en la tabla:

M/Co	Interpretación
< 0.9	Negativo
0.9 - 1.1	Equívoco
> 1.1	Positivo

Q.2 Resultados Cuantitativos:

La Curva de Calibración se emplea para determinar la concentración de anticuerpos IgM anti-HBcAg, presentes en la muestra.

Las muestras con una concentración menor de 5 PEI U/ml se consideran negativas a HBcIgM.

Las muestras con una concentración entre 5 y 10 PEI U/ml se consideran en la zona gris.

En el seguimiento de hepatitis crónica, sin embargo, valores superiores a 5 PEI U/ml pueden considerarse positivos a HBcIgM si están presentes otros signos clínicos. Las muestras con una concentración mayor de 10 PEI U/ml se consideran positivas a HBcIgM.

Notas generales importantes:

1. Cuando el cálculo de los resultados se halla mediante el sistema operativo de un equipo de ELISA automático, asegurarse de que la formulación usada para el cálculo del valor de corte, y para la interpretación de los resultados sea correcta.
2. La interpretación de los resultados debe hacerse bajo la vigilancia del responsable del laboratorio para reducir el riesgo de errores de juicio y de interpretación.
3. Un resultado positivo indica infección por HBV por lo tanto el paciente debe ser tratado adecuadamente.
4. Cuando se transmiten los resultados de la prueba, del laboratorio a otras instalaciones, debe ponerse mucha atención para evitar el traslado de datos erróneos.
5. El diagnóstico de infección con un virus de la hepatitis debe ser evaluado y comunicado al paciente por un médico calificado.

R. FUNCIONAMIENTO

La evaluación del funcionamiento ha sido realizada según lo reportado en las Especificaciones Técnicas Comunes (ETC) (art. 5, Capítulo 3 de las Directivas IVD 98/79/EC).

1. Límite de detección.

El límite de detección del ensayo ha sido calculado por medio de:

- 1.3 La preparación de referencia para HBcIgM suministrada por el Instituto Paul Erlich, Alemania (HBc-Referenzserum-IgM 84), a partir de la cual se ha calibrado la Curva Estándar.
- 1.4 Accurun 113 (cat. N° A113-5001) suministrada por Boston Biomedica Inc., Estados Unidos.

La siguiente tabla muestra los resultados del Control de Calidad para tres lotes analizados:

BCM.CE	Lote #	0103	Lote #	0103/2	Lote #	0303
PEI U/ml	DO450nm	M/Co	DO450nm	M/Co	DO450nm	M/Co
100	2.752	8.9	2.883	9.7	2.911	9.1
50	1.917	6.2	1.972	6.7	2.053	6.4
20	0.980	3.2	0.914	3.1	1.095	3.4
10	0.544	1.8	0.513	1.7	0.592	1.8
5	0.310	1.0	0.296	1.0	0.321	1.0
2.5	0.155	0.5	0.149	0.5	0.161	0.5
1.25	0.084	0.3	0.084	0.3	0.093	0.3
Negativo	0.040		0.035		0.044	

BBI Accurun # 113

BCM.CE	Lote #	0103	Lote #	0103/2	Lote #	0303
BBI 113	DO450nm	M/Co	DO450nm	M/Co	DO450nm	M/Co
1 x	3.336	10.8	3.195	10.4	3.269	10.3
2 x	2.472	8.0	2.385	7.8	2.385	7.5
4 x	1.467	4.7	1.413	4.6	1.429	4.5
8 x	0.865	2.8	0.807	2.6	0.856	2.7
16 x	0.430	1.4	0.427	1.4	0.410	1.3
32 x	0.234	0.8	0.234	0.8	0.248	0.8
64 x	0.129	0.4	0.133	0.4	0.122	0.4
128 x	0.086	0.3	0.082	0.3	0.089	0.3
Negativo	0.040		0.040		0.052	

Además se ha examinado el panel # PHE 102 de BBI en tres lotes del producto, los datos se reportan a continuación con referencia a un equipo europeo (resultados de BBI).

BBI – Panel código PHE 102

	Lote# 0103	Lote # 0103/2	Lote # 0303	Sorin EIA
Miembro	M/Co	M/Co	M/Co	M/Co
01	6.7	6.3	6.5	2.0
02	11.3	10.0	10.7	6.1

03	9.5	7.2	8.4	3.0
04	5.8	3.4	4.1	2.1
05	11.3	11.4	11.2	3.1
06	12.1	11.6	11.8	4.1
07	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
08	9.2	8.5	8.8	2.3
09	12.2	11.7	11.9	4.2
10	11.7	10.2	10.8	2.8
11	5.9	5.8	5.8	2.1
12	12.7	11.4	11.7	5.2
13	11.6	11.0	11.3	3.6
14	7.0	6.3	6.6	2.3
15	12.4	11.5	11.8	4.5

2. Sensibilidad Diagnóstica:

Se define como la probabilidad del ensayo de detectar positivos en presencia del analito específico.

La sensibilidad diagnóstica ha sido probada interna y externamente en un Laboratorio Clínico calificado, a partir de paneles de muestras clasificadas como positivas según un equipo certificado US FDA.

Las muestras positivas se obtuvieron de diferentes pacientes y a partir de diversas patologías producidas por HBV (hepatitis aguda y crónica). En un estudio realizado a más de 200 muestras, se encontró un valor > 98%.

También se realizó un estudio con un panel de Seroconversión producido por BBI, Estados Unidos, código # PHM 935A cuyos resultados se reportan a continuación con referencia a dos equipos comerciales (resultados BBI).

BBI Panel PHM 935A

	Lote # 0103	Abbott EIA	DiaSorin EIA
Miembro#	M/Co	M/Co	M/Co
01	0.2	0.1	0.1
02	0.2	0.1	0.1
03	0.2	0.1	0.1
04	0.1	0.1	0.1
05	0.2	0.1	0.1
06	0.2	0.1	0.1
07	0.2	0.1	0.1
08	0.1	0.1	0.1
09	0.1	0.1	0.1
10	0.1	0.1	0.1
11	0.2	0.1	0.1
12	0.2	0.1	0.1
13	2.8	3.7	0.7
14	5.0	6.4	0.9
15	> 12	6.2	4.5
16	> 12	5.6	4.5
17	> 12	5.5	4.3
18	> 12	4.8	4.3
19	> 12	> 6.6	4.4
20	> 12	> 6.6	5.2

3. Especificidad Diagnóstica:

Se define como la probabilidad del ensayo de detectar negativos en ausencia del analito específico.

La especificidad diagnóstica ha sido determinada interna y externamente en un Laboratorio Clínico calificado, a partir de paneles de muestras provenientes de individuos sanos y donantes de sangre, las mismas fueron clasificadas como negativas según un equipo certificado US FDA.

Se examinaron más de 400 muestras negativas, la especificidad diagnóstica encontrada fue > 98%.

También se analizaron más de 50 muestras que pudieran provocar interferencia (por ejemplo: otras enfermedades infecciosas, pacientes afectados por hepatitis no virales, pacientes sometidos a diálisis, mujeres embarazadas, hemofílicos, lipémicos, etc.). No se observaron interferencias en el estudio.

Se emplearon además plasma sometido a métodos de tratamiento estándar (citrato, EDTA y heparina) y suero humanos. No se ha observado falsa reactividad debida a los métodos de tratamiento de muestras.

Las muestras congeladas han sido probadas para comprobar si la congelación interfiere con el procedimiento del ensayo. No se ha observado interferencia a partir de muestras limpias y libres de agregados.

4. Precisión:

Se realizó un estudio con 3 muestras, examinadas en 16 réplicas, en tres corridas separadas utilizando 3 lotes diferentes. Los valores obtenidos se reportan a continuación :

BCM.CE: lote # 0103

Cal 0 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	0.055	0.053	0.051	0.053
Desviación estándar	0.005	0.006	0.005	0.006
CV %	9.9	12.3	10.7	10.9

Cal 5 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	0.324	0.308	0.321	0.318
Desviación estándar	0.022	0.018	0.024	0.021
CV %	6.8	5.7	7.5	6.7

Cal 50 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	2.109	2.048	2.052	2.070
Desviación estándar	0.101	0.088	0.136	0.109
CV %	4.8	4.3	6.7	5.2

BCM.CE: lote # 0103/2

Cal 0 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	0.057	0.053	0.054	0.055
Desviación estándar	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.004
CV %	8.3	9.0	7.3	8.2

Cal 5 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	0.332	0.331	0.322	0.328
Desviación estándar	0.017	0.018	0.016	0.017
CV %	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.1

Cal 50 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	2.311	2.208	2.212	2.244
Desviación estándar	0.110	0.090	0.095	0.098
CV %	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.4

BCM.CE: lote # 0303

Cal 0 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	0.043	0.042	0.040	0.042
Desviación estándar	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.004
CV %	10.3	11.1	10.9	10.8

Cal 5 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	0.320	0.326	0.314	0.320
Desviación estándar	0.023	0.024	0.026	0.024
CV %	7.1	7.4	8.2	7.6

Cal 50 U/ml (N = 16)

Valores medios	1ª corrida	2ª corrida	3ª corrida	Valor Promedio
DO 450nm	2.150	2.163	2.092	2.135
Desviación estándar	0.057	0.067	0.076	0.067
CV %	2.6	3.1	3.6	3.1

Nota importante:

Los datos de rendimiento se obtuvieron siguiendo el paso de lectura descrito en la sección M, punto 12.

S. LIMITACIONES DEL PROCEDIMIENTO.

Las muestras que después de ser descongeladas presentan partículas de fibrina o partículas agregadas, generan algunos resultados falsos positivos.

La contaminación bacteriana de las muestras o la inactivación por calor pueden modificar los valores de absorbancia con la consiguiente alteración de los niveles del analito.

Este ensayo es adecuado solo para el análisis de muestras individuales y no para mezclas.

El diagnóstico de una enfermedad infecciosa no se debe formular en base al resultado de un solo ensayo, sino que es necesario tomar en consideración la historia clínica y la sintomatología del paciente así como otros datos diagnósticos.

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Todos los productos de diagnóstico in vitro fabricados por la empresa son controlados por un sistema certificado de control de calidad aprobado por un organismo notificado para el mercado CE. Cada lote se somete a un control de calidad y se libera al mercado únicamente si se ajusta a las especificaciones técnicas y criterios de aceptación de la CE.

Fabricante:
Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes S.r.l.
Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni
Milán – Italia



0318

HBe Ag&Ab

**Enzyme Immunoassay (ELISA) for the
determination of Hepatitis B Virus
"e" Antigen and Antibody
in human plasma and sera.**

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -



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HBe Ag&Ab

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the determination of Hepatitis B Virus "e" Antigen and Antibody in human plasma and sera.

The kit is intended for the follow-up of acute infection and of chronic patients under therapy.

For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B "e" Antigen or HBeAg is known to be intimately associated with Hepatitis B Virus or HBV replication and the presence of infectious Dane particles in the blood.

Recently, it has been found that HBeAg is a product of proteolytic degradation of Hepatitis B core Antigen or HBcAg, occurring in hepatocytes, whose expression is under the control of the precore region of HBV genome.

If HBeAg is considered a specific marker of infectivity, the presence of anti HBeAg antibodies in blood is recognised to be a clinical sign of recovery from infection to convalescence.

The determination of these two analytes in samples from HBV patients has become important for the classification of the phase of illness and as a prognostic value in the follow up of infected patients.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

HBeAg:

HBeAg, if present in the sample, is captured by a specific monoclonal antibody, in the 1st incubation.

In the 2nd incubation, after washing, a tracer, composed of a mix of two specific anti HBeAg monoclonal antibodies, labeled with peroxidase (HRP), is added to the microplate and binds to the captured HBeAg.

The concentration of the bound enzyme on the solid phase is proportional to the amount of HBeAg in the sample and its activity is detected by adding the chromogen/substrate in the 3rd incubation.

The presence of HBeAg in the sample is determined by means of a cut-off value that allows for the semiquantitative detection of the antigen.

HBeAb

Anti HBeAg antibodies, if present in the sample, compete with a recombinant HBeAg preparation for a fixed amount of an anti HBeAg antibody, coated on the microplate wells.

The competitive assay is carried out in two incubations, the first with the sample and rechBeAg, and the second with a tracer, composed of two anti HBeAg monoclonal antibodies, labeled with peroxidase (HRP).

The concentration of the bound enzyme on the solid phase becomes inversely proportional to the amount of anti HBeAg antibodies in the sample and its activity is detected by adding the chromogen/substrate in the third incubation.

The concentration of HBeAg specific antibodies in the sample is determined by means of a cut-off value that allows for the semi quantitative detection of anti HBeAg antibodies.

D. COMPONENTS

The kit contains reagents for total 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE

n° 1 coated microplate

12 strips of 8 breakable wells coated with anti HBeAg specific monoclonal antibody, postcoated with bovine serum proteins and sealed into a bag with desiccant. Allow the microplate to reach room temperature before opening; reseal unused strips in the bag with desiccant and store at 2..8°C.

