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 (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 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. 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 freezed/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 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.
6. Samples whose anti-Ea IgG antibody concentration is expected to be higher than 100 arbU/ml should be diluted before use, either 1:10 or 1:100 in the Calibrator 0 arbU/ml. Dilutions have to be done in clean disposable tubes by diluting 50 ul of each specimen with 450 ul of Cal 0 (1:10). Then 50 ul of the 1:10 dilution are diluted with 450 ul of the Cal 0 (1:100). Mix tubes thoroughly on vortex and then proceed toward the dilution step reported in section M.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

Microplate:
Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant is not turned to dark green, indicating a defect of storing.
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.
***Important Note**: After first opening, remaining strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.*

Calibration Curve
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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.*

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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.
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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
6. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
7. 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.
8. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
9. If using an automated work station, turn 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.
The kit may be used for quantitative and qualitative determinations as well.

M1. QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the A1 and B1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrators in duplicate. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C.**

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except A1+B1 blanking wells, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1 and B1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank wells A1 and B1 included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid to stop the enzymatic reaction into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

M2. QUALITATIVE DETERMINATION

If only a qualitative determination is required, proceed as described below:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrator 0 arbU/ml and Calibrator 5 arbU/ml in duplicate and Calibrator 100 arbU/ml in single. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from yellow to blue.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

General Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Calibrators	100 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	**20 min**
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

An example of dispensation scheme for Quantitative Analysis is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S 3									
B	BLK	CAL4	S 4									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S 5									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S 6									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S 7									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S 8									
G	CAL3	S1	S 9									
H	CAL3	S2	S 10									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator 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	CAL2	S 6	S 14									
E	CAL2	S 7	S 15									
F	CAL6	S 8	S 16									
G	S1	S 9	S 17									
H	S2	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:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm value
CAL 1 0 arbU/ml	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
CAL 2 5 arbU/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100
CAL 6 100 arbU/ml	OD450nm > 1.000

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Sustrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay
CAL 1 **0 arbU/ml** > 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 a positive calibrator instead of the negative one; 4. that no contamination of the negative calibrator or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
CAL 2 **5 arbU/ml** OD450nm < OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 6 **100 arbU/ml** < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control has occurred.

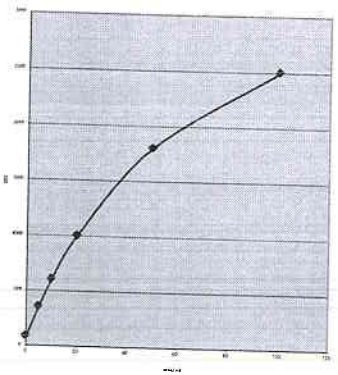
Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

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 Ea IgG antibody in samples.

An example of Calibration curve is reported below.



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 5 arbU/ml and then check that the assay is valid.

Example of calculation:

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

Calibrator 0 arbU/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted
Calibrator 5 arbU/ml: 0.250 – 0.270 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.260 OD450nm
Higher than Cal 0 + 0.100 – Accepted
Calibrator 100 arbU/ml: 2.045 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

The OD450nm of the Calibrator 5 arbU/ml is considered the cut-off (or Co) of the system.
The ratio between the OD450nm value of the sample and the OD450nm of the Calibrator 5 arbU/ml (or S/Co) can provide a semi-quantitative estimation of the content of specific IgG in the sample.

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Samples with a concentration lower than 5 arbU/ml are considered negative for anti-Ea IgG antibody.
Samples with a concentration higher than 5 arbU/ml are considered positive for anti-Ea IgG antibody.
Ea IgG results alone are not, anyway, enough to provide a clear diagnosis of EBV infection.
At least EBV VCA IgG and EBV VCA IgM results, possibly together with EBNA IgG, are necessary in combination.
A reference range of the minimum essential serological markers of Epstein-Barr infection, derived from Infectious Diseases Handbook, 3rd edition, published by Lexi-Comp Inc., USA, is reported schematically below:

VCA IgM	EBNA (or VCA) IgG	Interpretation
negative	negative	No history of EBV infection
positive	negative	Acute primary infection
negative	**positive**	History of previous infection
positive	**positive**	Reactivation

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. *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. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in an external clinical center on negative and positive samples with reference to a FDA approved commercial kit.

1. Limit of detection

No international standard for Ea IgG Antibody detection has been defined so far by the European Community.
In its absence, an Internal Gold Standard (or IGS), derived from a patient with an history of past mononucleosis infection, has been defined in order to provide the device with a constant and excellent sensitivity.

2. Diagnostic Sensitivity and Specificity:

The diagnostic performances were evaluated in a performance evaluation study conducted in an external centre, with excellent experience in the diagnosis of infectious diseases.
The diagnostic sensitivity was studied on samples, pre-tested positive with a different reference kit of European origin in use at the laboratory. Positive samples were collected from patients that experienced mononucleosis infection.
The diagnostic specificity was determined on panels of negative samples from normal individuals and blood donors, classified negative with the reference kit, including potentially interfering specimens.
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.
The Performance Evaluation provided the following values :

Sensitivity	≥ 98 %
Specificity	≥ 98 %

3. Reproducibility:

Data obtained from a study conducted on three samples of different Ea IgG reactivity, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs show CV% values ranging 3-16% depending on OD450nm readings.
The variability shown in the tables did not result in sample misclassification.

S. LIMITATIONS

False positivity has been assessed as less than 2-5% of the normal population depending on the reference kit used.
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates may 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 in compliance with EN ISO 13485 rule. 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
Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes Srl
Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni (MI) – Italy

CE

EBNA IgG

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Epstein Barr Virus Nuclear Antigen in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF EBNG CE
96 Tests

EBNA IgG

A. INTENDED USE
Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Epstein Barr Virus Nuclear Antigen in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION
Epstein Barr Virus or EBV is the principal etiological agent of infectious mononucleosis, as well as a contributory factor in the etiology of Burkitt's lymphoma and nasopharyngeal carcinoma, or NPC. A member of the family Herpesviridae, it has a worldwide distribution, such that 80 to 90% of all adults have been infected. Primary infections usually occur during the first decade of life. While childhood infections are mostly asymptomatic, 50 to 70% of young adults undergoing primary EBV infections show mild to severe illness. EBV may cause a persistent, latent infection which can be reactivated under immunosoppression or in AIDS affected patients. As humoral responses to primary EBV infections are quite rapid, the level and class of antibodies raised in most cases allow classification as to whether the patient is still susceptible, has a current or recent primary infection, had a past infection or may be having reactivated EBV infection. The detection of EBV-specific IgG, IgM and IgA antibodies to its major immunodominant antigens (mainly Nuclear Antigen or EBNA and Viral Capsidic Antigen or VCA) has become therefore an important and useful determination for the monitoring and follow-up of EBV infected patients.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST
In order to get rid of crossreactions with other viruses of the same family, microplates are coated with affinity purified native EBNA antigen, capable to provide the assay with the highest specificity.
In the 1st incubation, the solid phase is treated with diluted samples and anti-EBNA IgG are captured, if present, by the antigens.
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation bound anti-EBNA IgG are detected by the addition of anti hIgG antibody, labeled with peroxidase (HRP).
The enzyme captured on the solid phase, acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of anti EBNA IgG antibodies present in the sample.
IgG in the sample may therefore be quantitated by means of a standard curve calibrated in arbitrary units per milliliter (arbU/ml) as no international standard is available.

D. COMPONENTS
Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
12 strips x 8 microwells coated with affinity purified native EBNA antigen. Plates are 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° ..
Ready to use and color coded standard curve ranging:
4 ml CAL1 = 0 arbU/ml
4 ml CAL2 = 5 arbU/ml
2 ml CAL3 = 10 arbU/ml
2 ml CAL4 = 20 arbU/ml
2ml CAL 5 = 50 arbU/ml
4 ml CAL6 = 100 arbU/ml.
Standards are calibrated against an internal Gold Standard or IGS as no international one is defined.
Contains human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. Standards are blue colored.

3. Control Serum: CONTROL ...ml
1 vial. Lyophilized.
It contains fetal bovine serum proteins, human IgG antibodies to EBNA at 20 arbU/ml±20%, 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.

3. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X
1x60ml/bottle20x 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
1x16ml/vial. Ready to use and red colour coded. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated polyclonal antibodies to human IgG, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.

5. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffer pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (or TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (or H_2O_2).
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

6. Sulphuric Acid: H2SO4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial it contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+ P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

7. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
2x60ml/vial. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. To be used to dilute the sample.

8. Plate sealing foils n°2

9. Package insert n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED
1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000, 100 and 10ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (bidistilled 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance).
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 freezed/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 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.
6. Samples whose anti-EBNA IgG antibody concentration is expected to be higher than 100 arbU/ml should be diluted before use, either 1:10 or 1:100 in the Calibrator 0 arbU/ml. Dilutions have to be done in clean disposable tubes by diluting 50 ul of each specimen with 450 ul of Cal 0 (1:10). Then 50 ul of the 1:10 dilution are diluted with 450 ul of the Cal 0 (1:100). Mix tubes thoroughly on vortex and then proceed toward the dilution step reported in section M.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

Microplate:
Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the desiccant is not turned to dark green, indicating a defect of storing.
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.
Important Note: *After first opening, remaining strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.*

Calibration Curve
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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.*

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.*

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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).

Légende :

Mention de danger, **Phrases H**
H315 – Provoque une irritation cutanée
H319 – Provoque une sévère irritation des yeux.

Conseil de prudence, **Phrases P**
P280 – Porter des gants de protection/des vêtements de protection/un équipement de protection des yeux/ du visage.
P302 + P352 – EN CAS DE CONTACT AVEC LA PEAU: laver abondamment à l'eau et au savon.
P332 + P313 – En cas d'irritation cutanée: consulter un médecin.
P305 + P351 + P338 – EN CAS DE CONTACT AVEC LES YEUX: rincer avec précaution à l'eau pendant plusieurs minutes. Enlever les lentilles de contact si la victime en porte et si elles peuvent être facilement enlevées. Continuer à rincer.
P337 + P313 – Si l'irritation oculaire persiste: consulter un médecin.
P362 + P363 – Enlever les vêtements contaminés et les laver avant reutilization.

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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dissolve the content of the Control Serum as reported.
6. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
7. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
8. 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.
9. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
10. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
11. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
12. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
13. 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.
The kit may be used for quantitative and qualitative determinations as well.

M1. QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use.

Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the A1 and B1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrators and 100 µl Control Serum in duplicate. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except A1+B1 blanking wells, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1 and B1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank wells A1 and B1 included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes.**

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid to stop the enzymatic reaction into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

M2. QUALITATIVE DETERMINATION

If only a qualitative determination is required, proceed as described below:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrator 0 arbU/ml and Calibrator 10 arbU/ml in duplicate and Calibrator 100 arbU/ml in single. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes.**

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from yellow to blue.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

General important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Calibrators & Control(*)	100 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	**20 min**
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 µl
Reading OD	450nm

(*) Important Notes:

- *The Control Serum (CS) it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Control Serum (CS) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme for Quantitative Analysis is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S 1									
B	BLK	CAL4	S 2									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S 3									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S 4									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S 5									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S 6									
G	CAL3	CS(*)	S 7									
H	CAL3	CS(*)	S 8									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator
S = Sample CS(*)= Control Serum - Not mandatory

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	CAL3	S6	S14									
E	CAL3	S7	S15									
F	CAL6	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 calibrators 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:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm value
CAL 1 0 arbU/ml	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
CAL 2 5 arbU/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100
CAL 3 10 arbU/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL1 + 0.200
CAL 6 100 arbU/ml	OD450nm > 1.000

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay
CAL 1 **0 arbU/ml** > 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 a positive calibrator instead of the negative one); 4. that no contamination of the negative calibrator or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate; 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
CAL 2 **5 arbU/ml** OD450nm < OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 3 **10 arbU/ml** OD450nm < OD450nm CAL1 + 0.200	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 6 **100 arbU/ml** < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control has occurred.

Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

**** Note:**
If Control Serum has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Control Serum	Mean OD450nm CAL4 +/-20%

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Control Serum Different from Expected value	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 control has occurred.

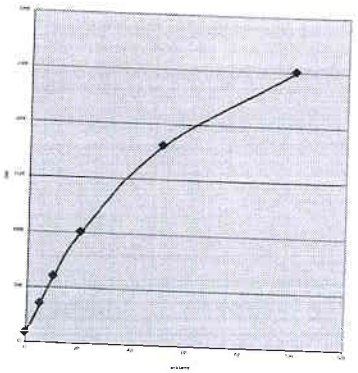
Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, CAL1, CAL2, CAL 6), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

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 EBNA IgG antibody in samples.

An example of Calibration curve is reported below.



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 arbU/ml and then check that the assay is valid.

Example of calculation:

Note: *The following data must not be used instead or real figures obtained by the user.*

Calibrator 0 arbU/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted

Calibrator 10 arbU/ml: 0.450 – 0.470 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.460 OD450nm
Higher than Cal 0 + 0.200 – Accepted

Calibrator 100 arbU/ml: 2.045 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

The OD450nm of the Calibrator 10 arbU/ml is considered the cut-off (or Co) of the system.
The ratio between the OD450nm value of the sample and the OD450nm of the Calibrator 10 arbU/ml (or S/Co) can provide a semi-quantitative estimation of the content of specific IgG in the sample.

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS
Samples with a concentration lower than 5 arbU/ml are considered negative for anti EBNA IgG antibody.
Samples with a concentration ranging 5-10 arbU/ml are considered in the gray-zone. Samples with a concentration higher than 10 arbU/ml are considered positive for anti EBNA IgG antibody.
EBNA IgG results alone are not, anyway, enough to provide a clear diagnosis of EBV infection. At least EBV VCA IgM results are necessary in combination.
A reference range of the minimum essential serological markers of Epstein-Barr infection, derived from Infectious Diseases Handbook, 3rd edition, published by Lexi-Comp Inc., USA, is reported schematically below:

VCA IgM	EBNA IgG	Interpretation
negative	negative	No history of EBV infection
positive	negative	Acute primary infection
negative	**positive**	History of previous infection
positive	**positive**	Reactivation

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. *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. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS
Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in an external clinical center on negative and positive samples with reference to a FDA approved commercial kit.

1. Limit of detection
No international standard for EBNA IgG Antibody detection has been defined so far by the European Community.
In its absence, an Internal Gold Standard (or IGS), derived from a patient with an history of past mononucleosis infection, has been defined in order to provide the device with a constant and excellent sensitivity.