2. Negative Control: CONTROL

1x2.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains bovine serum, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives. The negative control is colorless.

3. Antigen Positive Control: CONTROL + Ag

1x1.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains 2% bovine serum albumin, non infectious recombinant HBeAg, 100 mM tris buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives.

The positive control is green color coded.

4. Antibody Positive Control: CONTROL + Ab

1x1.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains 2% bovine serum albumin, human anti HbeAg positive plasma at about 10 PEI U/ml, 100 mM tris buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives. The label is red colored.

The positive control is yellow color coded.

5. Antigen Calibrator: CALAG ...ml

n° 1 vial. Lyophilized calibrator for HBeAg. To be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. It contains fetal bovine serum, non infectious recombinant HBeAg at 1 PEI U/ml +/-10%, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives.

Important Note: The volume necessary to dissolve the content of the vial may vary from lot to lot. Please use the right volume reported on the label.

6. Antibody Calibrator: CALAB ...ml

n° 1 vial. Lyophilized calibrator for anti HBeAg antibody. To be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. It contains fetal bovine serum, positive plasma at 0.25 PEI U/ml +/-10%, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate and 0.045% ProClin 300 as preservatives. The label is red colored.

Important Note: The volume necessary to dissolve the content of the vial may vary from lot to lot. Please use the right volume reported on the label.

7. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X

1x60ml/bottle. 20x concentrated solution.

Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2, 0.05% Tween 20 and 0.045% ProClin 300.

8. Enzyme conjugate: CONJ

1x16ml/vial. Ready to use conjugate. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated with a mix of monoclonal antibodies to HBeAg, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.045% ProClin 300 and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives. The reagent is red color coded.

9. HBe Antigen: Ag-HBe

1x10ml/vial. Ready to use reagent. It contains recombinant HBeAg, fetal bovine serum, buffered solution pH 8.0+/-0.1, 0.045% ProClin 300 and 0.09% sodium azide as preservatives. The reagent is blue color coded.

10. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB

1x16ml/vial. Ready-to-use component. It contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine or TMB and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide or H₂O₂.

Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

11. Sulphuric Acid: H₂SO₄ 0.3 M

1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H₂SO₄ solution.

Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

12. Plate sealing foils n°2

13. Package insert n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (150ul, 100ul and 50ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (double distilled or deionised, charcoal treated to remove oxidizing chemicals used as disinfectants).
3. Timer with 60 minute range or higher.
4. Absorbent paper tissues.
5. Calibrated ELISA microplate thermostatic incubator (dry or wet) set at +37°C.
6. Calibrated ELISA microwell reader with 450nm (reading) and with 620-630nm (blinking) filters.
7. Calibrated ELISA microplate washer.
8. Vortex or similar mixing tools.

F. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. The kit has to be used by skilled and properly trained technical personnel only, under the supervision of a medical doctor responsible of the laboratory.
2. All the personnel involved in performing the assay have to wear protective laboratory clothes, talc-free gloves and glasses. The use of any sharp (needles) or cutting (blades) devices should be avoided. All the personnel involved should be trained in biosafety procedures, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. and reported in the National Institute of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
3. All the personnel involved in sample handling should be vaccinated for HBV and HAV, for which vaccines are available, safe and effective.
4. The laboratory environment should be controlled so as to avoid contaminants such as dust or air-borne microbial agents, when opening kit vials and microplates and when performing the test. Protect the Chromogen/Substrate (TMB) from strong light and avoid vibration of the bench surface where the test is undertaken.
5. Upon receipt, store the kit at 2-8°C into a temperature controlled refrigerator or cold room.
6. Do not interchange components between different lots of the kits. It is recommended that components between two kits of the same lot should not be interchanged.
7. Check that the reagents are clear and do not contain visible heavy particles or aggregates. If not, advise the laboratory supervisor to initiate the necessary procedures.
8. Avoid cross-contamination between serum/plasma samples by using disposable tips and changing them after each sample. Do not reuse disposable tips.
9. Avoid cross-contamination between kit reagents by using disposable tips and changing them between the use of each one. Do not reuse disposable tips.
10. Do not use the kit after the expiration date stated on external (primary container) and internal (vials) labels.
11. Treat all specimens as potentially infective. All human serum specimens should be handled at Biosafety Level 2, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. in compliance with what reported in the Institutes of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
12. The use of disposable plastic-ware is recommended in the preparation of the washing solution or in transferring components into other containers of automated workstations, in order to avoid contamination.
13. Waste produced during the use of the kit has to be discarded in compliance with national directives and laws concerning laboratory waste of chemical and biological substances. In particular, liquid waste generated from the washing procedure, from residuals of controls and from samples has to be treated as potentially infective material and inactivated. Suggested procedures of inactivation are

treatment with a 10% final concentration of household bleach for 16-18 hrs or heat inactivation by autoclave at 121°C for 20 min..

14. Accidental spills have to be adsorbed with paper tissues soaked with household bleach and then with water. Tissues should then be discarded in proper containers designated for laboratory/hospital waste.

15. The Stop Solution is an irritant. In case of spills, wash the surface with plenty of water

16. Other waste materials generated from the use of the kit (example: tips used for samples and controls, used microplates) should be handled as potentially infective and disposed according to national directives and laws concerning laboratory wastes.

G. SPECIMEN: PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Blood is drawn aseptically by venepuncture and plasma or serum is prepared using standard techniques of preparation of samples for clinical laboratory analysis. No influence has been observed in the preparation of the sample with citrate, EDTA and heparin.
2. Avoid any addition of preservatives; especially sodium azide as this chemical would affect the enzymatic activity of the conjugate, generating false negative results.
3. Samples have to be clearly identified with codes or names in order to avoid misinterpretation of results.
4. Haemolysed and visibly hyperlipemic ("milky") samples have to be discarded as they could generate false results. Samples containing residues of fibrin or heavy particles or microbial filaments and bodies should be discarded as they could give rise to false results.
5. Sera and plasma can be stored at +2°...+8°C in primary collection tubes for up to five days after collection. Do not freeze primary tubes of collection. For longer storage periods, sera and plasma samples, carefully removed from the primary collection tube, can be stored frozen at -20°C for at least 12 months. Any frozen samples should not be frozen/thawed more than once as this may generate particles that could affect the test result.
6. If particles are present, centrifuge at 2.000 rpm for 20 min or filter using 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

A study conducted on an opened kit has not pointed out any relevant loss of activity up to 6 re-uses of the device and up to 3 months.

1. Microplate:

Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant has not turned dark green, indicating a defect in manufacturing. In this case, call Dia.Pro's customer service.

Unused strips have to be placed back into the aluminum pouch, with the desiccant supplied, firmly zipped and stored at +2°-8°C. When opened the first time, unused strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.

2. Negative Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

3. Antigen Positive Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

4. Antibody Positive Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

5. Antigen Calibrator:

Add the volume of ELISA grade water, reported on the label, to the lyophilized powder; let fully dissolve and then gently mix on vortex.

Note: The dissolved calibrator is not stable. Store it frozen in aliquots at -20°C.

6. Antibody Calibrator:

Add the volume of ELISA grade water, reported on the label, to the lyophilized powder; let fully dissolve and then gently mix on vortex.

Note: The dissolved calibrator is not stable. Store it frozen in aliquots at -20°C.

7. Wash buffer concentrate:

The whole content of the 20x concentrated solution has to be diluted with bidistilled water up to 1200 ml and mixed gently end-over-end before use.

During preparation avoid foaming as the presence of bubbles could impact on the efficiency of the washing cycles.

Note: Once diluted, the wash solution is stable for 1 week at +2..8° C.

8. Enzyme conjugate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. If this component has to be transferred, use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable containers.

9. HBe Antigen:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. If this component has to be transferred, use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable containers.

10. Chromogen/Substrate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. Do not expose to strong light, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.

If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable container.

11. Sulphuric Acid:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

Legenda:

Warning H statements:

H315 – Causes skin irritation.

H319 – Causes serious eye irritation.

Precautionary P statements:

P280 – Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

P302 + P352 – IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water.

P332 + P313 – If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

P305 + P351 + P338 – IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

P337 + P313 – If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.

P362 + P363 – Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

I. INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS USED IN COMBINATION WITH THE KIT

- Micropipettes have to be calibrated to deliver the correct volume required by the assay and must be submitted to regular decontamination (household alcohol, 10% solution of bleach, hospital grade disinfectants) of those parts that could accidentally come in contact with the sample. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly. They should also be regularly maintained in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of $\pm 2\%$.
- The ELISA incubator has to be set at +37°C (tolerance of $\pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$) and regularly checked to ensure the correct temperature is maintained. Both dry incubators and water baths are suitable for the incubations, provided that the instrument is validated for the incubation of ELISA tests.
- The **ELISA washer** is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated in advance, checked for the delivery of the right dispensation volume and regularly submitted to maintenance according to the manufacturer's instructions for use. In particular the washer, at the end of the daily workload, has to be extensively cleaned out of salts with deionized water. Before use, the washer has to be extensively primed with the diluted Washing Solution. The instrument weekly has to be submitted to decontamination according to its manual (NaOH 0.1 M decontamination suggested).
5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/well of washing solution + 20 sec soaking = 1 cycle) are sufficient to ensure the assay with the declared performances. If soaking is not possible add one more cycle of washing. An incorrect washing cycle or salt-blocked needles are the major cause of false positive reactions.
- Incubation times have a tolerance of $\pm 5\%$.
- The ELISA reader has to be equipped with a reading filter of 450nm and with a second filter of 620-630nm, mandatory for blanking purposes. Blanking is carried out on the well identified in the section "Assay Procedure". The optical system of the reader has to be calibrated regularly to ensure the correct optical density is measured. It should be regularly maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- When using an ELISA automated work station, all critical steps (dispensation, incubation, washing, reading, data handling) have to be carefully set, calibrated, controlled and regularly serviced in order to match the values reported in the section "Internal Quality Control". The assay protocol has to be installed in the operating system of the unit and validated as for the washer and the reader. In addition, the liquid handling part of the station (dispensation and washing) has to be validated and correctly set. Particular attention must be paid to avoid carry over by the needles used for dispensing and for washing. This must be studied and controlled to minimize the possibility of contamination of adjacent wells. The use of ELISA automated work stations is recommended when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.
- Dia.Pro's customer service offers support to the user in the setting and checking of instruments used in combination with the kit, in order to assure compliance with the requirements described. Support is also provided for the installation of new instruments to be used with the kit.

L. PRE ASSAY CONTROLS AND OPERATIONS

- Check the expiration date of the kit printed on the external label (primary container). Do not use if expired.
- Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen/Substrate (TMB+H₂O₂) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette. Check that no breakage occurred in transportation

and no spillage of liquid is present inside the box (primary container). Check that the aluminium pouch, containing the microplate, is not punctured or damaged.

- Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
- Dissolve the Calibrator as described above and gently mix.
- Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
- Set the ELISA incubator at +37°C and prepare the ELISA washer by priming with the diluted washing solution, according to the manufacturers instructions. Set the right number of washing cycles as reported in the specific section.
- Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
- If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
- Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
- Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.

In case of problems, do not proceed further with the test and advise the supervisor.

M. ASSAY PROCEDURE

The assay has to be performed according to the procedure given below, taking care to maintain the same incubation time for all the samples being tested.

A) HBe Antigen:

- Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for controls, calibrator and samples.
- Leave the A1 well empty for blanking purposes.
- Pipette 100 µl of the Negative Control in triplicate, 100 µl of the Antigen Calibrator in duplicate and then 100 µl of the Antigen Positive Control in single.
- Then dispense 100 µl of samples in the proper wells.
- Check for the presence of samples in wells by naked eye (there is a marked colour difference between empty and full wells) or by reading at 450/620nm (samples show OD values higher than 0.100).
- Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil, only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.

- When the first incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Dispense 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate in all wells, except for A1, used for blanking operations.

Important note: Be careful not to touch the inner surface of the well with the pipette tip and not to immerse the top of it into samples or controls. Contamination might occur.

- Check that the reagent has been dispensed properly and then incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
- When the second incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells, A1 included.

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light as a high background might be generated.

- Incubate the microplate protected from light at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**. Wells dispensed with positive control and positive samples will turn from clear to blue.

- Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 11. Addition of the stop solution will turn the positive control and positive samples from blue to yellow.

- Measure the color intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5 using a 450nm filter (reading) and a 620-630nm filter (background subtraction, mandatory), blanking the instrument on A1.

B) HBe Antibody:

- Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for controls, calibrator and samples.
- Leave the A1 well empty for blanking purposes.
- Pipette 50 µl of the Negative Control in triplicate, 50 µl of the Antibody Calibrator in duplicate and then 50 µl of the Antibody Positive Control in single.
- Then dispense 50 µl of samples in the proper wells.
- Check for the presence of samples in wells by naked eye (there is a marked color difference between empty and full wells) or by reading at 450/620nm (samples show OD values higher than 0.100).
- Dispense then 50 µl of HBe Antigen in all the wells, except for A1.
- Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

Important note: Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil, only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.

- When the first incubation is finished, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)
- Finally proceed as described for the HBeAg assay from point 8 to the last one.

Important notes:

- Ensure that no finger prints are present on the bottom of the microwell before reading. Finger prints could generate false positive results on reading.
- Reading should ideally be performed immediately after the addition of the Stop Solution but definitely no longer than 20 minutes afterwards. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to a higher background.
- The Calibrator (CAL) does not affect the cut-off calculation and therefore the test results calculation. The Calibrator may be used only when a laboratory internal quality control is required by the management.

N. ASSAY SCHEME

HBe antigen test

Controls and calibrator	100 ul
Samples	100 ul
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
Enzyme Conjugate	100 ul
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
TMB/H2O2 mix	100 ul
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm/620-630nm

HBe antibody test

Controls and calibrator	50 ul
Samples	50 ul
Neutralising antigen	50 ul
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
Enzymatic conjugate	100 ul
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	n° 5 cycles with 20" of soaking OR n° 6 cycles without soaking
TMB/H2O2 mixture	100 ul
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm/620-630nm

An example of dispensation scheme is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S2										
B	NC	S3										
C	NC	S4										
D	NC	S5										
E	CAL	S6										
F	CAL	S7										
G	PC	S8										
H	S1	S9										

Legenda: BLK = Blank // NC = Negative Control
PC = Positive Control // CAL = Calibrators // S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A validation check is carried out on the controls any time the kit is used in order to verify whether the performances of the assay are as qualified.

Control that the following data are matched:

HBe Antigen

Check	OD450nm
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm
Negative Control (NC)	< 0.150 OD450nm after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
Antigen Calibrator	S/Co > 2.0
Positive Control (PC)	> 1.500 OD450nm

HBe Antibody

Check	OD450nm
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm
Negative Control (NC)	> 1.000 OD450nm after blanking coefficient of variation < 10%
Antibody Calibrator	OD450nm < NC/1.5
Positive Control (PC)	OD450nm < NC/10

If the results of the test match the requirements stated above, proceed to the next section.

If they do not, don't proceed any further and perform the following checks:

HBeAg

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Negative Control (NC) > 0.150 OD450nm after blanking coefficient of variation > 30%	1. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 2. that the proper washing solution has been used and the washer has been primed with it before use; 3. that no mistake has been done in the assay procedure (dispensation of positive control instead of negative control); 4. that no contamination of the negative control or of the wells where the control was dispensed has occurred due to positive samples, to spills or to the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes have not become contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
Calibrator S/Co < 2	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of negative control instead); 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Positive Control < 1.500 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during the distribution of the control (dispensation of negative control instead of positive control); 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the positive control has occurred.

HBe antibody

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Negative Control (NC) < 1.000 OD450nm after blanking coefficient of variation > 10%	1. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 2. that the proper washing solution has been used and the washer has been primed with it before use; 3. that no mistake has been done in the assay procedure (e.g.: dispensation of positive control instead of negative control; no dispensation of the Neutralizing Antigen; no dispensation of the Enzyme Conjugate); 4. that no contamination of the negative control or of the wells where the control was dispensed has occurred; 5. that micropipettes have not become contaminated with positive samples; 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.

Calibrator OD450nm > NC/1.5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of negative control instead; no dispensation of the Neutralizing Antigen; no dispensation of the Enzyme Conjugate); 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Positive Control OD450nm > NC/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during the distribution of the control; 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the positive control has occurred.

If any of the above problems have occurred, report the problem to the supervisor for further actions.

Important note:

The analysis must be done proceeding as the reading step described in the section M, point 14.

P. CALCULATION OF THE CUT-OFF

The results are calculated by means of a cut-off value determined with the following formula:

HBeAg:

$$NC + 0.100 = \text{Cut-Off (Co)}$$

The value found for the test is used for the interpretation of results as described in the next paragraph.

HBeAb:

$$(NC + PC) / 3 = \text{Cut-Off (Co)}$$

Important note: When the calculation of results is performed by the operating system of an ELISA automated work station, ensure that the proper formulation is used to calculate the cut-off value and generate the correct interpretation of results.

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Results are interpreted as follows:

HBeAg:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 0.9	Negative
0.9 - 1.1	Equivocal
> 1.1	Positive

HBeAb:

Co/S	Interpretation
< 0.9	Negative
0.9 - 1.1	Equivocal
> 1.1	Positive

Note:

$S = OD450nm/620-630nm$ of the sample

Co = cut-off value

An example of calculation for HBeAg assay is reported below (data obtained proceeding as the the reading step described in the section M, point 14):

The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Negative Control: 0.020 – 0.030 – 0.025 OD450nm

Mean Value: 0.025 OD450nm

Lower than 0.150 – Accepted

Positive Control: 2.489 OD450nm

Higher than 1.500 – Accepted

Cut-Off = $0.025 + 0.100 = 0.125$

Calibrator: 0.520 - 0.540 OD450nm

Mean value: 0.530 OD450nm

S/Co = 4.2

S/Co higher than 2.0 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.030 OD450nm

Sample 2: 1.800 OD450nm

Sample 1 S/Co < 0.9 = negative

Sample 2 S/Co > 1.1 = positive

An example of calculation for HBeAb is reported below (data obtained proceeding as the the reading step described in the section M, point 14):

The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Negative Control: 2.100 – 2.200 – 2.000 OD450nm

Mean Value: 2.100 OD450nm

Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Positive Control: 0.100 OD450nm

Lower than NC/10 – Accepted

Cut-Off = $(2.100 + 0.100) / 3 = 0.733$

Calibrator: 0.720-0.760 OD450nm

Mean value: 0.740 OD450nm

OD450nm < NC/1.5 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.020 OD450nm

Sample 2: 1.900 OD450nm

Sample 1 Co/S > 1.1 positive

Sample 2 Co/S < 0.9 negative

Important notes:

1. Interpretation of results should be done under the supervision of the laboratory director to reduce the risk of judgment errors and misinterpretations.
2. The Identification of the clinical status of a HBV patient (acute, chronic, asymptomatic hepatitis) has to be done on the basis also of the other markers of HBV infection (HBsAg, HBsAb, HBcAb, HBcIgM);
3. When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.
4. Diagnosis of viral hepatitis infection has to be taken by and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.

R. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

A) HBeAg

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of the International Standard for HBeAg, supplied by Paul Erlich Institute (PEI).

The data obtained by examining the limit of detection on three lots is reported in the table below.

HBE.CE Lot ID	PEI U/ml HBeAg
0103	0.25
0103/2	0.25
0303	0.25

In addition the preparation Accurun # 51, produced by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA, has been tested, upon dilution in FCS. Results are reported for three lots of products.

BBI's Accurun 51 (S/Co)

HBE.CE Lot ID	1 x	2 x	4 x	8 x	16x
0103	4.1	1.6	0.9	0.6	0.4
0103/2	4.1	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.4
0303	4.0	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.4

2. Diagnostic Sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested on panels of samples classified positive by a US FDA approved kit.

Positive samples were collected from different HBV pathologies (acute, chronic) bearing HBeAg reactivity.

An overall value > 98% has been found in the study conducted on a total number of more than 200 samples.

Moreover the Panel of Seroconversion code PHM 935B, produced by BBI, was examined.

Data are reported below and compared with those reported by BBI for two other commercial products.

Sample ID	HBE.CE S/Co	Abbott EIA S/Co	Sorin EIA S/Co
21	5.4	4.5	6.3
22	3.7	4.3	5.4
23	1.9	3.2	3.1
24	1.1	2.4	1.5
25	1.0	2.1	1.2
26	0.6	1.7	0.7
27	0.2	0.8	0.3
28	0.2	0.6	0.2
29	0.2	0.4	0.2
30	0.2	0.3	0.2
31	0.1	0.3	0.2
32	0.1	0.3	0.2

Finally the Performance Panel code PHJ 201, produced by BBI, was tested. Data are reported below and compared with those reported by BBI for an other commercial product.

Member	PEI U/ml	HBE.CE	Sorin EIA
1	3	3.3	7.0
2	6	17.5	21.9
3	26	30.1	37.1
4	31	29.4	23.5
5	1	1.1	2.2
6	2	2.3	6.9
7	35	30.1	24.6
8	38	29.2	31.9
9	4	16.6	10.8
10	-	0.3	0.2

11	1	3.4	3.6
12	< 1	0.2	1.2
13	< 1	0.9	1.4
14	-	0.2	0.2
15	-	0.4	0.1
16	-	0.5	0.1
17	-	0.3	0.2
18	-	0.2	0.2
19	-	0.2	0.1
20	-	0.2	0.1
21	-	0.3	1.0
22	-	0.3	0.1
23	-	0.4	0.1
24	-	0.2	0.2
25	-	0.3	0.2

3. Diagnostic Specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been determined on panels of negative samples from normal individuals and blood donors, classified negative with a FDA approved kit.

Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been used to determine the specificity.

No false reactivity due to the method of specimen preparation has been observed.

Frozen specimens have also been tested to check whether this interferes with the performance of the test. No interference was observed on clean and particle free samples.

Samples derived from patients with different viral (HCV and HAV) and non viral pathologies of the liver that may interfere with the test were examined.

No cross reaction were observed.

The Performance Evaluation study conducted in a qualified external reference center on more than 500 samples has provided a value > 98% .

4. Precision

It has been calculated on two samples examined in 16 replicate in three different runs on three lots.

The values found were as follows:

HBE.CE: lot # 0103

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.030	0.027	0.032	0.029
Std.Deviation	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.002
CV %	7.4	8.2	7.9	7.8

PEI 1 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.569	0.559	0.575	0.568
Std.Deviation	0.027	0.029	0.028	0.028
CV %	4.7	5.3	4.9	4.9
S/Co	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4

HBE.CE: lot # 0103/2

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.033	0.031	0.030	0.032
Std.Deviation	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.003
CV %	7.9	8.5	7.4	8.0

PEI 1 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.565	0.573	0.568	0.569
Std.Deviation	0.026	0.025	0.024	0.025
CV %	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.4
S/Co	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.3

HBE.CE: lot # 0303

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.029	0.034	0.038	0.034
Std.Deviation	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.003
CV %	9.7	9.8	9.2	9.6

PEI 1 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.579	0.573	0.564	0.572
Std.Deviation	0.023	0.028	0.025	0.025
CV %	4.1	4.8	4.5	4.5
S/Co	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.3

B) HBe Antibody

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of the International Standard for HBeAb, supplied by Paul Erlich Institute (PEI).

The data obtained by examining the limit of detection on three lots is reported in the table below.

HBE.CE Lot ID	PEI U/ml HBeAb
0103	0.25
0103/2	0.25
0303	0.25

In addition the preparation Accurun # 52, produced by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA, has been tested, upon dilution in FCS. Results are reported for three lots of products.

Accurun 52 (Co/S)

HBE.CE Lot ID	1 x	2 x	4 x	8 x	16x
0103	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4
0103/2	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4
0303	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested on panels of samples classified positive for HBeAb by a US FDA approved kit. Positive samples were collected from different HBV pathologies bearing anti HBeAg antibody reactivity.

An overall value > 98% has been found in the study conducted on a total number of more than 200 samples.

Moreover the Panel of Seroconversion code PHM 935B, produced by BBI, was examined.

Data are reported below and compared with those reported by BBI for two other commercial products.

Sample ID	HBE.CE Co/S	Abbott EIA Co/S	Sorin EIA Co/S
21	0.4	0.4	0.5
22	0.4	0.5	0.6
23	0.4	0.6	0.5
24	0.4	0.5	0.6
25	0.4	0.6	0.5
26	0.5	0.6	0.6
27	0.6	0.8	0.7
28	0.7	0.9	0.7
29	0.6	0.9	0.7
30	0.8	1.0	0.9
31	1.0	1.3	1.1
32	1.0	1.2	1.0

Finally the Performance Panel code PHJ 201, produced by BBI, was tested. Data are reported below and compared with those reported by BBI for another commercial product.

Member	PEI U/ml	HBE.CE	Sorin EIA
1	-	0.3	0.5
2	-	0.2	0.5
3	-	0.2	0.5
4	-	0.2	0.5
5	-	0.3	0.6
6	-	0.3	0.6
7	-	0.2	0.4
8	-	0.2	0.4
9	-	0.2	0.5
10	-	1.9	0.6
11	-	0.3	0.5
12	-	0.4	0.9
13	2	4.4	9.1
14	1	3.8	2.9
15	< 1	1.0	1.5
16	> 50	4.3	120.9
17	< 1	1.0	1.0
18	5	5.6	21.8
19	1	2.7	6.4
20	11	5.0	47.3
21	2	1.9	10.0
22	26	28.1	90.7
23	-	0.3	0.5
24	< 1	0.8	1.3
25	50	28.1	167.4

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The clinical specificity has been determined as described before for HBeAg.