2. Diagnostic Sensitivity and Specificity:
The method is based on the use of an affinity purified native EBNA antigen to provide the assay with the highest specifity to EBV.
The diagnostic performances were evaluated in a performance evaluation study conducted in an external centre, with excellent experience in the diagnosis of infectious diseases and in particular in EBV infection.
The Diagnostic Sensitivity was studied on more than 50 samples, pre-tested positive with two reference kits of European origin in use at the laboratory. Positive samples were collected from patients that experienced mononucleosis infection.
The diagnostic specificity was determined on panels of more than 50 negative samples from normal individuals and blood donors, classified negative with the reference kit, including potentially interfering specimens.
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.
The Performance Evaluation provided the following values :

Sensitivity	≥ 98 %
Specificity	≥ 98 %

3. Reproducibility:
Data obtained from a study conducted on three samples of different EBNA IgG reactivity, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs show CV% values ranging 5-20% depending on OD450nm readings.
The variability shown in the tables did not result in sample misclassification.

S. LIMITATIONS
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates may generate false positive results.
Depending on the reference kit in use, due to some heterogeneity among different devices, the presence of 2-5% false reactivity may be seen.

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All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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
Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes Srl
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CE

HP Ag

Enzyme Immunoassay for the qualitative/quantitative determination of Helicobacter pylori Antigen in human stools

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF HPAG.CE
48 Tests

HP Ag

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme Immunoassay (ELISA) for the one-step qualitative/quantitative determination of Helicobacter pylori Antigen (HP Ag) in human stools. The kit may be used for the the follow-up of HP-infected patients and their pharmacological treatment. For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

Helicobacter pylori (Hp) is a Gram negative bacterium, firstly isolated in gastric mucosa by Marshall and Warren in 1983.
This bacterium is widely diffused in men, without limitations of sex and age; it has been found that infections can be transmitted directly by contact with contaminated biological fluids (saliva, stool, body secretions) and also from contaminated food and beverages.
H.pylori, and in particular some pathogenic strains (CagA +), is the etiological agent responsible of most of active infections and lesions of the gastric mucosa in man.
H.pylori infection moreover acts as cofactor in the development of tumoral pathologies of the gastric apparatus and it is suspected to be associated to some inflammatory pathologies of the genital female apparatus, evolving toward neoplastic transformation.
At the present time, the identification of Helicobacter pylori is mostly made with invasive histochemical techniques, with the determination of its urease activity on a isotopic substrate (breath test and mass analysis), with time-consuming bacteriological culture systems and with expensive molecular biology techniques (PCR).
ELISA for HP Ag have been only recently introduced as a specific, fast, non invasive (analysis of stools) and cheaper method of detection.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Stools from patients are used as a source of sample for the determination of HP antigen.
Microplates are coated with a cocktail of affinity purified mouse monoclonal antibodies directed to the most specific Helicobacter pylori antigens.
In the 1st incubation, the solid phase is treated with the sample, previously extracted from stools, and simultaneously with a mixture of monoclonal antibodies to Hp, conjugated with peroxidase (HRP).
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation the bound enzyme specifically present on the solid phase generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of H.pylori antigens present in the sample.

D. COMPONENTS

Code HPAG.CE contains reagents to perform 48 tests.

1. Microplate MICROPLATE
n° 1 - 6 strips x 8 breakable microwells, coated with anti HP Ag specific affinity purified mouse monoclonal antibodies 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 Set: CAL ...
n° 4 vials - Lyophilized calibrators. To be dissolved with EIA grade water. When dissolved, Calibrators have the following concentrations: **0 – 0.1 – 0.5 - 1.0 ug/ml HP Ag**
They contain fetal bovine serum, inactivated HP Ag, 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
Important Note: *Calibrators when dissolved are not stable. Proceed as described in the proper section for storage.*

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 and 0.05% Tween 20.

4. Enzyme Conjugate CONJ
1x8ml/vial - Ready to use component. It contains Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) labeled mouse monoclonal antibodies to HP Ag , 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.
The Enzyme Conjugate is color coded red.

5. Chromogen/Substrate SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial - It contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2).
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

6. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
1x60ml/vial - Buffered solution for the extraction of HP Ag from the specimen and preparation of the sample. It contains 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.4+/-0.1. 2% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.
The component is color coded blue.

7. Sulphuric Acid H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x10ml/vial - It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

8. Plate sealing foils: n° 2

9. Package insert: n° 1

Upon request:

HP Ag Extraction kit n° 1
The kit contains all what is necessary to prepare n° 48 samples extracted from stools collected by patients.

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated variable volume Micropipettes ranging 1000 ul and 200 ul; 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.
9. Disposable plastic micro-spoon stools collection container (available upon request from Dia.Pro s.r.l.)

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. 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 from strong light and avoid vibration of the bench surface where the test is undertaken.
4. Upon receipt, store the kit at 2..8°C into a temperature controlled refrigerator or cold room.
5. 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.
6. Check that the liquid components of the kit 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.
7. Avoid cross-contamination between samples by using disposable tips and changing them after each sample.
8. Avoid cross-contamination between kit components by using disposable tips and changing them between the use of each one.
9. Do not use the kit after the expiration date stated on the external container and internal (vials) labels.
10. Treat all specimens as potentially infective, according to national regulations and laws concerning biological sample handling and wasting.
11. 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.
12. Wastes produced during the use of the kit have 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..
13. 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.
14. The Sulphuric Acid is an irritant. In case of spills, wash the surface with plenty of water
15. Other waste materials generated from the use of the kit (example: tips used for samples and controls, tools for the extraction of the sample from specimens, used microplates, etc.) should be handled as potentially infective and disposed according to national directives and laws concerning laboratory wastes.

G. SPECIMEN: COLLECTION, PREPARATION AND WARNINGS

1) It is recommended to collect fresh stools in the morning with the plastic collector provided on request together with the kit. Alternatively a conical bottomed disposable tube, provided by the laboratory to the patient, may be used.
2) The patient submitted to the test should not be under antibiotic or anti-bacterial treatments as this pharmaceutical therapy is known to affect H.pylori up to a certain extent, depending on the antibiotic used, giving origin to false interpretation.
3) The patient has to be asked to collect the specimen avoiding any possible contact with urine or water using the plastic spoon present in the stool collector and taking just the amount of specimen necessary to fill up the cavity of the spoon.
4) The patient is asked to deliver the specimen the same day to the laboratory. From the time of collection, the specimen can be stored in the laboratory up to 24 hr at 2..8°C or kept frozen at -20°C for longer time.
5) Specimens, and then samples derived from them, have to be clearly identified with codes or names in order to avoid misinterpretation of results. Bar code labeling and electronic reading is recommended when the number of samples on testing is pretty high.

***Important Note**: Degradation of HP antigen heavily occurs in stools after 24 hrs generating false negative results, even if the specimen is stored at 2..8°C.*

The next following operations are described and represented in figures in the Instructions for Use of the Stool Extraction Kit provided together with the kit.
Operate according to the following instructions:

1) Open the stool collection device and introduce the extraction brush deeply into the specimen. Rotate the brush 2-4 times in order to collect the right amount of biological material (about 0.2 gr).
2) Transfer the brush carefully into the test tube supplied in the kit and then add 1 ml Specimen Diluent. Keeping the brush inside the tube, mix vigorously on vortex for 1 min +/-10% in order to dissolve H.pylori into solution.
3) Discard the brush and insert the filtering piston, supplied with the kit, into the tube. Push gently the piston down into the tube in order to collect not more than 150-200 ul of the liquid phase of the suspension, volume enough to carry out the test.

***Important Notes**:*
***a)** Be careful not to apply a too strong manual pressure on the piston. The piston could break the tube and spills could be generated. If this should happen, use a paper towel soaked with an hospital disinfectant to clean up the contaminated surfaces.*

***b)** 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.*

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.

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 storing.
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.

***Important Note**: After first opening, remaining strips are stable until the humidity indicator inside the desiccant bag turns from yellow to green.*

Calibration Set:
Add the volume of ELISA grade water reported in the label to the lyophilized powder of each Calibrator. Let fully dissolve the content and then gently mix on vortex.
***Important Note**: When dissolved, Calibrators are not stable. Store Caliorators frozen in aliquots at –20°C, carefully labeled with the content of HP Ag present in each of them.*

Wash buffer concentrate:
The concentrated solution has to be diluted 20x with ELISA grade 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.
***Important 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.

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.

Specimen Diluent:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

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.

Precaulionary **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 ±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.
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 350ul/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 provided by the manufacturer.
***Important Note:** Due to the nature of the sample used and the possible presence of particles in the sample, be careful to control that the needles of the washer do not get blocked by the presence of stool bodies.*
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 "Internal Quality Control". 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 "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 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 when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.

***Important Note:** Due to the nature of the sample used and the possible presence of particles in the sample, be careful to control that the needles of the workstation do not get blocked by the presence of stool bodies. We strongly suggest to use disposable sample tips in order to avoid any block or damage of fix probes.*

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.
8. Upon request, Dia.Pro srl offers a sample preparation device able to produce a particle free sample showing excellent performances in the assay. Please inquire.

L. PRE ASSAY CONTROLS AND OPERATIONS

1. Prepare the sample from stools as described in section G and represented in the Instructions for Use of the HP Ag Extraction Kit.
2. Check the expiration date of the kit printed on the external label of the kit box. Do not use if expired.
3. 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.

4. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
5. Dissolve the Calibrator Set 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°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.
Two procedures are available: a quantitative method able to provide a quantification of HP Ag in the specimen and a qualitative method.

A. Quantitative Assay

1. Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for calibrators and samples. Leave A1+B1 wells empty for blanking purposes.

2. Pipette 100 µl Calibrators in duplicate into the calibration wells (see the example of dispensation reported below).

3. With the Pasteur pipette supplied aspirate the liquid filtered up into the inner chamber of the piston and dispense 2 drops (about 100 µl) of sample into the sample well. 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).

4. Dispense then 100 µl Enzymatic Conjugate in all wells, except for A1+B1, 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.*

5. Following addition of the conjugate, check that the color of the samples have turned from brown to pale reddish and incubate the microplate for **120 min at +37°C** .

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

6. When the first incubation is over, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)

7. Pipette 200 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells A1+B1 included. Incubate the microplate protected from light at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 min.**

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

8. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells to stop the enzymatic reaction, using the same pipetting sequence as in step 6.

9. 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, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

An example of dispensation scheme is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	BLK	CAL4				
B	BLK	CAL4				
C	CAL1	S1				
D	CAL1	S2				
E	CAL2	S3				
F	CAL2	S4				
G	CAL3	S5				
H	CAL3	S6				

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator S = Sample

A. Qualitative Assay

1. Place the required number of strips in the plastic holder and carefully identify the wells for calibrators and samples. Leave A1well empty for blanking purposes.

2. Pipette 100 µl Calibrator 1 in duplicate, 100 µl Calibrator 2 in duplicate, 100 µl Calibrator 4 in single and then 100 µl samples. Check for the presence of samples in wells as reported before.

3. Dispense 100 µl 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.*

4. Following addition of the conjugate, check that the color of the samples have turned from brown to pale reddish and then incubate the microplate for **120 min at +37°C** .

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

5. When the first incubation is over, wash the microwells as previously described (section I.3)

6. Pipette 200 µl Chromogen/Substrate into all the wells, A1 included. Incubate the microplate protected from light at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 min.**

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

7. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells to stop the enzymatic reaction, using the same pipetting sequence as in step 6.

8. 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, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

An example of dispensation scheme is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	BLK	S3				
B	CAL1	S4				
C	CAL1	S5				
D	CAL2	S6				
E	CAL2	S7				
F	CAL4	S8				
G	S1	S9				
H	S2	S10				

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator S = Sample

Important notes:

1. *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*
2. *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.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Operations	Procedure
Calibrators&samples	100 ul
Enzyme Conjugate	100 ul
1st incubation	**120 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Washing steps	n° 4-5
Chromogen/Substrate	200ul
2nd incubation	**20 min**
Temperature	room
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

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:

Parameter	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm value
CAL 0 ug/ml	< 0.200 mean OD450nm value after blanking
CAL 0.1 ug/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL 0 ug/ml + 0.100
CAL 1 ug/ml	> 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.
CAL 0 ug/ml > 0.200 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 calibrators instead of the negative one); 4. that no contamination of the calibrator or of the wells where the calibrator 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.
CAL 0.1 ug/ml OD450nm < Cal 0 ug/ml + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (ex.: dispensation of negative calibrator 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.
CAL 1 ug/ml < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during the distribution of the calibrator (dispensation of negative calibrator 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.

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

P. CALCULATION OF RESULTS

Quantitative Assay:
Calculate the mean OD450nm value of the calibrators. Then draw a calibration curve possibly using a 4 parameters fitting curve system. Then calculate on the curve the concentration of HP antigen in the sample.

Qualitative Assay:
The test results are calculated by means of a cut-off value determined from the O450nm value of the CAL 0 ug/ml (CAL 0) and the OD450nm of the CAL 0.1 ug/ml (CAL 0.1) with the following formula:

Cut-Off = (CAL 0 + CAL 0.1) / 2

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

In the quantitative assay, samples showing a concentration of H.pylori antigen higher than 0.05 ug/ml are considered positive.
For the qualitative assay, 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
< 1.0	Negative
1.0 – 1.1	Equivocal
> 1.1	Positive

A negative result indicates that the patient is not infected by H.pylori.
Any patient showing an equivocal result should be retested on a second sample.

A positive result is indicative of HP infection and therefore the patient should be treated accordingly.

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 should be confirmed first by repeating the test and then, if still positive, by an alternative method before a diagnosis of HP infection is confirmed.*
3. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another department, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
4. *Diagnosis of HP infection has to be taken and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor. This should be done taking also into account other diagnostic evidences of infection.*

An example of qualitative method is reported below.

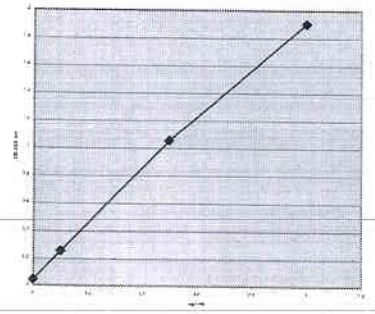
Note: The following data must not be used instead of real figures obtained by the user.

Cal 0 ug/ml: 0.040 –0.060 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.050 OD450nm
Lower than 0.200 – Accepted

Cal 0.1 ug/ml: 0.210-0.230 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.220 OD450nm
Higher than Cal 0 ug/ml + 0.100 – Accepted
Cut-Off = (CAL 0 + CAL 0.1) / 2 = 0.135
Calibrator 1 ug/ml: 2.000 OD450nm
OD450nm higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.028 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.690 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 1.0 = negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1.1 = positive

An Example of Calibration curve is reported below :



R. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted by testing negative and positive samples in an external clinical site.

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by examining serial dilution of HP antigen in Sample Diluent.
Results of Quality Control show that the analytical sensitivity of the assay is better than 0,05 ug/ml when the limit of dilution is considered mean OD450nm CAL 0 ug/ml + 5 SD.