The Performance Evaluation study conducted in a qualified external reference center on more than 500 samples has provided a value > 98%.

4. Precision:

It has been calculated on two samples examined in 16 replicate in three different runs on three lots.

The values found were as follows:

HBE.CE: lot # 0103

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.484	2.420	2.471	2.458
Std.Deviation	0.129	0.160	0.142	0.144
CV %	5.2	6.6	5.7	5.9

PEI 0.25 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.867	0.800	0.878	0.848
Std.Deviation	0.043	0.060	0.050	0.051
CV %	5.0	7.5	5.7	6.1
Co/S	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

HBE.CE: lot # 0103/2

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.316	2.361	2.413	2.363
Std.Deviation	0.127	0.144	0.146	0.139
CV %	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.9

PEI 0.25 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.767	0.793	0.785	0.781
Std.Deviation	0.041	0.050	0.046	0.046
CV %	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.8
Co/S	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System approved by an EC Notified Body. Each lot is submitted to a quality control and released into the market only if conforming with the EC technical specifications and acceptance criteria.

HBE.CE: lot #0303
Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.334	2.415	2.437	2.395
Std.Deviation	0.146	0.155	0.158	0.153
CV %	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.4

Manufacturer:
Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes S.r.l.
Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni (MI) – Italy

PEI 0.25 U/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.850	0.867	0.876	0.864
Std.Deviation	0.052	0.051	0.048	0.050
CV %	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.8
Co/S	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0

CE
0318

Important note:

The performance data have been obtained proceeding as the reading step described in the section M, point 14.

S. LIMITATIONS

Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates may generate false positive results.

Bacterial contamination or heat inactivation of the specimen may affect the absorbance values of the samples with consequent alteration of the level of the analyte.

This test is suitable only for testing single samples and not pooled ones.

Diagnosis of an infectious disease should not be established on the basis of a single test result. The patient's clinical history, symptomatology, as well as other diagnostic data should be considered.

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HBsAb

**Enzyme Immunoassay for
qualitative/quantitative determination of
antibodies to Hepatitis B surface Antigen
in human serum and plasma**

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -



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REF SAB.CE
96 Tests

HBs Ab

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for both the quantitative and qualitative determination of antibodies to the Surface Antigen of Hepatitis B Virus in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Hepatitis B Virus infection as follows:

"Hepatitis B is one of the major diseases of mankind and is a serious global public health problem. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver, and the most common cause is infection with one of 5 viruses, called hepatitis A,B,C,D, and E. All of these viruses can cause an acute disease with symptoms lasting several weeks including yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice); dark urine; extreme fatigue; nausea; vomiting and abdominal pain. It can take several months to a year to feel fit again. Hepatitis B virus can cause chronic infection in which the patient never gets rid of the virus and many years later develops cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer.

HBV is the most serious type of viral hepatitis and the only type causing chronic hepatitis for which a vaccine is available. Hepatitis B virus is transmitted by contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person in the same way as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. However, HBV is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV. The main ways of getting infected with HBV are: (a) perinatal (from mother to baby at the birth); (b) child-to-child transmission; (c) unsafe injections and transfusions; (d) sexual contact.

Worldwide, most infections occur from infected mother to child, from child to child contact in household settings, and from reuse of un-sterilized needles and syringes. In many developing countries, almost all children become infected with the virus. In many industrialized countries (e.g. Western Europe and North America), the pattern of transmission is different. In these countries, mother-to-infant and child-to-child transmission accounted for up to one third of chronic infections before childhood hepatitis B vaccination programmes were implemented. However, the majority of infections in these countries are acquired during young adulthood by sexual activity, and injecting drug use. In addition, hepatitis B virus is the major infectious occupational hazard of health workers, and most health care workers have received hepatitis B vaccine.

Hepatitis B virus is not spread by contaminated food or water, and cannot be spread casually in the workplace. High rates of chronic HBV infection are also found in the southern parts of Eastern and Central Europe. In the Middle East and Indian sub-continent, about 5% are chronically infected. Infection is less common in Western Europe and North America, where less than 1% are chronically infected.

Young children who become infected with HBV are the most likely to develop chronic infection. About 90% of infants infected during the first year of life and 30% to 50% of children infected between 1 to 4 years of age develop chronic infection. The risk of death from HBV-related liver cancer or

cirrhosis is approximately 25% for persons who become chronically infected during childhood.

Chronic hepatitis B in some patients is treated with drugs called *interferon or lamivudine*, which can help some patients. Patients with cirrhosis are sometimes given liver transplants, with varying success. It is preferable to prevent this disease with vaccine than to try and cure it.

Hepatitis B vaccine has an outstanding record of safety and effectiveness. Since 1982, over one billion doses of hepatitis B vaccine have been used worldwide. The vaccine is given as a series of three intramuscular doses. Studies have shown that the vaccine is 95% effective in preventing children and adults from developing chronic infection if they have not yet been infected. In many countries where 8% to 15% of children used to become chronically infected with HBV, the rate of chronic infection has been reduced to less than 1% in immunized groups of children. Since 1991, WHO has called for all countries to add hepatitis B vaccine into their national immunization programmes."

Hepatitis B surface Antigen (HBsAg) is the major structural polypeptide of the envelope of the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV).

This antigen is composed mainly of the type common determinant "a" and the type specific determinants "d" and "y", present only on the specific serotypes.

Upon infection, a strong immunological response develops firstly against the type specific determinants and in a second time against the "a" determinant.

Anti "a" antibodies are however recognised to be most effective in the neutralisation of the virus, protecting the patient from other infections and leading it to convalescence.

The detection of HBsAb has become important for the follow up of patients infected by HBV and the monitoring of recipients upon vaccination with synthetic and natural HBsAg.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Microplates are coated with a preparation of highly purified HBsAg that in the first incubation with sample specifically captures anti HBsAg antibodies to the solid phase.

After washing, captured antibodies are detected by an HBsAg, labelled with peroxidase (HRP), that specifically binds the second available binding site of these antibodies.

The enzyme specifically bound to wells, by acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of HBsAb in the sample and can be detected by an ELISA reader.

The amount of antibodies may be quantitated by means of a standard curve calibrated against the W.H.O reference preparation.

Samples are pre treated in the well with an specimen diluent able to block interference present in vaccinated individuals.

D. COMPONENTS

Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE

8x12 microwell strips coated with purified heat-inactivated HBsAg of both subtypes (ad and ay) from human origin and sealed into a bag with desiccant.

Allow the microplate to reach room temperature before opening; reseal unused strips in the bag with desiccant and store at 4°C.

2. Calibration Curve: **CAL N° ...**

5x2.0 ml/vial. Ready to use and colour coded standard curve, derived from HBsAg positive plasma titrated on WHO standard for anti HBsAg (1st reference preparation 1977, lot 17-2-77), ranging: CAL1 = 0 mIU/ml // CAL2 = 10 mIU/ml // CAL3 = 50 mIU/ml // CAL4 = 100 mIU/ml // CAL5 = 250 mIU/ml.

Contains human serum proteins, 5% BSA, 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. Standards are blue coloured.

3. Wash buffer concentrate: **WASHBUF 20X**

1x60ml/bottle. 20x concentrated solution.

Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2, 0.05% Tween 20 and 0.1% Kathon GC.

4. Enzyme conjugate : **CONJ**

1x16.0 ml/vial. Ready-to-use solution and red color coded.

It contains inactivated purified HBsAg of both subtypes ad and ay, labelled with HRP, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.3 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.

5. Chromogen/Substrate: **SUBS TMB**

1x16ml/vial. Contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetramethyl-benzidine (TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂).

Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

6. Sulphuric Acid: **H₂SO₄ 0.3 M**

1x15ml/vial. Contains 0.3 M H₂SO₄ solution.

Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

7. Specimen Diluent: **DILSPE**

1x8ml. 10 mM Tris Buffered solution pH 7.4 +/-0.1, suggested to be used in the follow up of vaccination. It contains 0.09% sodium azide as preservatives.

8. Control Serum: **CONTROL ...ml**

1 vial. Lyophilized.

Contains fetal bovine serum proteins, human anti HBsAg antibodies calibrated at 50 ± 10% WHO mIU/ml. 0.3 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.

9. Plate sealing foil n° 2

10. Package insert n° 1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (100ul and 50ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (double distilled or deionised, charcoal treated to remove oxidizing chemicals used as disinfectants).
3. Timer with 60 minute range or higher.
4. Absorbent paper tissues.
5. Calibrated ELISA microplate thermostatic incubator (dry or wet), set at +37°C (+/-1°C tolerance)..
6. Calibrated ELISA microwell reader with 450nm (reading) and with 620-630nm (blanking, strongly recommended) filters.
7. Calibrated ELISA microplate washer.
8. Vortex or similar mixing tools.

F. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. The kit has to be used by skilled and properly trained technical personnel only, under the supervision of a medical doctor responsible of the laboratory.

2. All the personnel involved in performing the assay have to wear protective laboratory clothes, talc-free gloves and glasses. The use of any sharp (needles) or cutting (blades) devices should be avoided. All the personnel involved should be trained in biosafety procedures, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. and reported in the National Institute of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.

3. All the personnel involved in sample handling should be vaccinated for HBV and HAV, for which vaccines are available, safe and effective.

4. The laboratory environment should be controlled so as to avoid contaminants such as dust or air-borne microbial agents, when opening kit vials and microplates and when performing the test. Protect the Chromogen (TMB) from strong light and avoid vibration of the bench surface where the test is undertaken.

5. Upon receipt, store the kit at 2..8°C into a temperature controlled refrigerator or cold room.

6. Do not interchange components between different lots of the kits. It is recommended that components between two kits of the same lot should not be interchanged.

7. Check that the reagents are clear and do not contain visible heavy particles or aggregates. If not, advise the laboratory supervisor to initiate the necessary procedures for kit replacement.

8. Avoid cross-contamination between serum/plasma samples by using disposable tips and changing them after each sample.

9. Avoid cross-contamination between kit reagents by using disposable tips and changing them between the use of each one.

10. Do not use the kit after the expiration date stated on the external container and internal (vials) labels. A study conducted on an opened kit did not pointed out any relevant loss of activity up to six 6 uses of the device and up to 6 months.

11. Treat all specimens as potentially infective. All human serum specimens should be handled at Biosafety Level 2, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. in compliance with what reported in the Institutes of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.

12. The use of disposable plastic-ware is recommended in the preparation of the liquid components or in transferring components into automated workstations, in order to avoid cross contamination.

13. Waste produced during the use of the kit has to be discarded in compliance with national directives and laws concerning laboratory waste of chemical and biological substances. In particular, liquid waste generated from the washing procedure, from residuals of controls and from samples has to be treated as potentially infective material and inactivated before waste. Suggested procedures of inactivation are treatment with a 10% final concentration of household bleach for 16-18 hrs or heat inactivation by autoclave at 121°C for 20 min..

14. Accidental spills from samples and operations have to be adsorbed with paper tissues soaked with household bleach and then with water. Tissues should then be discarded in proper containers designated for laboratory/hospital waste.

15. The Sulphuric Acid is an irritant. In case of spills, wash the surface with plenty of water

16. Other waste materials generated from the use of the kit (example: tips used for samples and controls, used microplates) should be handled as potentially infective and disposed according to national directives and laws concerning laboratory wastes.

G. SPECIMEN: PREPARATION AND WARNINGS

1. Blood is drawn aseptically by venipuncture and plasma or serum is prepared using standard techniques of preparation of samples for clinical laboratory analysis. No influence has been observed in the preparation of the sample with citrate, EDTA and heparin.

2. Samples have to be clearly identified with codes or names in order to avoid misinterpretation of results. Bar code labeling and electronic reading is strongly recommended.

3. Haemolysed ("red") and visibly hyperlipemic ("milky") samples have to be discarded as they could generate false results. Samples containing residues of fibrin or heavy particles or microbial filaments and bodies should be discarded as they could give rise to false results.

4. Sera and plasma can be stored at +2°.8°C for up to five days after collection. For longer storage periods, samples can be stored frozen at -20°C for several months. Any frozen samples should not be freeze/thawed more than once as this may generate particles that could affect the test result.

5. If particles are present, centrifuge at 2.000 rpm for 20 min or filter using 0.2-0.8µ filters to clean up the sample for testing.

6. Samples whose anti-HBsAg antibody concentration is expected to be higher than 250 mIU/ml should be diluted before use either 1:10 or 1:100 in the Calibrator 0 mIU/ml. Dilutions have to be done in clean disposable tubes by diluting 50 µl of each specimen with 450 µl of Cal 0 (1:10). Then 50 µl of the 1:10 dilution are diluted with 450 µl of the Cal 0 (1:100). Mix tubes thoroughly on vortex when preparing the diluted samples.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

1. Microplate:

Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant has not turned green, indicating a defect in conservation.

In this case, call Dia.Pro's customer service.

Unused strips have to be placed back into the aluminum pouch, with the desiccant supplied, firmly zipped and stored at +2°-8°C. After first opening, remaining strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.

2. Calibration Curve

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

3. Control Serum

Add the volume of ELISA grade water, reported on the label, to the lyophilised powder; let fully dissolve and then gently mix on vortex.

Note: *The control after dissolution is not stable. Store frozen in aliquots at -20°C.*

4. Wash buffer concentrate:

The whole content of the concentrated solution has to be diluted 20x with bidistilled water and mixed gently end-over-end before use. During preparation avoid foaming as the presence of bubbles could impact on the efficiency of the washing cycles.

Note: *Once diluted, the wash solution is stable for 1 week at +2..8° C.*

5. Enzyme conjugate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidising chemicals, dust or microbes. If this component has to be transferred, use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable containers.

6. Specimen Diluent:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

7. Chromogen/Substrate:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidising chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. Do not expose to strong light, oxidising agents and metallic surfaces.

If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable container

8. Sulphuric Acid:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

Legenda:

Warning **H statements:**

H315 – Causes skin irritation.

H319 – Causes serious eye irritation.

Precautionary **P statements:**

P280 – Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

P302 + P352 – IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water.

P332 + P313 – If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

P305 + P351 + P338 – IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

P337 + P313 – If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.

P362 + P363 – Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

I. INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS USED IN COMBINATION WITH THE KIT

1. Micropipettes have to be calibrated to deliver the correct volume required by the assay and must be submitted to regular decontamination (70% ethanol, 10% solution of bleach, hospital grade disinfectants) of those parts that could accidentally come in contact with the sample or the components of the kit. They should also be regularly maintained in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of ±2%.

2. The ELISA incubator has to be set at +37°C (tolerance of ±1°C) and regularly checked to ensure the correct temperature is maintained. Both dry incubators and water baths are suitable for the incubations, provided that the instrument is validated for the incubation of ELISA tests.

3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimized using the kit controls/calibrator and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350µl/well of washing solution = 1 cycle) are sufficient to ensure that the assay performs as expected. A soaking time of 20-30 seconds between cycles is suggested. In order to set correctly their number, it is recommended to run an assay with the kit controls/calibrator and well-characterized negative and positive reference samples, and check to match the values reported below in the sections "Validation of Test" and "Assay Performances". Regular calibration of the volumes delivered and maintenance (decontamination and cleaning of needles) of the washer has to be carried out according to the instructions of the manufacturer.

4. Incubation times have a tolerance of ±5%.

5. The ELISA microplate reader has to be equipped with a reading filter of 450nm and with a second filter (620-630nm, strongly recommended) for blanking purposes. Its standard performances should be (a) bandwidth ≤ 10 nm; (b) absorbance range from 0 to ≥ 2.0; (c) linearity to ≥ 2.0; repeatability ≥ 1%. Blanking is carried out on the well identified in the section "Assay Procedure". The optical system of the reader has to be calibrated regularly to ensure that the correct optical density is measured. It should be regularly maintained according to the manufacturer 's instructions.

6. When using an ELISA automated workstation, all critical steps (dispensation, incubation, washing, reading, shaking, data handling) have to be carefully set, calibrated, controlled and regularly serviced in order to match the

values reported in the sections "Validation of Test" and "Assay Performances". The assay protocol has to be installed in the operating system of the unit and validated as for the washer and the reader. In addition, the liquid handling part of the station (dispensation and washing) has to be validated and correctly set. Particular attention must be paid to avoid carry over by the needles used for dispensing samples and for washing. This must be studied and controlled to minimize the possibility of contamination of adjacent wells due to strongly reactive samples, leading to false positive results. The use of ELISA automated work stations is recommended for blood screening and when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.

7. Dia.Pro's customer service offers support to the user in the setting and checking of instruments used in combination with the kit, in order to assure full compliance with the requirements described. Support is also provided for the installation of new instruments to be used with the kit.

L. PRE ASSAY CONTROLS AND OPERATIONS

1. Check the expiration date of the kit printed on the external label of the kit box. Do not use if expired.
2. Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by naked-eye visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen/Substrate is colorless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile transparent plastic pipette. Check that no breakage occurred in transportation and no spillage of liquid is present inside the box. Check that the aluminum pouch, containing the microplate, is not punctured or damaged.
3. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
4. Dissolve the Control Serum as described above.
5. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix as described.
6. Set the ELISA incubator at +37°C and prepare the ELISA washer by priming with the diluted washing solution, according to the manufacturers instructions. Set the right number of washing cycles as found in the validation of the instrument for its use with the kit.
7. Check that the ELISA reader has been turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
8. If using an automated workstation, turn it on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
9. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
10. Check that all the other equipments are available and ready to use.

In case of problems, do not proceed further with the test and advise the supervisor.

M. ASSAY PROCEDURE

The assay has to be carried out according to what reported below, taking care to maintain the same incubation time for all the samples in testing.

Two procedures can be carried out with the device according to the request of the clinician.

M.1 Quantitative analysis

1. Place the required number of strips in the microplate holder. Leave A1 and B1 wells empty for the operation of blanking. Store the other strips into the bag in presence of the desiccant at 2..8°C, sealed. Then Dispense in all the wells to be used for the test, except for A1 and B1, 50µl of the Specimen Diluent.

Important note: This additive is added before distributing samples and controls into specific wells and is particularly

intended for blocking some substances present in people undergoing vaccination and capable to mask antibodies.

2. Pipette 100µl of all the Calibrators, 100µl of Control Serum in duplicate and then 100ul of samples. The Control Serum is used to verify that the whole analytical system works as expected. Check that Calibrators, Control Serum and samples have been correctly added. Then incubate the microplate at **+37°C for 60 min.**

Important note: Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.

3. Wash the microplate as reported in section I.3.
4. In all the wells except A1 and B1, pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate. Check that the reagent has been correctly added. Incubate the microplate at **+37°C for 60 minutes.**

Important note:

- 1) *Be careful not to touch the inner surface of the well with the pipette tip when dispensing the Enzyme Conjugate. Contamination might occur.*
- 2) *Mix thoroughly the Enzyme Conjugate on vortex before use.*

5. Wash the microplate as described.
6. Pipette 100µl TMB/H₂O₂ mixture in each well, the blank wells included. Check that the reagent has been correctly added. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature for 20 minutes.**

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light as a high background might be generated.

7. Stop the enzymatic reaction by pipette 100µl Sulphuric Acid into each well and using the same pipetting sequence as in step 6. Then measure the colour intensity with a microplate reader at 450nm (reading) and at 620-630nm (blanking, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 and B1 wells.

M.2 Qualitative analysis

1. Place the required number of strips in the microplate holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking. Store the other strips into the bag in presence of the desiccant at 2..8°C, sealed.
2. Dispense 50 ul Specimen Diluent in all the wells, except for the blank A1. Then pipette 100µl of the Calibrator 0 mIU/ml in duplicate, 100µl of the Calibrator 10 mIU/ml in duplicate, 100µl of the Calibrator 250 mIU/ml in single, and then 100ul of samples. Check that Calibrators and samples have been correctly added. Then incubate the microplate at **+37°C for 60 min.**
3. Wash the microplate as reported in section I.3.
4. In all the wells except A1, pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate. Check that the reagent has been correctly added. Incubate the microplate at **+37°C for 60 minutes.**

Important note:

- 3) *Be careful not to touch the inner surface of the well with the pipette tip when dispensing the Enzyme Conjugate. Contamination might occur.*
- 4) *Mix thoroughly the Enzyme Conjugate on vortex before use.*

5. Wash the microplate as described.
6. Pipette 100µl TMB/H₂O₂ mixture in each well, the blank wells included. Check that the reagent has been correctly added. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature for 20 minutes.**

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light as a high background might be generated.

7. Stop the enzymatic reaction by pipette 100µl Sulphuric Acid into each well and using the same pipetting sequence as in step 6. Then measure the colour intensity with a microplate reader at 450nm (reading) and at 620-630nm (blinking, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 and B1 wells.

Important general notes:

1. If the second filter is not available, ensure that no finger prints are present on the bottom of the microwell before reading at 450nm. Finger prints could generate false positive results on reading.
2. Reading has should ideally be performed immediately after the addition of the Stop Solution but definitely no longer than 20 minutes afterwards. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to a higher background.
3. The Control Serum (CS) does not affect the cut-off calculation and therefore the test results calculation. The Control Serum may be used only when a laboratory internal quality control is required by the management.

N. ASSAY SCHEME (standard procedure)

Specimen Diluent	50 ul
Calibrators	100 ul
Control Serum	100 ul
Samples	100 ul
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme Conjugate	100 ul
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H ₂ O ₂ mix	100 ul
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm & 620nm

An example of dispensation scheme in quantitative assays is reported below:

		Microplate											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S3										
B	BLK	CAL4	S4										
C	CAL1	CAL5	S5										
D	CAL1	CAL5	S6										
E	CAL2	CS	S7										
F	CAL2	CS	S8										
G	CAL3	S1	S9										
H	CAL3	S2	S10										

Legenda: BLK = Blank // CAL = Calibrators // CS = Control Serum // S = Sample

An example of dispensation scheme in qualitative assays is reported below:

		Microplate											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S3	S11										
B	CAL1	S4	S12										
C	CAL1	S5	S13										
D	CAL2	S6	S14										
E	CAL2	S7	S15										
F	CAL5	S8	S16										
G	S1	S9	S17										
H	S2	S10	S18										

Legenda: BLK = Blank // CAL = Calibrators // S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A validation check is carried out on the controls any time the kit is used in order to verify whether the performances of the assay are as qualified.

Control that the following data are matched:

Parameters	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm
Calibrator 0 WHO mIU/ml	< 0.200 OD450nm after blanking
Calibrator 10 WHO mIU/ml	OD450nm higher than the OD450nm of the Calibrator 0 mIU/ml + 0.100
Calibrator 250 WHO mIU/ml	> 1.500 OD450nm
Control Serum	OD450nm = OD450nm CAL 50 mIU/ml ± 10%
Coefficient of variation	< 30% for the Calibrator 0 mIU/ml

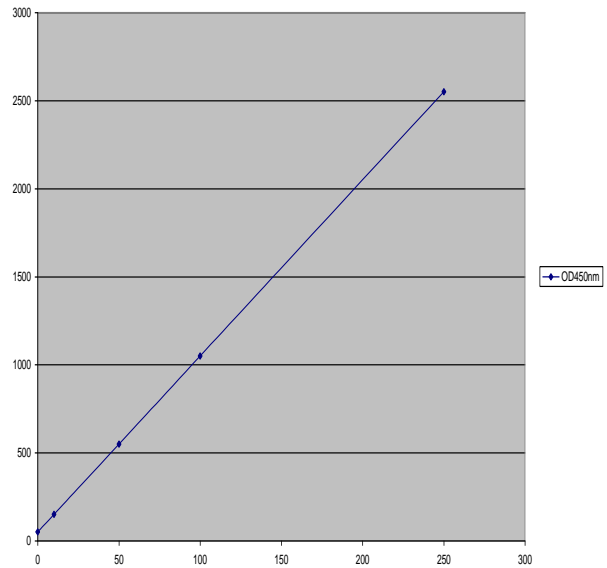
If the results of the test match the requirements stated above, proceed to the next section.

If they do not, do not proceed any further and perform the following checks:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Calibrator 0 mIU/ml > 0.200	1. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study;
coefficient of variation > 30%	2. that the proper washing solution has been used and the washer has been primed with it before use;
	3. that no mistake has been done in the assay procedure when the dispensation of standards is carried out;
	4. that no contamination of the Cal 0 mIU/ml or of the wells where it was dispensed has occurred due to positive samples, to spills or to the enzyme conjugate;
	5. that micropipettes have not become contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate
	6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.

Calibrator 10 mIU/ml OD450nm < Cal 0 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator); 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the standard has occurred.
Calibrator 250 mIU/ml OD450nm < 1.500 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution; 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the standard has occurred.
Control Serum Different from expected value	First verify that: 1. the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong sample); 3. the washing procedure and the washer settings are correct; 4. no external contamination of the standard has occurred. 5. the Control Serum has been dissolved with the right volume reported on the label. If a mistake has been pointed out, the assay has to be repeated after eliminating the reason of this error. If no mistake has been found, proceed as follows: a) a value up to +/-20% is obtained: the overall Precision of the laboratory might not enable the test to match the expected value +/-10%. Report the problem to the Supervisor for acceptance or refusal of this result. b) a value higher than +/-20% is obtained: in this case the test is invalid and the DiaPro's customer service has to be called.