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested on panels of samples classified positive by a US FDA approved kit based on "breath test", considered by the medical literature the Gold Standard for HP Ag determination. Samples to be examined in the kit were prepared from the same specimens and extracted with the extraction device supplied by Dia.Pro srl.
A sensitivity of about 98% was found for n = 55.
Diagnostic sensitivity was also examined by comparison to a commercial ELISA, produced in USA. Samples to be examined in the kit were prepared from the same specimens and extracted with the extraction device supplied by Dia.Pro srl.
A sensitivity of about 95% was found for n = 64

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been tested on panels of samples classified negative by a US FDA approved kit based on "breath test", considered by the medical literature the Gold Standard for HP Ag determination. Samples to be examined in the kit were prepared from the same specimens and extracted with the extraction device supplied by Dia.Pro srl.
A specificity of about 96% was found for n = 25.
Diagnostic specificity was also examined by comparison to a commercial ELISA, produced in USA. Samples to be examined in the kit were prepared from the same specimens and extracted with the extraction device supplied by Dia.Pro srl.
A specificity of about 80% was found for n = 20
No crossreaction was assessed with Campilobacter species.

4. Precision:

The variability shown in the tables did not result in sample misclassification. CV values ranging 4-8%, depending on OD450nm values were observed.

S. LIMITATIONS

False negative results were obtained from samples extracted from specimens stored for more than 1 day at 2..8°C.
False positive results were mostly obtained from samples still containing heavy stool bodies.

ASSAY GRAPHICAL SCHEME

Add 100 µl Calibrators, samples and conjugate to the plate and then incubate for 120 min at +37°C

Wash as described in the proper section

Add 200 µl Chromogen/Substrate and incubate 20 min at r.t.

Add 100 µl Sulphuric Acid

Read the plate at 450nm (reading) and at 620-630nm (blanking)

All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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
Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni (MI) – Italy

CE

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HIV Ab&Ag

Fourth generation Enzyme Immunoassay for the determination of antibodies to Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV type 1&2&O and P24 HIV-1 Antigen in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF.IVCOMB.CE
96/192/480/960 Tests

HIV Ab&Ag

A. INTENDED USE

The kit is a solid phase enzyme immunoassay for the in-vitro diagnostic screening of antibodies to all subtypes of HIV-1 and HIV-2 and HIV-1 antigen (p24) in human serum or plasma.
This kit is intended exclusively for ***In vitro*** diagnostic use in an authorized clinical laboratory and the test has to be carried out by specifically trained health-care professional personnel.

B. INTRODUCTION

Epidemiological evidence indicates that an infectious agent transmitted through intimate contact, intravenous drug use or use of infected blood or blood products leads to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
This disease affects T-cell mediated immunity, resulting in severe lymphopenia and a reduced subpopulation of helper T-lymphocytes. Destruction of this T-lymphocyte population by the virus causes an immune deficiency, resulting in a reduced or deficient response to subsequent infections.
Consequently, infections become more severe and may cause death. At present, there is no successful treatment for AIDS.

The etiological agent has been identified as a retrovirus, human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1).
A closely related, but distinct type of immunodeficiency virus, designated HIV-2, has also been isolated. This virus causes a disease that is indistinguishable from AIDS.
Serological cross-reactivity between HIV-1 and HIV-2 has been shown to be highly variable from sample to sample.
This variability requires the inclusion of antigens to both HIV-1 and HIV-2 for the screening of antibodies to HIV-1 and HIV-2.
The presence of anti-HIV-1 and/or anti-HIV-2 and/or HIV p24 antigen in the blood indicates potential infection with HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 and consequently this blood should not be used for transfusion or for manufacture of injectable products.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Synthetic peptides representing immunodominant epitopes of HIV-1 and HIV-2 together with a monoclonal antibody to p24 HIV-1 antigen are coated onto wells of a microplate.
The peptides and the antibody have been carefully selected to ensure the screening of antibody and p24 antigen to all HIV-1 subtypes, including subtype O and HIV-2. Serum or plasma samples are added to these wells and, if antibodies specific to HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 (IgG, IgM or IgA) are present in the sample, they will form stable complexes with the HIV peptide antigens in the well. In case HIV-1 p24 is present in the sample, the antigen will be captured by the specific monoclonal antibody.
Antigen-antibody complexes are then identified through the successive addition of: (1) biotinylated peptides, a biotinylated monoclonal antibody to HIV-1 p24, and; (2) horseradish peroxidase HRP Streptavidin conjugate.
The hydrolytic activity of horseradish peroxidase allows for the quantification of these antibody-antigen complexes.
Peroxidase substrate solution is then added.
During incubation, a blue color will develop in proportion to the amount of anti-HIV-1/2 antibodies or HIV-1 p24 antigen bound to the well, thus establishing their presence or absence in the sample.
Wells containing samples negative for anti-HIV antibody and/or p24 antigen remain colorless.
A stop solution is added to each well and the resulting yellow color is read on a microplate reader at 450 nm.

D. COMPONENTS

The standard format of the product code IVCOMB.CE contains reagents for 192 tests.

1. Microplate MICROPLATE
n° 2 microplates. 12 strips of 8 breakable wells coated with HIV specific gp36, gp41 and gp120 peptides and with a Monoclonal Antibody specific to the HIV-1 p24 Ag. Plates are sealed into a bag with desiccant.

2. Negative Control CONTROL -
1x4.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains animal serum negative for HIV antibodies and for p24 antigen, and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The negative control is yellow-brown color coded.

3. Positive Control HIV-1 Ab CONTROL 1+
1x4.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains inactivated HIV 1 antibody positive serum, filtered HIV Ab&Ag negative animal serum and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservative. The Positive Control is light green color coded.
Important Note: *The positive control has been inactivated using B-propionolactone BPL/UV. This does not fully ensure the absence of viable pathogens, and therefore, the control should be handled as potentially biohazardous, in accordance with good laboratory practices.*

4. Positive Control HIV-2 Ab CONTROL 2+
1x4.0ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains inactivated HIV2 antibody positive serum, filtered HIV Ab&Ag negative animal serum and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The Positive Control is dark green color coded.
Important Note: *The positive control has been inactivated using B-propionolactone BPL/UV. This does not fully ensure the absence of viable pathogens, and therefore, the control should be handled as potentially biohazardous, in accordance with good laboratory practices.*

5. HIV-1 P24 Ag Calibrator CAL Ag
2 vials. Lyophilized. It contains not infectious recombinant p24 antigen in a 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2 with 0.3 mg/ml Gentamicine Sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC as stabilizers. This component is calibrated against the NIBSC 1st International HIV-1 p24 Ag reference sample 90/636 (diluted 1:256) as well as the EFS HIV Ag performance panel (3015-3022).
Important Notes:
1) The Calibrator contains p24 recombinant Ag with a concentration of about 100 pg/ml, corresponding to about 4 IU/ml.
2) 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. Wash buffer concentrate WASHBUF 20X
2x60ml/bottle. 20x concentrated solution. It contains 0.1% Kathon GC. Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer saline pH 7.0+/-0.2 and 0.05% Tween 20.

7. Conjugate # 1 CONJ 1
8 vials. The vial contains lyophilized biotinylated HIV1&2&O gp36, gp41 and gp120 peptides and a biotinylated monoclonal antibody specific for HIV 1 p24 antigen. Vials are to be resuspended with 6 ml of the Conjugate # 1 diluent.

8. Conjugate 1 Diluent CONJ 1 DIL
1x60ml/bottle. Used to dissolve the lyophilized powder of Conjugate # 1, it contains Tris saline Buffer supplemented with 0.05% Kathon GC, Tween 20 and BSA.

9. Conjugate # 2 CONJ 2
1x25ml/bottle The solution contains HRP conjugated with streptavidin in Tris saline Buffer supplemented with 0.05% Kathon GC, Tween 20 and BSA. This component is color coded in pink/red.

10. Chromogen/Substrate SUBS TMB
1x45ml/bottle Ready-to-use component. It contains 50 mM citrate buffer 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 H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x25ml/bottle It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+P313, P305+ P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363)

12. Sample Diluent: DILSPE
1x14ml/vial Contains Tris saline buffer supplemented with 0.05% Kathon GC, anti HAMA blocker, and Tween 20; used for specimen dilution. This component is color coded in light blue.

13. Plate sealing foils **n° 4**

14. Package insert **n° 1**

Important note: Upon request, Dia.Pro can supply reagents for 96, 480, 960 tests, as reported below :

1.Microplate	n°1	n°5	n°10
2.Negative Control	1x2.0ml/vial	1x10ml/vial	1x20ml/vial
3.Positive Control 1	1x2.0ml/vial	1x10ml/vial	1x20ml/vial
4.Positive Control 2	1x2.0ml/vial	1x10ml/vial	1x20ml/vial
5.HIV p24 Calibrator	n°1 vial	n° 5 vials	n° 10 vials
6.Wash buff conc	1x60ml/bottle	5x60ml/bottles	4x150ml/bottles
7.Conjugate # 1	n°4 vials	n°20 vials	n°40 vials
8.Conjugate 1 Diluent	1x30ml/vial	3x50ml/bottles	2x150ml/bottles
9.Conjugate # 2	1x15ml/vial	2x38ml/bottle	2x75ml/bottle
10.Chrom/Substrate	1x25ml/vial	3x42ml/bottle	2x125ml/bottles
11.Sulphuric Acid	1x15ml/vial	2x40ml/bottles	2x80ml/bottles
12.SampleDiluent	1x7ml/vial	1x35ml/bottle	1x70ml/bottle
Plate seal foils	n° 2	n° 10	n° 20
Pack. Insert	n° 1	n° 1	n° 1
Number of tests	96	480	960
Code	IVCOMB.CE.96	IVCOMB.CE.480	IVCOMB.CE.960

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (200ul and 10ul) and disposable plastic tips.
2. EIA grade water (bidistilled 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 capable to provide a temperature of +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/Substrate 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.
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 Sulphuric Acid is 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

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 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 for up to seven 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.
6. If particles are present filter using 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.
7. Do not use heat inactivated samples as they could give origin to false reactivity.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

A study conducted on an opened kit has not shown any relevant loss of activity up to 2 months.

Microplates:
Allow the microplate to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) before opening the container. Check that the pouch is not broken or that some defect is present indicating a problem of storage. In this case call Dia.Pro's customer service.
Unused strips have to be placed back into the aluminum pouch, in presence of desiccant supplied, firmly zipped and stored at +2°..8°C. When opened the first time, residual strips are stable up to two months.

Negative Control:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Positive Controls Ab:
Positive controls are ready to use. Handle Positive Controls Ab as potentially infective, even if HIV, if present in the control, has been chemically inactivated.

Calibrator Ag
The Lyophilized Calibrator Ag contains a non-infectious recombinant p24 antigen. The volume of EIA grade water to be used for its dissolution and to reach the appropriate p24 concentration (about 100 pg/ml) is written on the vial label. To help dissolve the lyophilized pellet, vortex a few times, at regular intervals. Complete dissolution should be achieved within 2-5 minutes.
Note: When dissolved the Calibrator is not stable. Store in aliquots at –20°C.

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

Conjugate # 1:
The Conjugate # 1 mix solution must be prepared immediately before starting the test. Add 6 ml of Conjugate 1 diluent directly to one Conjugate # 1 vial to dissolve the lyophilized powder. This preparation (a total of 6 ml in one vial) is sufficient for 32 tests, or 4 complete vertical strips of the microplate. To help dissolve the lyophilized powder, vortex a few times, at regular intervals.
Important Note: Any unused portion of this reconstituted Conjugate # 1 Solution may be stored at +2..8°C for no more than 12 hours. After this time it has to be discarded and the empty, used container has to be washed with EIA grade water and kept dry for any following re-use.

Conjugate # 2:
Ready to use reagent. Mix well end-over-end before use.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well end-over-end before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container.

Sulphuric Acid:
Ready to use. Mix well end-over-end before use.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319: P280, P302+P352, 332+P313, P305+ P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P364).

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.

Sample Diluent:
Ready to use. Mix well end-over-end before use.

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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
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 and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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; (d) 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 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 "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 for blood screening when the number of samples to be tested exceed 20-30 units per run.
7. 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°C, firmly capped.
8. 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 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 Calibrator Ag.
5. Dissolve the Conjugate # 1 vial containing lyophilized powder with the Conjugate 1 Diluent (1 lyophilized Conjugate # 1 + 6ml Conjugate # 1 Diluent) to obtain the Conjugate # 1 Mix as described in the proper section.
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°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.

1. Automated assay:

In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument dispense 50 ul Sample Diluent first and then 150 ul controls and samples.
Before the next sample is aspirated, needles have to be duly washed to avoid any cross-contamination among samples or tips have to be changed.
For 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.
The correct number of lyophilized Conjugate # 1 must be dissolved each with 6 ml Conjugate # 1 Diluent. Once the lyophilized powders are dissolved and mixed well, they are to be mixed together into a plastic container and the assay may begin.

2. Manual assay:

1. Dissolve the right number of lyophilized Conjugate # 1 with Conjugate # 1 Diluent before starting to dispense the samples and controls of the test.
2. Place the required number of strips in the microwell holder. Leave the 1st well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 50 ul Sample Diluent in all the wells, except A1 used for blanking.
4. Dispense 150 ul of Negative Control in triplicate, 150 ul HIV1 Positive Control, 150 ul HIV2 Positive Control and 150 ul of Calibrator Ag in duplicate in proper wells.
5. Dispense 150 ul of Sample in each properly identified well. Mix gently the plate on the work surface, avoiding overflowing and contaminating adjacent wells, in order to fully disperse the sample into the diluent.
6. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

7. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer by delivering and aspirating 350ul/well of diluted washing solution as reported previously (section I,3).
8. Pipette 150 ul Conjugate # 1 mix, prepared as described before, into each well, except the 1st blanking well, and cover with the sealer.

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

9. Incubate the microplate for **30 min at +37°C**.
10. Pipette 100 ul of Conjugate # 2 in all the wells, except A1, and gently agitate the microplate to mix the two conjugates.

Important Note: This solution must be added to the bottom of each well to ensure proper performance. Inadequate mixing of the two solutions (Conjugate 1 and Conjugate 2) may reduce the binding of streptavidin HRP (Conjugate 2) to the biotinylated reagents and consequently affect the performance of the assay. Be sure to provide an adequate mixing when the Conjugate # 2 is added, both in the manual and in the automated procedures.

11. Incubate the microplate sealed for **30 min at +37°C**.
12. Wash as in section 7.
13. Dispense 200 ul of Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-25°C) for 30 minutes**. Start the timing immediately after addition of this component to the first well.

Important note: Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.

14. Pipette 100 ul Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 13 to stop the enzymatic reaction. Addition of acid will turn the positive controls and positive samples from blue to yellow/brown.
15. Measure the color intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 30 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*
3. *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

Method	Operations
Sample Diluent	50 ul
Controls and calibrator	150 ul
Samples	150 ul
1st incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Conjugate # 1	150 ul
2nd incubation	**30 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Conjugate # 2	100 ul
3rd incubation	**30 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	200 ul
4th incubation	**30 min**
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
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	CAL Ag										
B	NC	CAL Ag										
C	NC	S1										
D	NC	S2										
E	POS 1 Ab	S3										
F	POS 1 Ab	S4										
G	POS 2 Ab	S5										
H	POS 2 Ab	S6										

Legenda: BLK = Blank NC = Negative Control POS 1 Ab = HIV -1 Ab Positive Control, POS 2 Ab = HIV -2 Ab Positive, CAL Ag = HIV p24 Ag Calibrator, S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A check is carried out on the controls and the calibrator any time the kit is used in order to verify whether their OD450nm values are as expected and reported in the table below.