Example of Calibration Curve :



Important Note:

Do not use the calibration curve above to make calculations.

P.2 Qualitative method

In the qualitative method, calculate the mean OD450nm values for the Calibrators 0 and 10 mIU/ml and then check that the assay is valid.

Example of calculation:

The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Calibrator 0 mIU/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
 Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
 Lower than 0.200 – Accepted

Calibrator 10 mIU/ml: 0.250 – 0.270 OD450nm
 Mean Value: 0.260 OD450nm
 Higher than Cal 0 + 0.100 – Accepted

Calibrator 250 mIU/ml: 2.845 OD450nm
 Higher than 1.500 – Accepted

P. RESULTS

P.1 Quantitative method

If the test turns out to be valid, use for the quantitative method an approved curve fitting program to draw the calibration curve from the values obtained by reading at 450nm (4-parameters interpolation is suggested).

Then on the calibration curve calculate the concentration of anti HBsAg antibody in samples.

An example of Calibration curve is reported in the next page.

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Samples with a concentration lower than 10 WHO mIU/ml are considered negative for anti HBsAg antibody by most of the international medical literature.

Samples with a concentration higher than 10 WHO mIU/ml are considered positive for anti HBsAg antibody.

In the follow up of vaccination recipients, however, the value of 20 WHO mIU/ml is usually accepted by the medical literature as the minimum concentration at which the patient is considered clinically protected against HBV infection.

Important notes:

1. Interpretation of results should be done under the supervision of the laboratory supervisor to reduce the risk of judgement errors and misinterpretations.
2. When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.
3. Diagnosis has to be done and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.

R. PERFORMANCES

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what reported in the Common Technical Specifications or CTS (art. 5, Chapter 3 of IVD Directive 98/79/EC).

1. LIMIT OF DETECTION:

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of the HBsAb international preparation supplied by CLB on behalf of WHO (1st reference preparation 1977, lot 17-2-77), on which Calibration Curve has been calibrated. HBV negative serum was used as diluent, as recommended by the supplier. Results of Quality Control are given in the following table:

WHO mIU/ml	SAB.CE Lot # 1002	SAB.CE Lot # 1001	SAB.CE Lot # 1002/2
50	0.933	0.812	0.846
10	0.219	0.192	0.194
5	0.110	0.096	0.104
2.5	0.057	0.058	0.067
Std 0	0.021	0.015	0.023

2. DIAGNOSTIC SPECIFICITY AND SENSITIVITY

A Performance Evaluation has been conducted on a total number of more than 700 samples.

2.1 Diagnostic Specificity

It is defined as the probability of the assay of scoring negative in the absence of specific analyte.

More than 500 negative specimens were tested, internally and externally, against a European company.

A diagnostic specificity of 98.8% was assessed. .

Moreover, diagnostic specificity was assessed by testing 113 potentially interfering specimens (other infectious diseases, patients affected by non viral hepatic diseases, dialysis patients, pregnant women, hemolyzed, lipemic, etc.) against the European company. A value of specificity of 100% was assessed.

Finally, both human plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and human sera have been used to determine the specificity.

No false reactivity due to the method of specimen preparation has been observed.

2.2 Diagnostic Sensitivity

It defined as the probability of the assay of scoring positive in the presence of specific analyte.

106 vaccinated patients were evaluated providing a diagnostic sensitivity of 100%.

More than 100 HBV naturally infected patients were tested, internally and externally, against the European company; a diagnostic sensitivity of 100% was found.

3. PRECISION:

The mean values obtained from a study conducted on three samples of different anti-HBsAg reactivity, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs is reported below:

SAB.CE: lot # 1202

Calibrator 0 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.038	0.038	0.039	0.039
Std.Deviation	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.004
CV %	8.8	9.5	11.8	10.0

Calibrator 10 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.250	0.243	0.244	0.246
Std.Deviation	0.020	0.023	0.017	0.020
CV %	8.0	9.3	7.0	8.1

Calibrator 250 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.998	3.000	3.259	3.085
Std.Deviation	0.152	0.151	0.158	0.153
CV %	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.0

SAB.CE: lot # 1002

Calibrator 0 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.048	0.048	0.050	0.049
Std.Deviation	0.005	0.004	0.006	0.005
CV %	9.4	8.4	11.5	9.8

Calibrator 10 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.249	0.252	0.242	0.248
Std.Deviation	0.021	0.020	0.023	0.021
CV %	8.3	7.9	9.6	8.6

Calibrator 250 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.544	3.653	3.612	3.603
Std.Deviation	0.153	0.176	0.138	0.156
CV %	4.3	4.8	3.8	4.3

SAB.CE: lot # 1002/2

Calibrator 0 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050
Std.Deviation	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.005
CV %	10.0	10.9	11.9	10.9

Calibrator 10 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.226	0.238	0.239	0.234
Std.Deviation	0.015	0.017	0.018	0.016
CV %	6.5	7.0	7.5	7.0

Calibrator 250 mIU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3 rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.526	3.457	3.499	3.494
Std.Deviation	0.137	0.143	0.162	0.147
CV %	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.2

The variability shown in the tables did not result in sample misclassification.

4. ACCURACY

The assay accuracy has been checked by the dilution and recovery tests. Any "hook effect", underestimation likely to happen at high doses of analyte, was ruled out up to 10.000 mIU/ml.

S. LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

Bacterial contamination or heat inactivation of the specimen may affect the absorbance values of the samples with consequent alteration of the level of the analyte.

This test is suitable only for testing single samples and not pooled ones.

Diagnosis of an infectious disease should not be established on the basis of a single test result. The patient's clinical history, symptomatology, as well as other diagnostic data should be considered.

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All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System approved by an EC Notified Body. Each lot is submitted to a quality control and released into the market only if conforming with the EC technical specifications and acceptance criteria.

Manufacturer:
Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes Srl
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HBsAg_{one}

Version ULTRA

**Fourth generation Enzyme
Immunoassay (ELISA)
for the determination of
Hepatitis B surface Antigen or HBsAg
in human serum and plasma**

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -



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HBsAg One version ULTRA

A. INTENDED USE

Fourth generation Enzyme Immunoassay (ELISA) for the one-step determination of Hepatitis B surface Antigen or HBsAg in human plasma and sera.

The kit is intended for the screening of blood units, is able to detect HBsAg mutants and finds application in the follow-up of HBV-infected patients.

For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Hepatitis B Virus infection as follows:

"Hepatitis B is one of the major diseases of mankind and is a serious global public health problem. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver, and the most common cause is infection with one of 5 viruses, called hepatitis A,B,C,D, and E. All of these viruses can cause an acute disease with symptoms lasting several weeks including yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice); dark urine; extreme fatigue; nausea; vomiting and abdominal pain. It can take several months to a year to feel fit again. Hepatitis B virus can cause chronic infection in which the patient never gets rid of the virus and many years later develops cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer.

HBV is the most serious type of viral hepatitis and the only type causing chronic hepatitis for which a vaccine is available. Hepatitis B virus is transmitted by contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person in the same way as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. However, HBV is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV. The main ways of getting infected with HBV are: (a) perinatal (from mother to baby at the birth); (b) child- to-child transmission; (c) unsafe injections and transfusions; (d) sexual contact.

Worldwide, most infections occur from infected mother to child, from child to child contact in household settings, and from reuse of un-sterilized needles and syringes. In many developing countries, almost all children become infected with the virus. In many industrialized countries (e.g. Western Europe and North America), the pattern of transmission is different. In these countries, mother-to-infant and child-to-child transmission accounted for up to one third of chronic infections before childhood hepatitis B vaccination programmes were implemented. However, the majority of infections in these countries are acquired during young adulthood by sexual activity, and injecting drug use. In addition, hepatitis B virus is the major infectious occupational hazard of health workers, and most health care workers have received hepatitis B vaccine.

Hepatitis B virus is not spread by contaminated food or water, and cannot be spread casually in the workplace. High rates of chronic HBV infection are also found in the southern parts of Eastern and Central Europe. In the Middle East and Indian sub-continent, about 5% are chronically infected. Infection is less common in Western Europe and North America, where less than 1% are chronically infected.

Young children who become infected with HBV are the most likely to develop chronic infection. About 90% of infants infected during the first year of life and 30% to 50% of children infected between 1 to 4 years of age develop chronic infection. The risk of death from HBV-related liver cancer or cirrhosis is approximately 25% for persons who become chronically infected during childhood. Chronic hepatitis B in some patients is treated with drugs called *interferon* or *lamivudine*, which can help some patients. Patients with cirrhosis are sometimes given liver transplants, with varying success. It is preferable to prevent this disease with vaccine than to try and cure it.

Hepatitis B vaccine has an outstanding record of safety and effectiveness. Since 1982, over one billion doses of hepatitis B vaccine have been used worldwide. The vaccine is given as a series of three intramuscular doses. Studies have shown that the vaccine is 95% effective in preventing children and adults from developing chronic infection if they have not yet been infected. In many countries where 8% to 15% of children used to become chronically infected with HBV, the rate of chronic infection has been reduced to less than 1% in immunized groups of children. Since 1991, WHO has called for all countries to add hepatitis B vaccine into their national immunization programs."

Hepatitis B surface Antigen or HBsAg is the most important protein of the envelope of Hepatitis B Virus, responsible for acute and chronic viral hepatitis.

The surface antigen contains the determinant "a", common to all the known viral subtypes, immunologically distinguished by two distinct subgroups (ay and ad).

The ability to detect HBsAg with high sensitive immunoassays in the last years has led to an understanding of its distribution and epidemiology worldwide and to radically decrease the risk of infection in transfusion.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

A mix of mouse monoclonal antibodies specific to the determinants "a", "d" and "y" of HBsAg is fixed to the surface of microwells. Patient's serum/plasma is added to the microwell together with a second mix of mouse monoclonal antibodies, conjugated with Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) and directed against a different epitope of the determinant "a" and against "preS".

The specific immunocomplex, formed in the presence of HBsAg in the sample, is captured by the solid phase.

At the end of the one-step incubation, microwells are washed to remove unbound serum proteins and HRP conjugate.

The chromogen/substrate is then added and, in the presence of captured HBsAg immunocomplex, the colorless substrate is hydrolyzed by the bound HRP conjugate to a colored end-product. After blocking the enzymatic reaction, its optical density is measured by an ELISA reader.

The color intensity is proportional to the amount of HBsAg present in the sample.

The version ULTRA is particularly suitable for automated screenings and is able to detect "s" mutants.

D. COMPONENTS

The standard configuration contains reagents to perform 192 tests and is made of the following components:

1. Microplate MICROPLATE

n° 2. 12 strips of 8 breakable wells coated with anti HBsAg, affinity purified mouse monoclonal antibodies, specific to "a", "y" and "d" determinants, and sealed into a bag with desiccant.

2. Negative Control CONTROL -

1x4.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains goat serum, 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The negative control is pale yellow color coded.

3. Positive Control CONTROL +

1x4.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains goat serum, non infectious recombinant HBsAg, 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The positive control is color coded green.

4. Calibrator CAL ...

n° 2 vials. Lyophilized calibrator. To be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. Contains fetal bovine serum, non infectious recombinant HBsAg at 0.5 IU/ml (2nd WHO international standard for HBsAg, NIBSC code 00/588), 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.

Note: The volume necessary to dissolve the content of the vial may vary from lot to lot. Please use the right volume reported on the label .

5. Wash buffer concentrate WASHBUF 20X

2x60ml/bottle. 20X concentrated solution. Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2, 0.05% Tween 20 and 0.1% Kathon GC.

6. Enzyme Conjugate Diluent CONJ DIL

2x16ml/vial. Ready to use and pink/red color coded reagent. It contains 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 1% normal mouse serum, 5% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives. The solution is normally opalescent.

7. Enzyme Conjugate CONJ 20X

2x1ml/vial. 20X concentrated reagent. It contains Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) labeled mouse monoclonal antibodies to HBsAg, determinant "a" and "preS", 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 5% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.

8. Chromogen/Substrate SUBS TMB

2x25ml/bottle. It contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂).

Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

9. Sulphuric Acid H₂SO₄ 0.3 M

1x25ml/bottle. It contains 0.3 M H₂SO₄ solution.