Check	Requirements
Blank well	≤ 0.100 OD450nm value
Negative Control (NC)	≤ 0.200 mean OD450nm value after blanking Absorbance of individual negative control values must be less than or equal to 0.200. If one value is outside this range, discard this value and recalculate mean. If two values are outside this range the run should be repeated.
HIV-1 Ab Positive Control	Mean OD450nm ≥ 0.700.
HIV-2 Ab Positive Control	Mean OD450nm ≥ 0.700.
HIV Ag Calibrator	S/Co > 1

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Sustrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay.
Negative Control (NC) > 0.200 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 negative control; 4. that no contamination of the negative control or of their wells has occurred due to positive samples, to spills or to the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
Positive Controls < 0.700 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in the distribution of controls (dispensation of negative control instead of positive control. In this case, the negative control will have an OD450nm value > 0.200, too. 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.
HIV Ag Calibrator S/Co < 1	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in the distribution of controls (dispensation of negative control instead of Calibrator Ag. In this case, the negative control will have an OD450nm value > 0.200, too. 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. 5.that the lyophilize powder was dissolved correctly with the correct volume of water written on the vial label.

Should these problems happen, after checking, report any residual problem to the supervisor for further actions.

P. CALCULATION OF THE CUT-OFF

The tests results are calculated by means of a cut-off value determined with the following formula on the mean OD450nm value of the Negative Control (NC):

NC + 0.125 = 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 done by the operative system of an ELISA automated work station be sure that the proper formulation is used to calculate the cut-off value and generate the right interpretations of results.*

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Test results are interpreted as ratio of the sample OD450nm and the Cut-Off value (or S/Co) according to the following table:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 1	Negative
> 1	Positive

A negative result indicates that the patient has not been infected by HIV.
If the initial absorbance value is equal to or greater than the cut-off value, retest the sample in duplicate. If both retest values are less than the cut-off, the interpretation is not reactive for HIV antibody and/or antigen (negative).
If one or both retest values are equal to or greater than the cut-off the interpretation of the test results is repeatedly reactive. The sample should be considered reactive or positive for HIV antibody and/or antigen according to the criteria of this HIV ELISA test.
A positive result is indicative of HIV infection and therefore the patient should be treated accordingly.

Important notes:

1. *Interpretation of results should be done under the supervision of the responsible of the laboratory to reduce the risk of judgment errors and misinterpretations.*
2. *Rrepeatedly reactive specimens should be submitted to a Confirmation Assay before diagnosis of HIV infection is released.*
3. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to an informatics centre, attention has to be done to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
4. *Diagnosis of HIV infection has to be done and released to the patient only by a qualified medical doctor.*

An example of calculation is reported below:

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

Negative Control: 0.110 – 0.120 - 0.115
OD450nm Mean Value: 0.115 OD450nm
Lower than 0.200 – Accepted

HIV 1 Ab Positive Control: 2.000 OD450nm mean value
Higher than 0.700 – Accepted

HIV 2 Ab Positive Control: 2.100 OD450nm mean value
Higher than 0.700 – Accepted

Calibrator Ag: 0.322 OD450nm mean value
S/Co > 1 - Accepted

Cut-Off = 0.115 + 0.125 = 0.240
Sample 1: 0.070 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.690 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 1 = negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1 = positive

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).
The performance evaluation was carried out both in an external centre of excellence for HIV diagnosis, that examined the device on a population of antibody positive and negative samples against a CE-marked kit used in the laboratory as reference, and in DiaPro's laboratories as well to complete the study.

R.1 ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY

The limit of detection (or analytical sensitivity) of the assay has been calculated by means of preparations specific for HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibody and HIV-1 p24 Ag detection, supplied by NIBSC Blanche Lane South Mimms Potters Bar Hertfordshire EN6 3OG, UK.
Samples were diluted in HIV Ab&Ag negative plasma to generate limiting dilution curves and examined in duplicate.
The tables below reports the mean OD450nm values and the S/Co index:

NIBSC anti-HIV 2 monitor sample code 99/674 – 005

Sample	Lot #	0506	Lot #	0706	Lot #	0906
Dilution	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
1x	over	>14.5	over	>15.0	over	>15.1
2x	3.838	14.1	3.765	14.5	3.774	14.4
4x	2.371	8.7	2.268	8.7	2.319	8.9
8x	1.253	4.6	1.097	4.2	1.140	4.4
16x	0.700	2.6	0.712	2.7	0.735	2.8
32x	0.462	1.7	0.439	1.7	0.483	1.8
64x	0.281	1.0	0.260	1.0	0.294	1.1
128x	0.189	0.7	0.171	0.7	0.174	0.7
diluent	0.140	0.5	0.122	0.5	0.131	0.5

The device shows a limiting dilution value at 64x.

NIBSC British working standard for anti HIV 1 code 99/750 –007

Sample	Lot #	0506	Lot #	0706	Lot #	0906
Dilution	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
1x	2.206	8.1	2.086	8.0	2.142	8.2
2x	0.999	3.7	0.925	3.6	1.027	3.9
4x	0.475	1.7	0.486	1.9	0.486	1.9
8x	0.295	1.1	0.301	1.2	0.289	1.1
16x	0.212	0.8	0.206	0.8	0.220	0.8
diluent	0.140	0.5	0.122	0.5	0.131	0.5

The devise shows a limiting dilution value at 8x.

NIBSC British working standard for anti HIV 1 code 99/710 – 007

Sample	Lot #	0506	Lot #	0706	Lot #	0906
Dilution	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
1x	0.588	2.2	0.611	2.4	0.607	2.3
2x	0.301	1.1	0.309	1.2	0.312	1.2
4x	0.198	0.7	0.210	0.8	0.192	0.7
diluent	0.140	0.5	0.122	0.5	0.131	0.5

The devise shows a limiting dilution value at about 2x.

NIBSC HIV-1 p24 Antigen Monitor Sample code 02/146-002

Sample	Lot #	0506	Lot #	0706	Lot #	0906
Dilution	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
1x	3.664	13.4	3.650	14.0	3.552	13.5
2x	2.151	7.9	2.133	8.2	2.086	8.0
4x	1.209	4.4	1.178	4.5	1.214	4.6
8x	0.734	2.7	0.729	2.8	0.780	3.0
16x	0.388	1.4	0.342	1.3	0.351	1.3
32x	0.259	0.9	0.236	0.9	0.229	0.9
diluent	0.140	0.5	0.122	0.5	0.131	0.5

The devise shows a limiting dilution value at about 16x.

NiBSC 1st International reference Reagent for HIV 1 Ag code 90/636 – (Version 4, 12 May 2009)

Sample	Lot #	1	Lot #	2	Lot #	3
IU/ml	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co	OD450nm	S/Co
16	2.053	14.8	2.048	14.8	2.053	14.5
8	1.118	8.0	1.121	8.1	1.124	8.0
4	0.571	4.1	0.574	4.1	0.576	4.1
2	0.290	2.1	0.291	2.1	0.290	2.0
1	0.160	1.2	0.162	1.2	0.160	1.1
0.5	0.104	0.7	0.105	0.8	0.103	0.7
diluent	0.014	//	0.014	//	0.014	//

Note: Lot 1 = C2E2T2/6 – Lot 2 = C2E2T2/5 – Lot 3 = C2E2T2/4

The devise shows a sensitivity ≤ 2 IU/ml as required by CTS:2009.

R.2 DIAGNOSTIC SPECIFICITY AND SENSITIVITY

R.2.1 Diagnostic Specificity:

In addition to the first study, where a total of more than 5000 unselected blood donors, more than 200 hospitalized patients, (under examination for non HIV pathologies) and more than 100 potentially interfering specimens (other infectious diseases, E.coli antibody positive, patients affected by non viral hepatic diseases, dialysis patients, pregnant women, hemolized, lipemic, etc.) were tested, the diagnostic specificity was recently assessed by testing a total of 3268 negative samples on four different lots. A value of diagnostic specificity of 100% was observed.
No false reactivity due to the method of specimen preparation has been observed. Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been used to determine the value of specificity.
Frozen specimens have been tested, as well, to check for interferences due to collection and storage.
No interference was observed.

R.2.2 Diagnostic Sensitivity

The diagnostic sensitivity of the test was determined on a population of HIV positive specimens.
Results are reported in the tables below.

Etablissement Francais du Sang Mixed titer Performance Panel HIV Ab (1-6) Lot # 11

ID	Composition	Lot # 0506	Lot # 0706	Lot # 0906	S/Co
		S/Co	S/Co	S/Co	mean
1	HIV2(1/200)	>14.5	>15.0	>15.1	>14.9
2	HIV2(1/800)	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.1
3	negative	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
4	HIV1(1/700)	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.0
5	HIV1(1/160)	>14.5	>15.0	>15.1	>14.9
6	HIV1(1/200)	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9

BBI Anti-HIV 1 Low Titer Performance Panel - PRB 108

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	IVAB.CE S/Co
1	3.5	3.1
2	0.5	0.2
3	2.3	2.5
4	11.4	10.6
5	3.8	2.9
6	6.9	5.3
7	4.0	3.7
8	7.5	6.3
9	6.3	3.2
10	2.4	1.5
11	8.8	7.2
12	4.1	2.9
13	3.7	2.3
14	7.2	6.1
15	10.9	6.3

BBI Anti-HIV 1 Low Titer Performance Panel - PRB 107 (modified version)

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
2	5.6	3.7
3	2.1	4.5
5	0.5	0.1
6	4.4	7.3
7	1.4	1.0
8	6.3	7.1
10	1.8	3.5
12	5.9	5.8
13	7.1	3.3
15	3.2	2.7

BBI anti HIV-1 Low Titer Performance Panel - PRB 106

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
1	4.5	7.5
2	2.6	1.8
3	5.2	2.0
4	6.1	8.9
5	11.4	17.6
6	0.5	0.1
7	3.9	7.9
8	13.2	15.7
9	>14.5	16.6
10	6.1	12.7
11	4.6	6.8
12	3.0	2.4
13	5.9	10.5
14	7.7	6.0
15	>14.5	5.5

BBI Anti-HIV 1 Mixed Titer Performance Panel - PRB 204

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
1	1.2	1.0
2	>14.5	65.2
3	0.3	0.2
4	>14.5	65.1
5	>14.5	66.1
6	>14.5	67.5
7	>14.5	66.0
8	>14.5	64.6
9	1.3	2.4
10	>14.5	65.1
11	>14.5	65.4
12	>14.5	63.8
13	4.7	67.0
14	>14.5	63.8
15	>14.5	63.6
16	>14.5	66.6
17	>14.5	68.8
18	>14.5	71.2
19	>14.5	71.5
20	>14.5	66.5
21	>14.5	71.7
22	>14.5	68.5
23	0.3	0.2
24	2.3	2.3
25	0.8	0.9

BBI anti HIV 1/2 Combo
Performance Panel - PRZ 208

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
1	10.2	>15.7
2	0.4	0.2
3	>14.5	>15.7
4	>14.5	>15.7
5	6.6	9.2
6	>14.5	9.1
7	0.4	0.2
8	>14.5	>15.7
9	11.4	15.5
10	>14.5	>15.7
11	>14.5	>15.7
12	>14.5	12.8
13	>14.5	15.7

BBI HIV-1 Incidence/Prevalence
Performance Panel - PRB 601

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
1	>14.5	18.5
2	>14.5	17.4
3	>14.5	17.4
4	>14.5	17.4
5	>14.5	15.8
6	>14.5	17.4
7	>14.5	18.5
8	>14.5	17.4
9	>14.5	17.4
10	>14.5	17.4
11	>14.5	18.5
12	>14.5	17.4
13	>14.5	17.4
14	>14.5	17.4
15	>14.5	17.4

BBI Worldwide HIV
Performance Panel - WWRB 303

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
1	>14.5	>15.9
2	>14.5	>15.9
3	>14.5	>15.9
4	>14.5	>15.9
5	4.1	>15.9
6	>14.5	>15.9
7	>14.5	>15.9
8	>14.5	>15.9
9	1.1	2.4
10	>14.5	>15.9
11	11.3	0.3
12	0.3	0.4
13	>14.5	>15.9
14	>14.5	>15.9
15	>14.5	>15.9

Etablissement Francais du Sang
Performance Panel
HIV Ag (3015-3022) lot 2004

Sample	IVCOMB.CE Lot # 0506 S/Co	Concentration HIV 1 p24 Ag [pg/ml]
3015	8.7	500
3016	4.2	250
3017	1.6	100
3018	1.2	50
3019	0.9	25
3020	0.6	10
3021	0.6	5
3022(diluent)	0.5	diluent

BBI HIV p24 Antigen Mixed Titer
Performance Panel - PRA 203

Member ID #	IVCOMB.CE S/Co	Ref. Kit S/Co
1	2.3	4.3
2	4.1	12.2
3	1.4	0.0
4	1.9	3.0
5	Nd	Nd
6	1.8	1.3
7	2.9	5.7
8	3.9	1.5
9	0.4	0.5
10	3.6	12.2
11	2.4	3.1
12	1.6	3.5
13	1.2	2.1
14	0.4	0.9
15	3.3	2.5
16	1.1	1.6
17	2.5	6.3
18	1.7	2.4
19	0.4	0.5
20	4.6	17.6

Moreover, in the external Performance Evaluation a total of 651 positive samples, including HIV type 1, HIV type 2, HIV type 1 mixed subtypes (including 0), HIV 1 Antigen, more than 40 early seroconversion HIV samples and cell culture supernatants were evaluated and a value of 100% was found.

Finally, more than 30 **panels of seroconversion** containing samples of HIV 1/2/0 Antibodies and/or HIV-1 p24 Antigen positive, obtained from BBI, USA, were evaluated using IVCOMB.CE lot # 0506. In the table below results are reported.

Seroconversion Panel	IVCOMB.CE 4th Generation HIV Ab&Ag	IVAB.CE 3rd Generation HIV Ab
ID	First specimen detected positive in the panel	
PRB 910 (J)	2	3
PRB 916 (P)	4	5
PRB 917 (Q)	2	5
PRB 919 (S)	1	2
PRB 922 (V)	1	1
PRB 924 (X)	5	6
PRB 926 (Z)	3	5
PRB 927 (AB)	2	3
PRB 928 (AC)	2	3
PRB 929 (AD)	4	6
PRB 930 (AE)	2	3
PRB 931 (AF)	6	6
PRB 933 (AH)	2	2
PRB 935 (AJ)	6	7
PRB 937 (AL)	4	not detected
PRB 938 (AM)	1	3
PRB 939 (AN)	7	9
PRB 940 (AP)	2	4
PRB 941 (AQ)	4	5
PRB 942 (AR)	4	not detected
PRB 944 (AT)	3	5
PRB 946 (AV)	3	not detected
PRB 947 (AW)	2	4
PRB 948 (AX)	4	not detected
PRB 949 (AY)	4	5
PRB 950 (AZ)	3	4
PRB 952 (BB)	3	5
PRB 953 (BC)	3	4
PRB 955 (BE)	3	4
PRB 956 (BF)	5	not detected

The device shows a better sensitivity than the previous generation as it is able to detect the p24 antigen.

The results of the Performance Evaluation, correlate perfectly with what stated by EU CTS and show an overall value of diagnostic sensitivity of 100%.

R.3 PRECISION

The precision of the device was assessed by determining its values in a within and between runs. In the table below results are reported for a negative sample and a low positive sample.

Average values N = 48	Negative Sample	Low Positive
OD450nm	0.136	0.916
Std.Deviation	0.011	0.022
CV %	7.6	4.0

S. LIMITATIONS

The user of this kit is advised to carefully read and understand this package insert. Strict adherence to the protocol is necessary in order to obtain reliable test results. In particular, accurate sample and reagent pipetting, along with careful washing and timing of incubation steps is essential for accurate and reproducible detection of HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies and HIV-1 p24 antigen.

After the EIA test is performed, repeatedly reactive specimens should be submitted for additional testing using Western Blot (WB), Immunofluorescence Assay (IFA), Radioimmunoprecipitation Assay (RIPA) tests and PCR for HIV nucleic acid.

The determination that a person's serum contains antibodies or p24 antigen to HIV has extensive medical, social, psychological and economic implications.

It is recommended that confidentiality, appropriate counselling and medical evaluation be considered an essential aspect of the testing sequence. AIDS and AIDS-related conditions are clinical diseases and their diagnosis can only be established clinically.

EIA testing alone cannot be used to diagnose AIDS.

A non-reactive test result at any point in the testing sequence does not preclude the possibility of exposure to or infection with HIV. The risk of an asymptomatic person, who is repeatably reactive, developing AIDS and/or AIDS-related conditions is not known.

Falsely reactive test results can be observed with a test kit of this nature. The proportion of reactive samples will depend on the sensitivity and specificity of the test kit and on the prevalence of HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies in the population to be screened.

Antibodies to HIV may occur due to voluntary participation in an HIV vaccine study.

Interpretation of this diagnostic test will depend on the type of vaccine given. Correlation with the medical history and additional testing may be necessary to accurately diagnose HIV in vaccine volunteers.

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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:
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CE 0318

HSV1 IgM

"Capture" Enzyme Immuno Assay (ELISA) for the determination of IgM antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 in human plasma and sera

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF HSV1M.CE
96 tests

HSV1 IgM

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the determination of IgM antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus types 1 in human plasma and sera with the "capture" system. The device is intended for the follow-up of HSV1 infected patients and for the monitoring of risk of neonatal defects due to HSV infection during pregnancy.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV1) and type 2 (HSV2) are large complex DNA-containing viruses which have been shown to induce the synthesis of several proteins during infection, possessing an high number of cross-reactive determinants and just a few of type-specific sequences.
The majority of primary and recurrent genital herpetic infections are caused by HSV2; while non genital infections, such as common cold sores, are caused primarily by HSV1.
The detection of virus specific IgG and IgM antibodies are important in the diagnosis of acute/primary virus infections or reactivations of a latent one, in the absence of evident clinical symptoms.
A-symptomatic infections may happen for HSV in apparently healthy individuals and during pregnancy. Severe herpetic infections may happen in immuno-compromised and suppressed patients in which the disease may evolve toward critical pathologies.
The determination of HSV specific antibodies has then become important in the monitoring of "risk" patients and in the follow up of acute and severe infections.

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 preparation of inactivated HSV1, labeled with a HSV1 specific 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 bound conjugate the colorless substrate is hydrolyzed to a colored end-product, whose optical density may be detected and is proportional to the amount of IgM antibodies to HSV1 present in the sample.
A system is described how to control whether the positivity shown by a sample is true or not (Confirmation Test), helpful for the clinician to make a correct interpretation of results.

D. COMPONENTS

The kit contains reagents for 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
12 strips x 8 microwells coated with anti human IgM affinity purified goat antibody, in presence of bovine proteins.
Plates are 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 -
1x4.0 ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains 1% human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.0+/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The negative control is cpale yellow color coded..

3. Positive Control: CONTROL +
1x4.0 ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains 1% human serum positive for HSV1 IgM, 2% casein, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.0+/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The positive control is green colour coded.

4. Calibrator: CAL ...ml
N° 1 lyophilized vial. To be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. It contains anti HSV1 IgM, fetal bovine serum, 0.2 mg/ml 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. Lyophilized HSV1 Ag: AG HSV1
N° 6 lyophilized vials. The vials contain gamma-ray inactivated HSV1 in protein buffer. The solution contains 2% bovine proteins, 10 mM Tris HCl buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC. To be dissolved with 1.9 ml of Antigen Diluent as reported in the specific section.

6. 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.

7. Enzyme conjugate: CONJ 20X
1x0.8 ml/vial. 20x concentrated solution of a HSV1-specific antibody, labeled with HRP and diluted in a protein buffer containing 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.

8. Antigen Diluent : AG DIL
n° 1 vial of 16 ml. Protein buffer solution for the preparation of the Immunocomplex. The solution contains 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate as preservatives. The reagent is code coloured with 0.01% red alimentary dye

9. Specimen Diluent : DILSPE
2x60.0 ml/vial. Proteic buffered solution for the dilution of samples. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.0+/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The reagent is color coded with 0.01% blue alimentary dye.

10. Chromogen/Substrate : SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (TMB), 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and 4% dimethylsulphoxide.
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

11. Sulphuric Acid: H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+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 (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance)..
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u 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 storing.
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.

Negative Control:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Positive Control:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

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.
Important Note: *The solution is not stable. Store the Calibrator frozen in aliquots at –20°C.*

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.*

Ag/Ab Immunocomplex:
Proceed carefully as follows:
1. Dissolve the content of a lyophilized vial with 1.9 ml of Conjugate/Antigen Diluent. Let fully dissolved the lyophilized content and then gently mix on vortex.
2. Gently mix the concentrated Enzyme Conjugate on vortex. Then add 0.1 ml of it to the vial of the dissolved HSV1 Ag and mix gently on vortex.

Important Notes:
1. *Dissolve and prepare only the number of vials necessary to the test. The Immunocomplex obtained is not stable. Store any residual solution frozen in aliquots at –20°C.*
2. *The preparation of the Immucomplex has to be done **right before** the dispensation of samples and controls into the plate. Mix again on vortex gently just before its use.*

Specimen Diluent:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sulphuric Acid:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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.
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 the device if expired.
2. Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen/Substrate is colorless 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 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 Calibrator 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°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 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.
11. 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.

M.1 Automated assay:

In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument aspirate 1000 µl Specimen Diluent and then 10 µl sample (1:101 dilution factor). The whole content is then dispensed into a properly defined dilution tube. Before the next sample is aspirated, needles have to be duly washed to avoid any cross-contamination among samples. When all the samples have been diluted make the instrument dispense 100 µl diluted samples into the proper wells of the microplate.
This procedure may be carried out also in two steps of dilutions of 1:10 each (90 µl Specimen Diluent + 10 µl sample) into a second dilution platform. Make then the instrument aspirate first 100 µl Specimen Diluent, then 10 µl liquid from the first dilution in the platform and finally dispense the whole content in the proper well of the assay microplate.
Do not dilute controls/calibrator as they are ready to use.
Dispense 100 µl calibrators/controls in the appropriate calibration/control wells.
For 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.

M. 2 Manual assay:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 by dispensing first 10 µl sample and then 1 ml Specimen Diluent into a dilution tube; mix gently on vortex.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the well in position A1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Negative Control and 100 µl of Calibrator in the proper wells in duplicate. Dispense 100 µl of Positive Control in single into the proper well. Do not dilute controls and the calibrator as they are ready to use !
4. Dispense 100 µl diluted samples in the proper sample wells and then check that all the samples wells are blue colored and that controls and calibrator have been dispensed.
5. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C** .

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

6. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).

7. Pipette 100 µl of the **Ag/Ab Immunocomplex** into each well, except the blanking well A1, and cover with the sealer. Check that all wells are red colored, except A1.

Important note: *Be careful not to touch the plastic inner surface of the well with the tip filled with the* **Ag/Ab Immunocomplex**. *Contamination might occur.*

8. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C** .

9. Wash microwells as in step 6.

10. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

11. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 10. Addition of acid will turn the positive control and positive samples from blue to yellow.
12. Measure the color intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommeded), blanking the instrument on A1.

Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Controls&calibrator(*)	100 ul
Samples diluted 1:101	100 ul
1st incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Washing	4-5 cycles
Immunocomplex	100 ul
2nd incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Washing	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2 mix	100 ul
3rd incubation	**20 min**
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

(*) Important Notes:

- *The Calibrator (CAL) does not affect the Cut Off calculation, therefore it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Calibrator (CAL) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S3										
B	NC	S4										
C	NC	S5										
D	CAL(*)	S6										
E	CAL(*)	S7										
F	PC	S8										
G	S1	S9										
H	S2	S10										

Legenda: BLK = Blank NC = Negative Control
CAL(*) = Calibrator-Not mandatory PC = Positive Control 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	< 0.05 OD450nm value
Negative Control mean value (NC)	< 0.200 OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
Positive Control	> 1.000 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 > 0.05 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Negative Control (NC) > 0.200 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.
Positive Control < 1.000 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.

**** Important Note:**
If the Calibrator has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Calibrator	S/Co > 1.2

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Calibrator S/Co < 1.2	1. that the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. that no mistake has occurred during its distribution (e.g.: 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.

Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, Negative Control, Positive Control), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

P. CALCULATION OF THE CUT-OFF

The test results are calculated by means of the mean OD450nm value of the Negative Control (NC) and a mathematical calculation, in order to define the following cut-off formulation:

Cut-Off = NC + 0.250

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 and the Cut-Off value (or S/Co) according to the following table:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 1.0	Negative
1.0 - 1.2	Equivocal
> 1.2	Positive

A negative result indicates that the patient is not undergoing an acute infection of Herpes Simplex Virus type 1.
Any patient showing an equivocal result, should be re-tested by examining a second sample taken from the patient after 1-2 weeks from first testing.
A positive result is indicative of a Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 infection.

An example of calculation is reported below:

***Important Note:** The following data must not be used instead or real figures obtained by the user.*

Negative Control: 0.100 – 0.120 – 0.080 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.100 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted
Positive Control: 1.850 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Cut-Off = 0.110+0.250 = 0.360

Calibrator: 1.000 - 0.900 OD450nm
Mean value: 0.950 OD450nm *S/Co = 2.6*
S/Co higher than 1.2 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.075 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.580 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 1 = negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1.2 = positive

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. *Particular attention in the interpretation of results has to be used in the follow-up of pregnancy for an infection of HSV due to the risk of severe neonatal malformations.*
3. *In pregnancy monitoring, it is strongly recommended that any positive result is confirmed first with the procedure described below and secondly with a different device for HSV IgM detection, before taking any preventive medical action.*
4. *Any positive sample should be submitted to the Confirmation Test reported in section T before giving a result of positivity. By carrying out this test, false reactions, leading to a misinterpretation of the analytical result, can be revealed and then ruled out.*
5. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
6. *Diagnosis of infection has to be taken and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.*

R. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Limit of detection

No international standard for HSV1&2 IgM Antibody detection has been defined so far by the European Community.
In its absence, an Internal Gold Standard (or IGS), calibrated on the preparation named "Accurun – Anti HSV2 IgM plasma" produced by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA, code 9106072, has been defined in order to provide the device with a constant and excellent sensitivity.
The limit of detection of the assay has been therefore calculated on the IGS. A limiting dilution curve was prepared in the Negative Control (NC).
Results of Quality Control are given in the following table:

OD450nm values

IGS	HSV1M.CE Lot # RD1	HSV1M.CE Lot # RD2	HSV1M.CE Lot # RD3
1X	0.450	0.460	0.455
2X	0.277	0.300	0.288
4X	0.216	0.198	0.185
NC	0.115	0.085	0.086

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested in a performance evaluation study on panels of 40 samples classified positive by a CE marked kit. The value obtained from the analysis was > 98%.

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been determined in the performance evaluation on panels of more than 300 specimens, negative with the reference kit, derived from normal individuals of European origin.
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.
A study conducted on more than 60 potentially cross-reactive samples has not revealed any interference in the system.
No cross reaction were observed.
The Performance Evaluation has provided a value > 98%.

False positive reactions may be anyway pointed out and then ruled out in the interpretation of results with the procedure reported in section T, able to verify whether or not a positive result is real.

4. Precision:

Results are reported as follows:

HSV1M.CE: lot # RD1

Negative (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.083	0.107	0.116	0.102
Std.Deviation	0.004	0.017	0.013	0.011
CV %	5.12	15.82	11.59	10.84

Low reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.393	0.436	0.421	0.417
Std.Deviation	0.031	0.019	0.007	0.019
CV %	7.93	4.38	1.68	4.66

High reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.469	1.530	1.541	1.513
Std.Deviation	0.034	0.055	0.037	0.042
CV %	2.31	3.60	2.39	2.77

HSV1M.CE: lot # RD2

Negative (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.101	0.099	0.097	0.099
Std.Deviation	0.009	0.011	0.013	0.011
CV %	8.91	11.11	13.40	11.14

Low reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.412	0.395	0.420	0.409
Std.Deviation	0.015	0.009	0.012	0.012
CV %	3.64	2.27	2.86	2.92

High reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.512	1.498	1.534	1.515
Std.Deviation	0.042	0.035	0.028	0.035
CV %	2.78	2.34	1.83	2.31

HSV1M.CE: lot # RD3

Negative (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.095	0.112	0.092	0.100
Std.Deviation	0.012	0.009	0.010	0.011
CV %	12.6	8.04	10.86	10.50

Low reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.405	0.398	0.412	0.405
Std.Deviation	0.012	0.015	0.014	0.014
CV %	2.96	3.77	3.40	3.37

High reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.489	1.475	1.518	1.494
Std.Deviation	0.025	0.032	0.028	0.028
CV %	1.68	2.17	1.84	1.90

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.