Note: Attention: Irritant (H315; H319; P280; P302+P352; P332+P313; P305+P351+P338; P337+P313; P362+P363)

10. Plate sealing foils n° 4

11. Package insert

Important note:

Only upon specific request, Dia.Pro can supply reagents for 96, 480, 960 tests, as reported below:

	N°1	N°5	N°10
Microplates	N°1	N°5	N°10
Negative Control	1x2ml/vial	1x10ml/vial	1x20ml/vial
Positive Control	1x2ml/vial	1x10ml/vial	1x20ml/vial
Calibrator	N° 1 vial	N° 5 vials	N° 10 vials
Wash buffer concentrate	1x60ml/vial	5x60ml/vial	4x150ml/vial
Enzyme conjugate	1x0.8ml/vial	1x4ml/vial	2x4ml/vial
Conjugate Diluent	1x16ml/vial	2x40ml/vial	2x80ml/vial
Chromogen/Substrate	1x25ml/vial	3x42ml/vial	2x125ml/vial
Sulphuric Acid	1x15ml/vial	2x40ml/vial	2x80ml/vial
Plate sealing foils	N° 2	N° 10	N° 20
Package insert	N° 1	N° 1	N° 1
Number of tests	96	480	960
Code SAGIULTRA.CE	96	480	960

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (150ul, 100ul and 50ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (double distilled or deionised, charcoal treated to remove oxidizing chemicals used as disinfectants).
3. Timer with 60 minute range or higher.
4. Absorbent paper tissues.
5. Calibrated ELISA microplate thermostatic incubator (dry or wet), capable to provide shaking at 1300 rpm+/-150, set at +37°C.
6. Calibrated ELISA microwell reader with 450nm (reading) and with 620-630nm (blanking) filters.
7. Calibrated ELISA microplate washer.
8. Vortex or similar mixing tools.

F. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. The kit has to be used by skilled and properly trained technical personnel only, under the supervision of a medical doctor responsible of the laboratory.
2. When the kit is used for the screening of blood units and blood components, it has to be used in a laboratory certified and qualified by the national authority in that field (Ministry of Health or similar entity) to carry out this type of analysis.
3. All the personnel involved in performing the assay have to wear protective laboratory clothes, talc-free gloves and glasses. The use of any sharp (needles) or cutting (blades) devices should be avoided. All the personnel involved should be trained in biosafety procedures, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. and reported in the National Institute of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
4. All the personnel involved in sample handling should be vaccinated for HBV and HAV, for which vaccines are available, safe and effective.
5. The laboratory environment should be controlled so as to avoid contaminants such as dust or air-borne microbial agents, when opening kit vials and microplates and when performing the test. Protect the Chromogen (TMB) from strong light and avoid vibration of the bench surface where the test is undertaken.
6. Upon receipt, store the kit at 2.8°C into a temperature controlled refrigerator or cold room.
7. Do not interchange components between different lots of the kits. It is recommended that components between two kits of the same lot should not be interchanged.
8. Check that the reagents are clear and do not contain visible heavy particles or aggregates. If not, advise the laboratory supervisor to initiate the necessary procedures for kit replacement.
9. Avoid cross-contamination between serum/plasma samples by using disposable tips and changing them after each sample.
10. Avoid cross-contamination between kit reagents by using disposable tips and changing them between the use of each one.
11. Do not use the kit after the expiration date stated on the external container and internal (vials) labels. A study conducted on an opened kit has not pointed out any relevant loss of activity up to 6 re-use of the device and up to 6 months.
12. Treat all specimens as potentially infective. All human serum specimens should be handled at Biosafety Level 2, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S. in compliance with what reported in the Institutes of Health's publication: "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories", ed. 1984.
13. The use of disposable plastic-ware is recommended in the preparation of the liquid components or in transferring components into automated workstations, in order to avoid cross contamination.
14. Waste produced during the use of the kit has to be discarded in compliance with national directives and laws concerning laboratory waste of chemical and biological substances. In particular, liquid waste generated from the washing procedure, from residuals of controls and from samples has to be treated as potentially infective material and inactivated before waste. Suggested procedures of inactivation are treatment with a 10% final concentration of household bleach for 16-18 hrs or heat inactivation by autoclave at 121°C for 20 min..
15. Accidental spills from samples and operations have to be adsorbed with paper tissues soaked with household bleach and then with water. Tissues should then be discarded in proper containers designated for laboratory/hospital waste.
16. The Stop Solution is an irritant. In case of spills, wash the surface with plenty of water
17. Other waste materials generated from the use of the kit (example: tips used for samples and controls, used microplates) should be handled as potentially infective and disposed according to national directives and laws concerning laboratory wastes.

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G. SPECIMEN: PREPARATION AND WARNINGS

1. Blood is drawn aseptically by venepuncture and plasma or serum is prepared using standard techniques of preparation of samples for clinical laboratory analysis. No influence has been observed in the preparation of the sample with citrate, EDTA and heparin.
2. Avoid any addition of preservatives to samples; especially sodium azide as this chemical would affect the enzymatic activity of the conjugate, generating false negative results.
3. Samples have to be clearly identified with codes or names in order to avoid misinterpretation of results. When the kit is used for the screening of blood units, bar code labeling and electronic reading is strongly recommended.
4. Haemolysed (red) and lipemic ("milky") samples have to be discarded as they could generate false results. Samples containing residues of fibrin or heavy particles or microbial filaments and bodies should be discarded as well as they could give rise to false positive results. Specimens with an altered pathway of coagulation, presenting particles after blood collection and preparation of serum/plasma as those coming from hemodialized patients, could give origin to false positive results.
5. Sera and plasma can be stored at +2°..8°C for up to seven days after collection. For longer storage periods, samples can be stored frozen at -20°C for several months. Any frozen sample should not be frozen/thawed more than once as this may generate particles that could affect the test result. If some turbidity is present or presence of microparticles is suspected after thawing, filter the sample on a disposable 0.2-0.8µ filter to clean it up for testing or use the two-steps alternative method.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

A study conducted on an opened kit has not pointed out any relevant loss of activity up to 6 re-uses of the device and up to 6 months.

1. Microplates:

Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant has not turned green, indicating a defect in conservation. In this case, call Dia.Pro's customer service. Unused strips have to be placed back inside the aluminum pouch, with the desiccant supplied, firmly zipped and stored at +2°..8°C. After first opening, remaining strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.

2. Negative Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

3. Positive Control:

Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use. The positive control does not contain any infective HBV as it is composed of recombinant synthetic HBsAg.

4. Calibrator:

Add the volume of ELISA grade water, reported on the label, to the lyophilized powder; let fully dissolve and then gently mix on vortex. The solution is not stable. Store the Calibrator frozen in aliquots at -20°C.

5. Wash buffer concentrate:

The 20x concentrated solution has to be diluted with EIA grade water up to 1200 ml and mixed gently end-over-end before use. As some salt crystals may be present into the vial, take care to dissolve all the content when preparing the solution. In the preparation avoid foaming as the presence of bubbles could give origin to a bad washing efficiency.

Note: Once diluted, the wash solution is stable for 1 week at +2°..8°C.

6. Enzyme conjugate:

The working solution is prepared by diluting the 20X concentrated reagent into the Conjugate Mix well on vortex before use.

Avoid any contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, dust or microbes. If this component has to be transferred, use only plastic sterile disposable containers.

Important note: The working solution is not stable. Prepare only the volume necessary for the work of the day. As an example when the kit is used in combination with other instruments or manually, dilute 0.1 ml 20X Conjugate with 1.9 ml Conjugate Diluent into a disposable plastic vial and mix carefully before use.

7. Chromogen/Substrate:

Ready to use. Mix well by end-over-end mixing.

Avoid contamination of the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes. Do not expose to strong light, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.

If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, and if possible, sterile disposable container.

8. Sulphuric Acid:

Ready to use. Mix well by end-over-end mixing.

Attention: Irritant (H315; H319; P280; P302+P352; P332+P313; P305+P351+P338; P337+P313; P362+P363).

Legenda:

Warning H statements:

H315 – Causes skin irritation.

H319 – Causes serious eye irritation.

Precautionary P statements:

P280 – Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

P302 + P352 – IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water.

P332 + P313 – If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

P305 + P351 + P338 – IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

P337 + P313 – If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.

P362 + P363 – Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

I. INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS USED IN COMBINATION WITH THE KIT

1. **Micropipettes** have to be calibrated to deliver the correct volume required by the assay and must be submitted to regular decontamination (70% ethanol, 10% solution of bleach, hospital grade disinfectants) of those parts that could accidentally come in contact with the sample or the components of the kit. They should also be regularly maintained in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of ±2%.
2. The **ELISA incubator** has to be set at +37°C (tolerance of ±1°C) and regularly checked to ensure the correct temperature is maintained. Both dry incubators and water baths are suitable for the incubations, provided that the instrument is validated for the incubation of ELISA tests.
3. In case of **shaking** during incubations, the instrument has to ensure 350 rpm ±150. Amplitude of shaking is very important as a wrong one could give origin to splashes and therefore to some false positive result.
4. The **ELISA washer** is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimized using the kit controls/calibrator and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350µl/well of washing solution = 1 cycle) are sufficient to ensure that the assay performs as expected. A soaking time of 20-30 seconds between cycles is suggested. In order to set correctly their number, it

is recommended to run an assay with the kit controls/calibrator and well-characterized negative and positive reference samples, and check to match the values reported below in the section "Internal Quality Control". Regular calibration of the volumes delivered and maintenance (decontamination and cleaning of needles) of the washer has to be carried out according to the instructions of the manufacturer.

5. **Incubation times** have a tolerance of $\pm 5\%$.
6. The **microplate reader** has to be equipped with a reading filter of 450nm and with a second filter (620-630nm, strongly recommended) for blanking purposes. Its standard performances should be (a) bandwidth ≤ 10 nm; (b) absorbance range from 0 to ≥ 2.0 ; (c) linearity to ≥ 2.0 ; (d) repeatability $\geq 1\%$. Blanking is carried out on the well identified in the section "Assay Procedure". The optical system of the reader has to be calibrated regularly to ensure that the correct optical density is measured. It should be regularly maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
7. When using **ELISA automated workstations**, all critical steps (dispensation, incubation, washing, reading, shaking, data handling, etc.) have to be carefully set, calibrated, controlled and regularly serviced in order to match the values reported in the sections "Internal Quality Control". The assay protocol has to be installed in the operating system of the unit and validated by checking full matching the declared performances of the kit. In addition, the liquid handling part of the station (dispensation and washing) has to be validated and correctly set paying particular attention to avoid carry over by the needles used for dispensing samples and for washing. The carry over effect must be studied and controlled to minimize the possibility of contamination of adjacent wells due to strongly reactive samples, leading to false positive results. The use of ELISA automated work stations is recommended for blood screening and when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.
8. When using automatic devices, in case the vial holder of the instrument does not fit with the vials supplied in the kit, transfer the solution into appropriate containers and label them with the same label peeled out from the original vial. This operation is important in order to avoid mismatching contents of vials, when transferring them. When the test is over, return the secondary labeled containers to $2..8^{\circ}\text{C}$, firmly capped.
9. **Dia.Pro's customer service** offers support to the user in the setting and checking of instruments used in combination with the kit, in order to assure full compliance with the essential requirements of the assay. Support is also provided for the installation of new instruments to be used in combination with the kit.

L. PRE ASSAY CONTROLS AND OPERATIONS

1. Check the expiration date of the kit printed on the external label of the kit box. Do not use if expired.
2. Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by naked-eye visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen/Substrate is colorless or pale blue. Check that no breakage occurred in transportation and no spillage of liquid is present inside the box. Check that the aluminum pouch, containing the microplate, is not punctured or damaged.
3. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
4. Dilute the 20X concentrated Enzyme Conjugate with its Diluent as reported.
5. Dissolve the Calibrator as described above.
6. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix as described.
7. Set the ELISA incubator at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$ and prepare the ELISA washer by priming with the diluted washing solution,

according to the manufacturers instructions. Set the right number of washing cycles as found in the validation of the instrument for its use with the kit.

8. Check that the ELISA reader has been turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
9. If using an automated workstation, turn it on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
10. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
11. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
12. In case of problems, do not proceed further with the test and advise the supervisor.

M. ASSAY PROCEDURE

The assay has to be carried out according to what reported below, taking care to maintain the same incubation time for all the samples in testing.

Automated assay:

In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument dispense first 150 ul controls & calibrator, then all the samples and finally 100 ul diluted Enzyme Conjugate.

For the pre-washing step (point 1 of the assay procedure) and all the next operations follow the operative instructions reported below for the Manual Assay.

It is strongly recommended to check that the time lap between the dispensation of the first and the last sample will be calculated by the instrument and taken into consideration by delaying the first washing operation accordingly.

Manual Assay:

1. Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and wash them once to hydrate wells. Carefully identify the wells for controls, calibrator and samples.

Important note: *Pre washing (1 cycle: dispensation of 350ul/well of washing solution+ aspiration) is fundamental to obtain reliable and specific results both in the manual and in the automatic procedures. Do not omit it !*

2. Leave the A1 well empty for blanking purposes.
3. Pipette 150ul of the Negative Control in triplicate, 150ul of the Calibrator in duplicate and then 150ul of the Positive Control in single followed by 150ul of each of the samples.
4. Check for the presence of samples in wells by naked eye (there is a marked color difference between empty and full wells) or by reading at 450/620nm. (samples show OD values higher than 0.100).
5. Dispense 100ul diluted Enzymatic Conjugate in all wells, except for A1, used for blanking operations.