T. CONFIRMATION TEST

In order to provide the medical doctor with the best accuracy in the follow-up of pregnancy, where a false positive result could lead to an operation of abortion, a confirmation test is reported. The confirmation test has to be carried out on any positive sample before a diagnosis of primary infection of HSV is released to the doctor.
Proceed for confirmation as follows:

1. Prepare the Antigen/Conjugate Complex as described in the proper section. This reagent is called Solution A.
2. Then 25 ul concentrated Enzymatic Conjugate are diluted in 500 ul Antigen Diluent and mixed gently on vortex. Do not use any lyophilized antigen vial for this procedure ! This solution is called Solution B.
3. The well A1 of the strip is left empty for blanking.
4. The Negative Control is dispensed in the strip in positions B1+C1. This is used for the calculation of the cut-off and S/Co values.
5. The positive sample to be confirmed, diluted 1:101, is dispensed in the strip in position D1+E1.
6. The strip is incubated for 60 min at +37°C.
7. After washing, the blank well A1 is left empty.
8. 100 µl of Solution A are dispensed in wells B1+C1+D1.
9. Then 100 µl of Solution B are added to well E1.
10. The strip is incubated for 60 min at +37°C.
11. After washing, 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate are added to all the wells and the strip is incubated for 20 min at r.t.
12. 100 µl Sulphuric Acid are added to all the wells and then their color intensity is measured at 450nm (reading filter) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction,), blanking the instrument on A1.

Interpretation of results is carried out as follows:

1. If the sample in position D1 shows a S/Co value lower than 1.0 a problem of dispensation or contamination in the first test is likely to be occurred. The Assay Procedure in Section M has to be repeated to double check the analysis.
2. If the sample in position D1 shows a S/Co value higher than 1.2 and in position E1 shows a S/Co value still higher than 1.2 the sample is considered a **false positive**. The reactivity of the sample is in fact not dependent on the specific presence of HSV1 and a crossreaction with enzymatic conjugate has occurred.
3. If the sample in position D1 shows a S/Co value higher than 1.2 and in position E1 shows a S/Co value lower than 1.0 the sample is considered a **true positive**. The reactivity of the sample is in fact dependent on the specific presence of HSV and not due to any crossreaction.

The following table is reported for the interpretation of results

Well	S/Co		
D1	< 1.0	> 1.2	> 1.2
E1	< 1.0	> 1.2	< 1.0
Interpretation	Problem of contam.	False positive	True positive

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All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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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CE

HSV1 IgG

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF HSV1G.CE
96 Tests

HSV1 IgG

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV1) and type 2 (HSV2) are large complex DNA-containing viruses which have been shown to induce the synthesis of several proteins during infection, possessing an high number of crossreactive determinants and just a few of type-specific sequences.
The majority of primary and recurrent genital herpetic infections are caused by HSV2; while non genital infections, such as common cold sores, are caused primarily by HSV1.
The detection of virus specific IgG and IgM antibodies are important in the diagnosis of acute/primary virus infections or reactivations of a latent one, in the absence of evident clinical symptoms.
Asymptomatic infections may happen for HSV in apparently healthy individuals and during pregnancy. Severe herpetic infections may happen in immunocompromised and suppressed patients in which the disease may evolve toward critical pathologies.
The determination of HSV specific antibodies has then become important in the monitoring of "risk" patients and in the follow up of acute and severe infections.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Microplates are coated with native inactivated HSV1.
The solid phase is first treated with the diluted sample and IgG to HSV are captured, if present, by the antigens.
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation bound anti HSV1 IgG are detected by the addition of polyclonal specific anti hIgG antibodies, labelled with peroxidase (HRP).
The enzyme captured on the solid phase, acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of anti HSV1 IgG antibodies present in the sample. A Calibration Curve, calibrated against an internal Gold Standard, makes possible a quantitative determination of the IgG antibody in the patient.

D. COMPONENTS

Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
n° 1, 12 strips x 8 microwells coated with native UV inactivated HSV1 in presence of bovine proteins.
Plates are 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. Calibration Curve: CAL N° ...
Ready to use and color coded standard curve derived from human plasma positive for HSV1 IgG ranging:
4ml CAL1 = 0 arbU/ml
4ml CAL2 = 5 arbU/ml
2ml CAL3 = 10 arbU/ml
2ml CAL4 = 20 arbU/ml
2mlCAL5 = 50 arbU/ml
4ml CAL6 = 100 arbU/ml.
Standards are calibrated in arbitrary units against an internal Gold Standard (or IGS).
It contains human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. Standards are blue colored.

3. Control Serum: CONTROL ...ml
1 vial. Lyophilized. It contains fetal bovine serum proteins, human IgG antibodies to HSV1 at about 20 arbU/ml ±20%, 0.2 mg/ml 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.

4. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X
1x60ml/bottle20x 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.

5. Enzyme conjugate : CONJ
2x8ml/vial. Ready to use and red colour coded. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated polyclonal antibodies to human IgG, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.1% Kathon GC, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives and 0.01% red alimentary dye.

6. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffer pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (or TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (or H_2O_2).
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

7. Sulphuric Acid: H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+P313, P305+ P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363)

8. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
2x60ml/vial. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide 0.1% and Kathon GC as preservatives. The reagent is blue colour coded.

9. Plate sealing foils n°2

10. Package insert n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance)..
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u 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 storing.
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.

Calibration Curve
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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.*

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.*

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

Sulphuric Acid:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 $\leq$ 10 nm; (b) absorbance range from 0 to $\geq$ 2.0; (c) linearity to $\geq$ 2.0; 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.
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 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.
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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dissolve the content of the lyophilised Control Serum as reported in the proper section.
6. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
7. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
8. 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.
9. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
10. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
11. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
12. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
13. 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.
The kit may be used for quantitative and qualitative determinations as well.

M1. QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION:

Automated assay:
In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument aspirate 1000 µl Sample Diluent and then 10 µl sample (1:101 dilution factor). The whole content is then dispensed into a properly defined dilution tube. Before the next sample is aspirated, needles have to be duly washed to avoid any cross-contamination among samples. When all the samples have been diluted make the instrument dispense 100 µl samples into the proper wells of the microplate.

This procedure may be carried out also in two steps of dilutions of 1:10 each (90 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample) into a second dilution platform. Make then the instrument aspirate first 100 µl Sample Diluent, then 10 µl liquid from the first dilution in the platform and finally dispense the whole content in the proper well of the assay microplate.
Do not dilute Calibrators and the dissolved Control Serum as they are ready to use.
Dispense 100 µl calibrators/control in the appropriate calibration/control wells.
For 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. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the A1 and B1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrators and 100 µl Control Serum in duplicate. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except A1+B1 blanking wells, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1 and B1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank wells A1 and B1 included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid to stop the enzymatic reaction into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

Automated assay:
Proceed as described in section M1.

Manual assay:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrator 0 arbU/ml and Calibrator 5 arbU/ml in duplicate and Calibrator 100 arbU/ml in single. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

General Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

M2. QUALITATIVE DETERMINATION

If only a qualitative determination is required, proceed as described below:

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Calibrators & Control (*)	100 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

(*) Important Notes:

- *The Control Serum (CS) it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Control Serum (CS) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme for Quantitative Analysis is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S 1									
B	BLK	CAL4	S 2									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S 3									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S 4									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S 5									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S 6									
G	CAL3	CS(*)	S 7									
H	CAL3	CS(*)	S 8									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator
CS(*) = Control Serum - Not mandatory 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	CAL2	S 6	S 14									
E	CAL2	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 calibrators 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:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.050 OD450nm value
CAL 1 0 arbU/ml	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
CAL 2 5 arbU/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100
CAL 6 100 arbU/ml	OD450nm > 1.000

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.050 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Sustrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay
CAL 1 **0 arbU/ml** > 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 a positive calibrator instead of the negative one; 4. that no contamination of the negative calibrator or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzymie conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
CAL 2 **5 arbU/ml** OD450nm < OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 6 **100 arbU/ml** < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control has occurred.

Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

** Note:

If Control Serum has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Control Serum	Mean OD450nm CAL 4 ± 20%

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Control Serum Different from expected value	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 control serum has occurred.

Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, CAL1, CAL2, CAL6), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

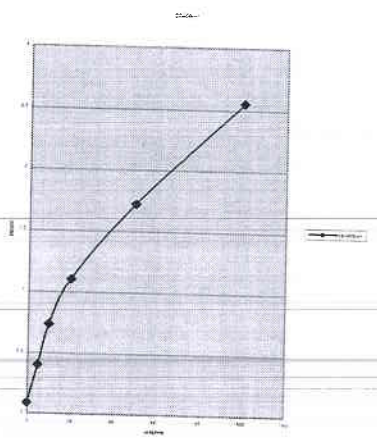
P. RESULTS

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 Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 IgG antibody in samples.

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

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 5 arbU/ml and then check that the assay is valid.

Example of calculation:

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

Calibrator 0 arbU/ml: *0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm*
Mean Value: *0.022 OD450nm*
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted

Calibrator 5 arbU/ml: *0.350 – 0.370 OD450nm*
Mean Value: *0.360 OD450nm*
Higher than Cal 0 + 0.100 – Accepted

Calibrator 100 arbU/ml: *2.245 OD450nm*
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Samples with a concentration lower than 5 arbU/ml are considered negative for anti HSV1 IgG antibody.
Samples with a concentration higher than 5 arbU/ml are considered positive for anti HSV1 IgG antibody.

Particular attention in the interpretation of results has to be used in the follow-up of pregnancy for a primary infection of HSV due to the risk of neonatal malformations.

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. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
3. *In the follow-up of pregnancy for HSV infection a positive result (presence of IgG antibody > 5 arbU/ml) should be confirmed to ruled out the risk of a false positive result and a false definition of protection.*

R. PERFORMANCES

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of an internal Gold Standard in absence of an international preparation to refer to.
The limit of detection has been calculated as mean OD450nm Calibrator 0 arbU/ml + 5 SD.
The table below reports the mean OD450nm values of this standard when diluted in negative plasma and then examined in the assay for three lots.

Mean OD450nm values (n = 2)

IgG arbU/ml	HSV1G.PU Lot # 0703	HSV1G.PU Lot # 1203	HSV1G.PU Lot # 0204/2
0	0.077	0.034	0.043
5	0.355	0.404	0.318
10	0.742	0.713	0.516
20	1.254	1.216	0.944
50	1.952	1.928	1.728
100	2.623	2.261	2.072

The assay shows a limit of detection far better than 5 arbU/ml.

In addition the preparation code Accurun n° 150, produced by Boston Biomedica Inc., BBI, USA, was tested in dilutions to determine the limit of its detection and provide a further value of analytical sensitivity

Mean OD450nm values (n = 2)

Dilution	HSV1G.CE Lot # 1004	HSV1G.PU Lot # 1203	HSV1G.PU Lot # 0204/2
1 X	1.248	1.218	1.300
2 X	0.860	0.848	0.876
4 X	0.545	0.526	0.583
8 X	0.315	0.300	0.329
16 X	0.164	0.152	0.148
32 X	0.082	0.064	0.072
0 arbU/ml	0.057	0.050	0.047
5 arbU/ml	0.288	0.355	0.318

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested in a performance evaluation study on panels of samples classified positive by a kit US FDA approved. Positive samples from different stage of HSV infection were tested. The value, obtained from the analysis of more than 300 specimens, has been > 98%.

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been determined on panels of negative samples from not infected individuals, classified negative with a kit US FDA approved.
Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been used to determine the value of specificity.
Frozen specimens have been tested, as well, to check for interferences due to collection and storage.
No interference was observed.
Potentially interfering samples derived from patients with different pathologies (mostly ANA, AMA and RF positive) and from pregnant women were tested.
No crossreaction was observed.
An overall value > 98% of specificity was found when examined on more than 100 specimens.

3. Precision:

It has been calculated on the Calibrator 5 arbU/ml, considered the cut-off of the assay, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs for three lots.
Results are reported as follows:

HSV1G.CE Lot # 1004

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.292	0.290	0.285	0.289
Std.Deviation	0.024	0.024	0.027	0.025
CV %	8.24	8.28	9.42	8.65

HSV1G.PU: lot 1203

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.365	0.382	0.378	0.375
Std.Deviation	0.022	0.029	0.018	0.023
CV %	6.02	7.59	4.76	6.12

HSV1G.PU: Lot 0204/2

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.322	0.298	0.304	0.308
Std.Deviation	0.018	0.019	0.016	0.018
CV %	5.59	6.38	5.26	5.74

The variability shown in the tables above 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.
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates after thawing may generate some false results.
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 in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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
Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni (MI) – Italy

CE

HSV2 IgM

"Capture" Enzyme Immuno Assay (ELISA) for the determination of IgM antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 in human plasma and sera

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF HSV2M.CE
96 tests

HSV2 IgM

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the determination of IgM antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus types 2 in human plasma and sera with the "capture" system. The devise is intended for the follow-up of HSV2 infected patients and for the monitoring of risk of neonatal defects due to HSV infection during pregnancy.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV1) and type 2 (HSV2) are large complex DNA-containing viruses which have been shown to induce the synthesis of several proteins during infection, possessing an high number of cross-reactive determinants and just a few of type-specific sequences.
The majority of primary and recurrent genital herpetic infections are caused by HSV2; while non genital infections, such as common cold sores, are caused primarily by HSV1.
The detection of virus specific IgG and IgM antibodies are important in the diagnosis of acute/primary virus infections or reactivations of a latent one, in the absence of evident clinical symptoms.
A-symptomatic infections may happen for HSV in apparently healthy individuals and during pregnancy. Severe herpetic infections may happen in immuno-compromised and suppressed patients in which the disease may evolve toward critical pathologies.
The determination of HSV specific antibodies has then become important in the monitoring of "risk" patients and in the follow up of acute and severe infections.

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 preparation of inactivated HSV2, labeled with a HSV2 specific 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 bound conjugate the colorless substrate is hydrolyzed to a colored end-product, whose optical density may be detected and is proportional to the amount of IgM antibodies to HSV2 present in the sample.
A system is described how to control whether the positivity shown by a sample is true or not (Confirmation Test), helpful for the clinician to make a correct interpretation of results.

D. COMPONENTS

The kit contains reagents for 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
12 strips x 8 microwells coated with anti human IgM affinity purified goat antibody, in presence of bovine proteins.
Plates are 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 -
1x4.0 ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains 1% human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.0+/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The negative control is pale yellow color coded.

3. Positive Control: CONTROL +
1x4.0 ml/vial. Ready to use control. It contains 1% human serum positive for HSV2 IgM, 2% casein, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.0+/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The positive control is green colour coded.

4. Calibrator: CAL ..ml
N° 1 lyophilized vial. To be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. It contains anti HSV2 IgM, fetal bovine serum, 0.2 mg/ml 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. Lyophilized HSV2 Ag: AG HSV2
N° 6 lyophilized vials. The vials contain lyophilized gamma-ray inactivated HSV2 in protein buffer. The solution contains 2% bovine proteins, 10 mM Tris HCl buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate and 0.1% Kathon GC. To be dissolved with 1.9 ml of Antigen Diluent as reported in the specific section.

6. 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.

7. Enzyme conjugate: CONJ 20X
1x0.8 ml/vial. 20x concentrated solution of a HSV2-specific antibody, labeled with HRP and diluted in a protein buffer containing 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.

8. Antigen Diluent : AG DIL
n° 1 vial of 16 ml. Protein buffer solution for the preparation of the Immunocomplex. The solution contains 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 2% BSA, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.2 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate as preservatives. The reagent is code coloured with 0.01% red alimentary dye

9. Specimen Diluent : DILSPE
2x60.0 ml/vial. Proteic buffered solution for the dilution of samples. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM tris buffer pH 6.0+/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% sodium azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The reagent is color coded with 0.01% blue alimentary dye.

9. Chromogen/Substrate : SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains a 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffered solution at pH 3.5-3.8, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (TMB), 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and 4% dimethylsulphoxide.
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

10. Sulphuric Acid: H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+P313, P305+ P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363)

11. Plate sealing foils n° 2

12. Package insert n° 1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance).
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 (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 3 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 18-18 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u 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 storing. 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.

Negative Control:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

Positive Control:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.

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.
***Important Note**: The solution is not stable. Store the Calibrator frozen in aliquots at –20°C.*

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.*

Ag/Ab Immunocomplex:
Proceed carefully as follows:

1. Dissolve the content of a lyophilized vial with 1.9 ml of Conjugate/Antigen Diluent. Let fully dissolved the lyophilized content and then gently mix on vortex.
2. Gently mix the concentrated Enzyme Conjugate on vortex. Then add 0.1 ml of it to the vial of the dissolved HSV2 Ag and mix gently on vortex.

***Important Notes**:*

1. *Dissolve and prepare only the number of vials necessary to the test. The Immunocomplex obtained is not stable. Store any residual solution frozen in aliquots at –20°C.*
2. *The preparation of the Immucomplex has to be done **right before** the dispensation of samples and controls into the plate. Mix again on vortex gently just before its use.*

Specimen Diluent:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sulphuric Acid:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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.
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 the device if expired.
2. Check that the liquid components are not contaminated by visible particles or aggregates. Check that the Chromogen/Substrate is colorless 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 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 Calibrator 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°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 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.
11. 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.

M.1 Automated assay:

In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument aspirate 1000 µl Specimen Diluent and then 10 µl sample (1:101 dilution factor). The whole content is then dispensed into a properly defined dilution tube. Before the next sample is aspirated, needles have to be duly washed to avoid any cross-contamination among samples. When all the samples have been diluted make the instrument dispense 100 µl diluted samples into the proper wells of the microplate.

This procedure may be carried out also in two steps of dilutions of 1:10 each (90 µl Specimen Diluent + 10 µl sample) into a second dilution platform. Make then the instrument aspirate first 100 µl Specimen Diluent, then 10 µl liquid from the first dilution in the platform and finally dispense the whole content in the proper well of the assay microplate.

Do not dilute controls/calibrator as they are ready to use.

Dispense 100 µl calibrators/control in the appropriate calibration/control wells.

For 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.

M. 2 Manual assay:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 by dispensing first 10 µl sample and then 1 ml Specimen Diluent into a dilution tube; mix gently on vortex.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the well in position A1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Negative Control and 100 µl of Calibrator in the proper wells in duplicate. Dispense 100 µl of Positive Control in single into the proper well. Do not dilute controls and the calibrator as they are ready to use!
4. Dispense 100 µl diluted samples in the proper sample wells and then check that all the samples wells are blue colored and that controls and calibrator have been dispensed.
5. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C** .

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

6. Wash the microplate with an automatic as reported previously (section I.3).
7. Pipette 100 µl of the **Ag/Ab Immunocomplex** into each well, except the blanking well A1, and cover with the sealer. Check that all wells are red colored, except A1.

Important note: *Be careful not to touch the plastic inner surface of the well with the tip filled with the* **Ag/Ab Immunocomplex**. *Contamination might occur.*

8. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C** .
9. Wash microwells as in step 6.
10. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes.**

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

11. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 10. Addition of acid will turn the positive control and positive samples from blue to yellow .
12. Measure the color intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Controls&calibrator (*)	100 ul
Samples diluted 1:101	100 ul
1st incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Washing	4-5 cycles
Immunocomplex	100 ul
2nd incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Washing	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2 mix	100 ul
3rd incubation	**20 min**
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

(*) Important Notes:

- *The Calibrator (CAL) does not affect the Cut Off calculation, therefore it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Calibrator (CAL) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S3										
B	NC	S4										
C	NC	S5										
D	CAL(*)	S6										
E	CAL(*)	S7										
F	PC	S8										
G	S1	S9										
H	S2	S10										

Legenda: BLK = Blank NC = Negative Control
CAL(*) = Calibrator-Not Mandatory PC = Positive Control 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	< 0.05 OD450nm value
Negative Control mean value (NC)	< 0.200 OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
Positive Control	> 1.000 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 > 0.05 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not become contaminated during the assay
Negative Control (NC) > 0.200 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.
Positive Control < 1.000 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.

**** Note:**

If the Calibrator has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Calibrator	S/Co > 1.2

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Calibrator S/Co < 1.2	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.

Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, Negative Control, Positive Control), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

P. CALCULATION OF THE CUT-OFF

The test results are calculated by means of the mean OD450nm value of the Negative Control (NC) and a mathematical calculation, in order to define the following cut-off formulation:

Cut-Off = NC + 0.250

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 and the Cut-Off value (or S/Co) according to the following table:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 1.0	Negative
1.0 - 1.2	Equivocal
> 1.2	Positive

A negative result indicates that the patient is not undergoing an acute infection of Herpes Simplex Virus type 2.

Any patient showing an equivocal result, should be re-tested by examining a second sample taken from the patient after 1-2 weeks from first testing.

A positive result is indicative of a Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 infection.

An example of calculation is reported below:

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

Negative Control: 0.090 – 0.110 – 0.070 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.100 OD450nm
Lower than 0.200 – Accepted
Positive Control: 1.850 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Cut-Off = 0.100+0.250 = 0.350

Calibrator: 0.900 – 1.100 OD450nm
Mean value: 1.000 OD450nm S/Co = 2.8
S/Co higher than 1.2 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.070 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.690 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 1 = negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1.2 = positive

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. *Particular attention in the interpretation of results has to be used in the follow-up of pregnancy for an infection of HSV due to the risk of severe neonatal malformations.*
3. *In pregnancy monitoring, it is strongly recommended that any positive result is confirmed first with the procedure described below and secondly with a different device for HSV IgM detection, before taking any preventive medical action.*
4. *Any positive sample should be submitted to the Confirmation Test reported in section T before giving a result of positivity. By carrying out this test, false reactions, leading to a misinterpretation of the analytical result, can be revealed and then ruled out.*
5. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
6. *Diagnosis of infection has to be taken and released to the patient by a suitably qualified medical doctor.*

R. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Limit of detection

No international standard for HSV1&2 IgM Antibody detection has been defined so far by the European Community.
In its absence, an Internal Gold Standard (or IGS), calibrated on the preparation named "Accurun – Anti HSV2 IgM plasma" produced by Boston Biomedica Inc., USA, code 9106072, has been defined in order to provide the device with a constant and excellent sensitivity..
The limit of detection of the assay has been therefore calculated on the IGS. A limiting dilution curve was prepared in Negative Control (NC).
Results of Quality Control are given in the following table:

OD450nm values

IGS	HSV2M.CE Lot # RD1	HSV2M.CE Lot # RD2	HSV2M.CE Lot # RD3
1X	0.560	0.572	0.590
2X	0.343	0.324	0.348
4X	0.239	0.218	0.225
NC	0.145	0.132	0.139

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested in a clinical trial on panels of 40 samples classified positive by a kit US FDA approved. The value obtained from the analysis was > 98%.

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been determined in a performance evaluation study on panels of more than 300 specimens, negative with the reference kit, derived from normal individuals of European origin.
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.
A study conducted on more than 60 potentially cross-reactive samples has not revealed any interference in the system.
No cross reaction were observed.
The Performance Evaluation has provided a value > 98%.

False positive reactions may be anyway pointed out and then ruled out in the interpretation of results with the procedure reported in section T, able to verify whether or not a positive result is real.

4. Precision:

Results are reported as follows:

HSV2M.CE: lot # RD1

Negative (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.092	0.113	0.097	0.101
Std.Deviation	0.011	0.019	0.010	0.013
CV %	12.25	16.83	10.24	13.11

Low reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.451	0.471	0.435	0.452
Std.Deviation	0.018	0.000	0.033	0.017
CV %	3.92	0.00	7.48	3.8

High reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.530	1.574	1.527	1.543
Std.Deviation	0.023	0.052	0.006	0.027
CV %	1.48	3.33	0.37	1.73

HSV2M.CE: lot # RD2

Negative (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.095	0.101	0.097	0.098
Std.Deviation	0.006	0.008	0.005	0.006
CV %	6.30	7.92	5.15	6.45

Low reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.431	0.428	0.453	0.437
Std.Deviation	0.023	0.018	0.023	0.021
CV %	5.3	4.2	5.10	4.9

High reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.556	1.552	1.541	1.550
Std.Deviation	0.031	0.025	0.039	0.032
CV %	1.98	1.61	2.53	2.04

HSV2M.CE: lot # RD3

Negative (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.104	0.108	0.099	0.104
Std.Deviation	0.015	0.010	0.011	0.012
CV %	14.4	9.2	11.11	11.57

Low reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.425	0.436	0.440	0.434
Std.Deviation	0.008	0.006	0.009	0.008
CV %	1.8	1.4	2.0	1.7

High reactive (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.571	1.562	1.558	1.564
Std.Deviation	0.040	0.034	0.024	0.033
CV %	2.54	2.17	1.54	2.08

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.

T. CONFIRMATION TEST

In order to provide the medical doctor with the best accuracy in the follow-up of pregnancy, where a false positive result could lead to an operation of abortion, a confirmation test is reported.
The confirmation test has to be carried out on any positive sample before a diagnosis of primary infection of HSV is released to the doctor.
Proceed for confirmation as follows:

1. Prepare the Antigen/Conjugate Complex as described in the proper section. This reagent is called Solution A.
2. Then 25 ul concentrated Enzymatic Conjugate are diluted in 500 ul Antigen Diluent and mixed gently on vortex. Do not use any lyophilized antigen vial for this procedure ! This solution is called Solution B.
3. The well A1 of the strip is left empty for blanking.
4. The Negative Control is dispensed in the strip in positions B1+C1. This is used for the calculation of the cut-off and S/Co values.
5. The positive sample to be confirmed, diluted 1:101, is dispensed in the strip in position D1+E1.
6. The strip is incubated for 60 min at +37°C.
7. After washing, the blank well A1 is left emply.
8. 100 µl of Solution A are dispensed in wells B1+C1+D1.
9. Then 100 µl of Solution B are added to well E1.
10. The strip is incubated for 60 min at +37°C.
11. After washing, 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate are added to all the wells and the strip is incubated for 20 min at r.t.
12. 100 µl Sulphuric Acid are added to all the wells and then their color intensity is measured at 450nm (reading filter) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

Interpretation of results is carried out as follows:

1. If the sample in position D1 shows a S/Co value lower than 1.0 a problem of dispensation or contamination in the first test is likely to be occurred. The Assay Procedure in Section M has to be repeated to double check the analysis.
2. If the sample in position D1 shows a S/Co value higher than 1.2 and in position E1 shows a S/Co value still higher than 1.2 the sample is considered a **false positive.** The reactivity of the sample is in fact not dependent on the specific presence of HSV2 and a crossreaction with enzymatic conjugate has occurred.
3. If the sample in position D1 shows a S/Co value higher than 1.2 and in position E1 shows a S/Co value lower than 1.0 the sample is considered a **true positive.** The reactivity of the sample is in fact dependent on the specific presence of HSV and not due to any crossreaction.

The following table is reported for the interpretation of results

Well	S/Co		
D1	< 1.0	> 1.2	> 1.2
E1	< 1.0	> 1.2	< 1.0
Interpretation	Problem of contam.	False positive	True positive

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

CE

HSV2 IgG

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF HSV2G.CE
96 Tests

HSV2 IgG

A. INTENDED USE
Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION
Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV1) and type 2 (HSV2) are large complex DNA-containing viruses which have been shown to induce the synthesis of several proteins during infection, possessing an high number of crossreactive determinants and just a few of type-specific sequences.
The majority of primary and recurrent genital herpetic infections are caused by HSV2; while non genital infections, such as common cold sores, are caused primarily by HSV1.
The detection of virus specific IgG and IgM antibodies are important in the diagnosis of acute/primary virus infections or reactivations of a latent one, in the absence of evident clinical symptoms.
Asymptomatic infections may happen for HSV in apparently healthy individuals and during pregnancy. Severe herpetic infections may happen in immunocompromised and suppressed patients in which the disease may evolve toward critical pathologies.
The determination of HSV specific antibodies has then become important in the monitoring of "risk" patients and in the follow up of acute and severe infections.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST
Microplates are coated with synthetic HSV2 specific glycoprotein G or gG.
The solid phase is first treated with the diluted sample and IgG to HSV2 are captured, if present, by the antigens.
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation bound anti HSV2 IgG are detected by the addition of polyclonal specific anti hIgG antibodies, labelled with peroxidase (HRP).
The enzyme captured on the solid phase, acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of anti HSV2 IgG antibodies present in the sample. A Calibration Curve, calibrated against an internal Gold Standard, makes possible a quantitative determination of the IgG antibody in the patient.

D. COMPONENTS
Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
n° 1, 12 strips x 8 microwells coated with synthetic HSV2-specific gG in presence of bovine proteins.
Plates are 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. Calibration Curve: CAL N°
Ready to use and color coded standard curve derived from human plasma positive for HSV2 IgG ranging:
4ml CAL1 = 0 arbU/ml
4ml CAL2 = 5 arbU/ml
2ml CAL3 = 10 arbU/ml
2ml CAL4 = 20 arbU/ml
2ml CAL5 = 50 arbU/ml
4ml CAL6 = 100 arbU/ml.
Standards are calibrated in arbitrary units against an internal Gold Standard (or IGS).
It contains human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. Standards are blue colored.

3. Control Serum: CONTROL ...ml
1 vial. Lyophilized. It contains fetal bovine serum proteins, human IgG antibodies to HSV2 at about 20 arbU/ml ± 20%, 0.2 mg/ml 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.

4. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X
1x60ml/bottle20x 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.

5. Enzyme conjugate : CONJ
2x8ml/vial. Ready to use and red colour coded. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated polyclonal antibodies to human IgG, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.1% Kathon GC, 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives and 0.01% red alimentary dye.

6. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffer pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (or TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (or H_2O_2).
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

7. Sulphuric Acid: H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+P313, P305+ P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363)

8. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
2x60ml/vial. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide 0.1% and Kathon GC as preservatives. The reagent is blue colour coded.

9. Plate sealing foils n°2

10. Package insert n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED
1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance).
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u 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 storage.
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.