Important note: *Be careful not to touch the inner surface of the well with the pipette tip when the conjugate is dispensed. Contamination might occur.*

6. Following addition of the conjugate, check that the color of the samples have changed from yellowish to pink/red and then incubate the microplate for **120 min at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$** .

Important notes:

- a. *Strips have to be sealed with the adhesive sealing foil, only when the test is performed manually. Do not cover strips when using ELISA automatic instruments.*
- b. *If the procedure is carried out on shaking, be sure to deliver the rpm reported for in Section I.3 as otherwise intra-well contamination could occur.*
7. When the first incubation is over, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.4)

8. Pipette 200 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells, A1 included.

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct light as a high background might be generated.

9. Incubate the microplate protected from light at **18-24°C for 30 min**. Wells dispensed with the positive control, the calibrator and positive samples will turn from clear to blue.
10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells to stop the enzymatic reaction, using the same pipetting sequence as in step 8. Addition of the acid solution will turn the positive control, the calibrator and positive samples from blue to yellow/brown.
11. Measure the color intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.6 using a 450nm filter (reading) and a 620-630nm filter (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

Important general notes:

- If the second filter is not available, ensure that no fingerprints or dust are present on the external bottom of the microwell before reading at 450nm. They could generate false positive results on reading.
- Reading should ideally be performed immediately after the addition of the acid solution but definitely no longer than 20 minutes afterwards. Some self-oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to a higher background.
- When samples to be tested are not surely clean or have been stored frozen, the assay procedure reported below is recommended as long as it is far less sensitive to interferences due to hemolysis, hyperlipaemia, bacterial contamination and fibrin microparticles. The assay is carried out in two-steps at +37°C on shaking at 350 rpm ±150 as follows:
 - dispense 100 µl of controls, calibrator and samples
 - incubate 60 min at +37°C on shaking
 - wash according to instructions (section I.4)
 - dispense 100 µl diluted enzyme tracer
 - incubate 30 min at +37°C on shaking
 - wash
 - dispense 100 µl TMB&H2O2 mix
 - incubate 30 min at r.t. on shaking
 - stop and read

In this procedure the pre-wash can be omitted. This method shows performances similar to the standard one and therefore can be used in alternative.
- The Calibrator (CAL) does not affect the cut-off calculation and therefore the test results calculation. The Calibrator may be used only when a laboratory internal quality control is required by the management.

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Operations	Procedure
Pre-Washing step	n° 1 cycle
Controls&Calibrator&samples	150 µl
Diluted Enzyme Conjugate	100 µl
1st incubation	120 min
Temperature	+37°C
Washing steps	n° 4-5
Chromogen/Substrate	200µl
2nd incubation	30 min
Temperature	room
Sulphuric Acid	100 µl
Reading OD	450nm

An example of dispensation scheme is reported in the following section:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S2										
B	NC	S3										
C	NC	S4										
D	NC	S5										
E	CAL	S6										
F	CAL	S7										
G	PC	S8										
H	S1	S9										

Legenda: BLK = Blank NC = Negative Control
CAL = Calibrator PC = Positive Control S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A check is performed on the controls/calibrator any time the kit is used in order to verify whether the expected OD450nm or S/Co values have been matched in the analysis.

Ensure that the following results are met:

Parameter	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm value
Negative Control (NC)	< 0.050 mean OD450nm value after blanking
Calibrator 0.5 IU/ml	S/Co ≥ 2
Positive Control	> 1.000 OD450nm value

If the results of the test match the requirements stated above, proceed to the next section.

If they do not, do not proceed any further and perform the following checks:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Negative Control (NC) > 0.050 OD450nm after blanking	1. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 2. that the proper washing solution has been used and the washer has been primed with it before use; 3. that no mistake has been done in the assay procedure (dispensation of positive control instead of the negative one); 4. that no contamination of the negative control or of the wells where the control was dispensed has occurred due to spills of positive samples or of the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes have not become contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.

Calibrator S/Co < 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of negative control instead of calibrator) 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the calibrator has occurred.
Positive Control < 1.000 OD450nm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during the distribution of the control (dispensation of negative control instead of positive control. In this case, the negative control will have an OD450nm value > 0.050). 3. that the washing procedure and the washer settings are as validated in the pre qualification study; 4. that no external contamination of the positive control has occurred.

If any of the above problems have occurred, report the problem to the supervisor for further actions.

P. CALCULATION OF THE CUT-OFF

The test results are calculated by means of a cut-off value determined on the mean OD450nm value of the negative control (NC) with the following formula:

$$NC + 0.050 = \text{Cut-Off (Co)}$$

The value found for the test is used for the interpretation of results as described in the next paragraph.

Important note: When the calculation of results is performed by the operating system of an ELISA automated work station, ensure that the proper formulation is used to calculate the cut-off value and generate the correct interpretation of results.

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Test results are interpreted as a ratio of the sample OD450nm (S) and the Cut-Off value (Co), mathematically S/Co, according to the following table:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 0.9	Negative
0.9 – 1.1	Equivocal
> 1.1	Positive

A negative result indicates that the patient is not infected by HBV and that the blood unit may be transfused.

Any patient showing an equivocal result should be retested on a second sample taken 1-2 weeks after the initial sample; the blood unit should not be transfused.

A positive result is indicative of HBV infection and therefore the patient should be treated accordingly or the blood unit should be discarded.

Important notes:

1. Interpretation of results should be done under the supervision of the laboratory supervisor to reduce the risk of judgment errors and misinterpretations.
2. Any positive result must be confirmed first by repeating the test on the sample, after having filtered it on 0.2-0.8 µ filter to remove any microparticles interference. Then, if still

positive, the sample has to be submitted to a confirmation test before a diagnosis of viral hepatitis is released.

3. When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another department, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.
4. Diagnosis of viral hepatitis infection has to be taken and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.

An example of calculation is reported below.

The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Negative Control: 0.012 – 0.008 – 0.010 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.010 OD450nm
Lower than 0.050 – Accepted
Positive Control: 2.489 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted
Cut-Off = 0.010+0.050 = 0.060
Calibrator: 0.350 - 0.370 OD450nm
Mean value: 0.360 OD450nm S/Co = 6.0
S/Co higher than 2.0 – Accepted
Sample 1: 0.028 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.690 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 0.9 = negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1.1 = positive

R. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what reported in the Common Technical Specifications or CTS (art. 5, Chapter 3 of IVD Directive 98/79/EC). Version ULTRA proved to be at least equivalent to the original design in a study conducted for the validation of the new version.

1. Analytical Sensitivity

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated on the 2nd WHO international standard, NIBSC code 00/588.

In the following table, results are given for three lots (P1, P2 and P3) of the version ULTRA in comparison with the reference device (Ref.):

WHO IU/ml	Lot # P1 S/Co	Lot # P2 S/Co	Lot # P3 S/Co	Ref. S/Co
0.4	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6
0.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4
0.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.2
0.05	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7
0.025	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4
FCS (NC)	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1

The assay shows an Analytical Sensitivity better than 0.1 WHO IU/ml of HBsAg.

In addition two panels of sensitivity supplied by EFS, France, and by SFTS, France, were tested and gave in the best conditions the following results:

Panel EFS Ag HBs HB1-HB6 lot n° 04

Sample ID	Characteristics	ng/ml	S/Co
HB1	diluent	/	0,2
HB2	adw2+ayw3	0,05	0,6
HB3	adw2+ayw3	0,1	1,0
HB4	adw2+ayw3	0,2	1,8
HB5	adw2+ayw3	0,3	2,4
HB6	adw2+ayw3	0,5	4,2

Sensitivity panel SFTS, France, Ag HBs 2005

Sample ID	Characteristics	ng/ml	S/Co
171	Adw2 + ayw3	2.21 ± 0.15	15,4
172	Adw2 + ayw3	1.18 ± 0.10	8,7
173	Adw2 + ayw3	1.02 ± 0.05	6,1
174	Adw2 + ayw3	0.64 ± 0.04	4,0
175	Adw2 + ayw3	0.49 ± 0.03	3,4
176	Adw2 + ayw3	0.39 ± 0.02	2,6
177	Adw2 + ayw3	0.25 ± 0.02	2,0
178	Adw2 + ayw3	0.11 ± 0.02	1,3
179	Adw2 + ayw3	0.06 ± 0.01	0,9
180	Adw2 + ayw3	0.03 ± 0.01	0,8
181	Adw2	0.5 – 1.0	4,7
182	Adw4	0.5 – 1.0	3,6
183	Adr	0.5 – 1.0	4,5
184	Ayw1	0.5 – 1.0	5,1
185	Ayw2	0.5 – 1.0	6,4
186	Ayw3	0.5 – 1.0	7,3
187	Ayw3	0.5 – 1.0	5,8
188	Ayw4	0.5 – 1.0	6,9
189	Ayr	0.5 – 1.0	6,1
190	diluent	/	0,6

The panel # 808, supplied by Boston Biomedical Inc., USA, was also tested to define the limit of sensitivity. Results in the best conditions are as follows :

BBI panel PHA 808

Sample ID	Characteristics	ng/ml	S/Co
01	ad	2,49	10,2
02	ad	1,17	4,8
03	ad	1,02	4,3
04	ad	0,96	3,8
05	ad	0,69	2,9
06	ad	0,50	2,2
07	ad	0,41	1,5
08	ad	0,37	1,3
09	ad	0,30	1,2
10	ad	0,23	1,0
11	ay	2,51	11,2
12	ay	1,26	5,9
13	ay	0,97	4,1
14	ay	0,77	3,7
15	ay	0,63	2,0
16	ay	0,48	2,4
17	ay	0,42	2,0
18	ay	0,33	1,8
19	ay	0,23	1,6
20	ay	0,13	1,1
21	negative	/	0,6

2. Diagnostic Sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity was tested according to what required by Common Technical Specifications (CTS) of the directive 98/79/EC on IVD for HBsAg testing.

Positive samples, including HBsAg subtypes and a panel of "s" mutants from most frequent mutations, were collected from different HBV pathologies (acute, a-symptomatic and chronic hepatitis B) or produced synthetically, and were detected positive in the assay.

All the HBsAg known subtypes, "ay" and "ad", and isoforms "w" and "r", supplied by CNTS, France, were tested in the assay and determined positive by the kit as expected.

An overall value of 100% has been found in a study conducted on a total number of more than 400 samples positive with the original reference IVD code SAG1.CE, CE marked.

A total of 30 sero-conversions were studied, most of them produced by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA.

Results obtained by examining eight panels supplied by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA, are reported below for the version ULTRA in comparison with the reference device code SAG1.CE.

Panel ID	1 st sample positive	HBsAg subtype	HBsAg ng/ml	Version ULTRA S/Co	Ref. device S/Co
PHM 906	02	ad	0.5	3.7	1.4
PHM 907 (M)	06	ay	1.0	4.4	2.9
PHM 909	04	ad	0.3	1.2	0.8
PHM 914	04	ad	0.5	1.1	1.1
PHM 918	02	ad	0.1	1.8	0.5
PHM 923	03	ay	< 0.2	2.2	1.2
PHM 925	03	Ind.	n.d.	1.4	0.9
PHM 934	01	ad	n.d.	1.0	0.8

3. Diagnostic Specificity:

It is defined as the probability of the assay of scoring negative in the absence of specific analyte. In addition to the first study, where more than 5000 negative samples from blood donors (two blood centers), classified negative with a CE marked device in use at the laboratory of collection were examined, the diagnostic specificity was recently assessed by testing a total of 2288 negative blood donors on seven different lots. A value of specificity of 100% was found.

Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been used to determine the specificity.

No false reactivity due to the method of specimen preparation has been observed.

Frozen specimens have also been tested to check whether samples freezing interferes with the performance of the test. No interference was observed on clean and particle free samples.

Samples derived from patients with different viral (HCV, HAV) and non viral pathologies of the liver that may interfere with the test were examined. No cross reaction were observed.

4. Precision:

It has been calculated for the version ULTRA on two samples examined in 16 replicates in 3 different runs for three lots.

Results are reported in the following tables:

Average values	Negative Sample	Calibrator 0.5 IU/ml
Total n = 144	0.026	0.332
Std.Deviation	0.004	0.027
CV %	16%	8%

The variability shown in the tables did not result in sample misclassification.

S. LIMITATIONS

Repeatable false positive results were assessed on freshly collected specimens in less than 0.1% of the normal population, mostly due to high titers Heterophilic Anti Mouse Antibodies (HAMA).

Interferences in fresh samples were also observed when they were not particles-free or were badly collected (see chapter G).

Old or frozen samples, presenting fibrin clots, cryoglobulins, lipid-containing micelles or microparticles after storage or thawing, can generate false positive results.

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All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System approved by an EC Notified Body. Each lot is submitted to a quality control and released into the market only if conforming with the EC technical specifications and acceptance criteria.

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