Calibration Curve
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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.*

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.*

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

Sulphuric Acid:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Attention Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, 332+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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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.
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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dissolve the content of the lyophilised Control Serum as reported in the proper section.
6. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
7. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
8. 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.
9. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
10. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
11. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
12. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
13. 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.
The kit may be used for quantitative and qualitative determinations as well.

M1. QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION:

Automated assay:
In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument aspirate 1000 µl Sample Diluent and then 10 µl sample (1:101 dilution factor). The whole content is then dispensed into a properly defined dilution tube. Before the next sample is aspirated, needles have to be duly washed to avoid any cross-contamination among samples. When all the samples have been diluted make the instrument dispense 100 µl samples into the proper wells of the microplate.
This procedure may be carried out also in two steps of dilutions of 1:10 each (90 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample) into a second dilution platform. Make then the instrument aspirate first 100 µl Sample Diluent, then 10 µl liquid from the first dilution in the platform and finally dispense the whole content in the proper well of the assay microplate.
Do not dilute Calibrators and the dissolved Control Serum as they are ready to use.
Dispense 100 µl calibrators/control in the appropriate calibration/control wells.

For 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. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the A1 and B1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrators and 100 µl Control Serum in duplicate. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except A1+B1 blanking wells, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1 and B1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank wells A1 and B1 included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes.**

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid to stop the enzymatic reaction into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

M2. QUALITATIVE DETERMINATION

If only a qualitative determination is required, proceed as described below:

Automated assay:

Proceed as described in section M1.

Manual assay:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrator 0 arbU/ml and Calibrator 5 arbU/ml in duplicate and Calibrator 100 arbU/ml in single. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes.**

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

General Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Calibrators & Control (*)	100 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

(*) **Important Notes:**

- *The Control Serum (CS) it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Control Serum (CS) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme for Quantitative Analysis is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S 1									
B	BLK	CAL4	S 2									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S 3									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S 4									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S 5									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S 6									
G	CAL3	CS(*)	S 7									
H	CAL3	CS(*)	S 8									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator
CS(*) = Control Serum - Not mandatory 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 2	S 10									
B	CAL1	S 3	S 11									
C	CAL1	S 4	S 12									
D	CAL2	S 5	S 13									
E	CAL2	S 6	S 14									
F	CAL6	S 7	S 15									
G	S1	S 8	S 16									
H	S2	S 9	S 17									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrators
S = Sample

O. INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

A validation check is carried out on the calibrators 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:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.050 OD450nm value
CAL 1 0 arbU/ml	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
CAL 2 5 arbU/ml	OD450nm ≥ OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100
CAL 6 100 arbU/ml	OD450nm ≥ 1.000

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.050 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Sustrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay.
CAL 1 **0 arbU/ml** > 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 a positive calibrator instead of the negative one; 4. that no contamination of the negative calibrator or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate. 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
CAL 2 **5 arbU/ml** OD450nm ≤ OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 6 **100 arbU/ml** ≤ 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control has occurred.

Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

**** Note:**

If Control Serum has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Control Serum	Mean OD450nm CAL 4 ± 20%

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Control Serum Different from expected value	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 control serum has occurred.

Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, CAL1, CAL2, CAL6), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

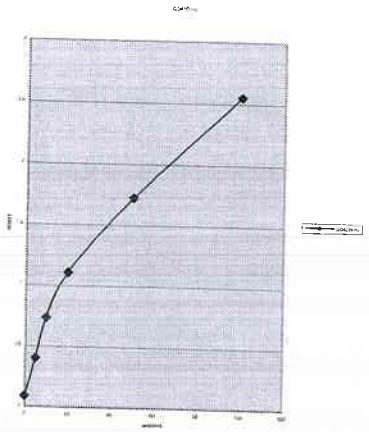
P. RESULTS

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 Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 IgG antibody in samples.

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

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 5 arbU/ml and then check that the assay is valid.

Example of calculation:

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

Calibrator 0 arbU/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted

Calibrator 5 arbU/ml: 0.350 – 0.370 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.360 OD450nm
Higher than Cal 0 + 0.100 – Accepted

Calibrator 100 arbU/ml: 2.245 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Samples with a concentration lower than 5 arbU/ml are considered negative for anti HSV2 IgG antibody.
Samples with a concentration higher than 5 arbU/ml are considered positive for anti HSV2 IgG antibody.

Particular attention in the interpretation of results has to be used in the follow-up of pregnancy for a primary infection of HSV due to the risk of neonatal malformations.

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. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
3. *In the follow-up of pregnancy for HSV infection a positive result (presence of IgG antibody > 5 arbU/ml) should be confirmed to ruled out the risk of a false positive result and a false definition of protection.*

R. PERFORMANCES

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of an internal Gold Standard in absence of an international preparation to refer to.
The limit of detection has been calculated as mean OD450nm Calibrator 0 arbU/ml + 5 SD.
The table below reports the mean OD450nm values of this standard when diluted in negative plasma and then examined in the assay for three lots.

Mean OD450nm values (n = 2)

IgG arbU/ml	HSV2G.PU Lot # 1203	HSV2G.PU Lot # 1103	HSV2G Lot # 0304/2
0	0.022	0.030	0.014
5	0.353	0.384	0.269
10	0.596	0.606	0.557
20	1.169	1.471	0.895
50	2.030	2.276	1.776
100	3.102	3.353	2.893

The assay shows a limit of detection far better than 5 arbU/ml.

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested in a performance evaluation study on panels of samples classified positive by a kit US FDA approved. Positive samples from different stage of HSV infection were tested. The value, obtained from the analysis of more than 300 specimens, has been ≥ 98%.

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been determined on panels of negative samples from not infected individuals, classified negative with a kit US FDA approved.
Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been used to determine the value of specificity.
Frozen specimens have been tested, as well, to check for interferences due to collection and storage.
No interference was observed.
Potentially interfering samples derived from patients with different pathologies (mostly ANA, AMA and RF positive) and from pregnant women were tested.
No crossreaction was observed.
An overall value > 98% of specificity was found when examined on more than 100 specimens.

3. Precision:

It has been calculated on the Calibrator 5 arbU/ml, considered the cut-off of the assay, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs for three lots.

Results are reported as follows:

HSV2G.CE: lot 1004

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.286	0.303	0.256	0.282
Std.Deviation	0.022	0.037	0.020	0.026
CV %	7.7	12.4	7.74	9.28

HSV2G.PU: lot 1103

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.375	0.384	0.394	0.384
Std.Deviation	0.019	0.022	0.015	0.019
CV %	5.07	5.73	3.81	4.87

HSV2G.PU: lot 1203

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.352	0.345	0.332	0.343
Std.Deviation	0.017	0.020	0.024	0.020
CV %	4.83	5.78	7.23	5.95

The variability shown in the tables above 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.
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates after thawing may generate some false results.
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.

All the IVD Products manufactured by the company are under the control of a certified Quality Management System in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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
Via G. Carducci n° 27 – Sesto San Giovanni (MI) – Italy

CE

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RUB IgG

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Rubella Virus in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF RUBG.CE
96/192/480 Tests

Rub IgG

A. INTENDED USE
Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Rubella Virus in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION
Rubella is a small spherical enveloped virus, 55-60nm in diameter, and is the only member of the genus Rubivirus of the family Togaviridiae.
The virus contains a single positive stranded 42s RNA molecule and only one serotype is known. The virus encodes for at least three envelope glycoproteins, E1, E2a, E2b; a nucleocapsid-associated protein, C; and two nonstructural proteins.
The detection of Rubella-specific IgG and IgM antibodies is very important for the serological diagnosis of both congenital and primary postnatal rubella infections as they can lead to severe birth defects.
The absence of Rubella-specific IgG antibodies in sera, characteristically of long-term duration after primary infections, in presence of virus-specific IgM, is indicative for the risk of defects in newborn infants.
Highly specific Rubella IgG assays provide the clinician with a helpful and reliable test for the monitoring of these risks in pregnancy and for the monitoring of the immunological response upon vaccination.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST
Microplates are coated with native Rubella Virus, highly purified by sucrose gradient centrifugation and inactivated.
The solid phase is first treated with the diluted sample and IgG to Rubella Virus are captured, if present, by the antigens.
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation bound anti Rubella IgG are detected by the addition of polyclonal specific anti hIgG antibodies, labelled with peroxidase (HRP).
The enzyme captured on the solid phase, acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of anti Rubella Virus IgG antibodies present in the sample. A Calibration Curve, calibrated against the 1st W.H.O international standard for anti-Rubella immunoglobulin code RUBI-1-94, makes possible a quantitative determination of the IgG antibody in the patient.

D. COMPONENTS
The standard kit contains reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
12 strips x 8 microwells coated with highly purified and UV inactivated Rubella Virus in presence of bovine proteins.
Plates are 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. Calibration Curve: CAL N° ..
Ready to use and color coded standard curve derived from human plasma positive for Rubella IgG and titrated on WHO standard ranging:
4 ml CAL1 = 0 WHO IU/ml
4 ml CAL2 = 10 WHO IU/ml
2ml CAL3 = 20 WHO IU/ml
2 ml CAL4 = 50 WHO IU/ml
2 ml CAL 5 = 100 WHO IU/ml
4 ml CAL6 = 250 WHO IU/ml.
Standards are calibrated against the 1st W.H.O international standard for anti-Rubella immunoglobulin code RUBI-1-94.
It contains human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. Standards are blue colored.

3. Control Serum: CONTROL ...ml
1 vial, Lyophilized.
It contains fetal bovine serum proteins, human IgG antibodies to Rubella Virus calibrated at 20 WHO IU/ml ± 10%, 0.2 mg/ml 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.

4. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X
1x60ml/bottle20x 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.

5. Enzyme conjugate : CONJ
2x8ml/vial..Ready to use and red colour coded. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated polyclonal antibodies to human IgG, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.1% Kathon GC, 0.02 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate as preservatives and 0.01% red alimentary dye.

6. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffer pH 3.5-3.8, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (or TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (or H_2O_2) and 4% dimethylsulphoxide.
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

7. Sulphuric Acid: H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

8. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
2x60ml/vial. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The reagent is blue colour coded.

9. Plate sealing foils n°2

10. Package insert n°1

Important note: Only upon specific request, Dia.Pro can supply reagents for 192 and 480 tests, as reported below :

1.Microplate	n°2	n°5
2.Calibration curve	6x4.0ml/vial	6x10ml/vial
3.Control Serum	n° 2 vials	n° 5 vials
4.Wash buff conc	2x60ml/bottle	5x60ml/bottles
5.Enz. Conjugate	2x16ml/vial	2x40ml/bottles
6.Chromog/Subs	2x16ml/vial	2x40ml/bottles
7.Sulphuric Acid	1x30ml/vial	2x40ml/bottles
8.Specimen Diluent	2x120ml/vial	10x60ml/bottles
9.Plate seal foils	n° 4	n° 10
10.Pack. insert	n° 1	n° 1
Number of tests	**192**	**480**
Code	**RUBG.CE.192**	**RUBG.CE.480**

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance)..
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.
6. Samples whose anti-Rubella IgG antibody concentration is expected to be higher than 250 IU/ml should be diluted before use, either 1:10 or 1:100 in the Calibrator 0 IU/ml. Dilutions have to be done in clean disposable tubes by diluting 50 ul of each specimen with 450 ul of Cal 0 (1:10). Then 50 ul of the 1:10 dilution are diluted with 450 ul of the Cal 0 (1:100). Mix tubes thoroughly on vortex and then proceed toward the dilution step reported in section M.

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 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.

Calibration Curve
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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.

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.

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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. 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°C, firmly capped.
8. 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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dissolve the content of the lyophilised Control Serum as reported in the proper section.
6. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
7. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.

8. 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.
9. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
10. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
11. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
12. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
13. 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.
The kit may be used for quantitative and qualitative determinations as well

M1. QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION:

Automated assay:
In case the test is carried out automatically with an ELISA system, we suggest to make the instrument aspirate 1000 µl Sample Diluent and then 10 µl sample (1:101 dilution factor). The whole content is then dispensed into a properly defined dilution tube. Before the next sample is aspirated, needles have to be duly washed to avoid any cross-contamination among samples. When all the samples have been diluted make the instrument dispense 100 µl samples into the proper wells of the microplate.
This procedure may be carried out also in two steps of dilutions of 1:10 each (90 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample) into a second dilution platform. Make then the instrument aspirate first 100 µl Sample Diluent, then 10 µl liquid from the first dilution in the platform and finally dispense the whole content in the proper well of the assay microplate.
Do not dilute Calibrators and the dissolved Control Serum as they are ready to use.
Dispense 100 µl calibrators/control in the appropriate calibration/control wells.
For 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. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the A1 and B1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrators and 100 µl Control Serum in duplicate. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer by delivering and aspirating 350 µl/well of diluted washing solution as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except A1+B1 blanking wells, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1 and B1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank wells A1 and B1 included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid to stop the enzymatic reaction into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

M2. QUALITATIVE DETERMINATION

If only a qualitative determination is required, proceed as described below:

Automated assay:
Proceed as described in section M1.

Manual assay:
1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrator 1 (0 IU/ml) and 100 µl Calibrator 2 (10 IU/ml) in duplicate, and 100 µl Calibrator 6 (250 IU/ml) in single. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer by delivering and aspirating 350 µl/well of diluted washing solution as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

General Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*
3. *The Control Serum (CS) does not affect the test results calculation. The Control Serum may be used only when a laboratory internal quality control a laboratory internal quality control is required by the management.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Calibrators & Control	100 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

An example of dispensation scheme for Quantitative Analysis is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S 1									
B	BLK	CAL4	S 2									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S 3									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S 4									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S 5									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S 6									
G	CAL3	CS	S 7									
H	CAL3	CS	S 8									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator 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	CAL2	S 6	S 14									
E	CAL2	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 = Calibrator CS = Control Serum 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:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.050 OD450nm value
CAL 1 0 IU/ml	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
CAL 2 10 IU/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL1 + 0,100
CAL 6 250 IU/ml	OD450nm > 1.000
Control Serum	20 IU/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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.050 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Sustrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay
CAL 1 **0 IU/ml** > 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 a positive calibrator instead of the negative one; 4. that no contamination of the negative calibrator or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.

CAL 2 **10 IU/ml** OD450nm < OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 5 **250 IU/ml** < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control 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.

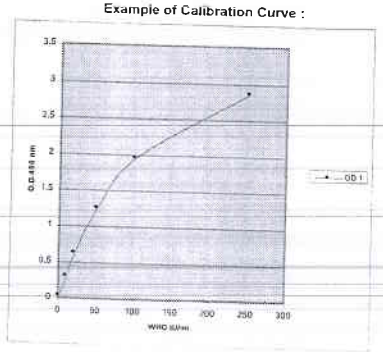
Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

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 Rubella Virus IgG antibody in samples.
An example of Calibration curve is reported in the next page.

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 IU/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 IU/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted
Calibrator 10 IU/ml: 0.250 – 0.270 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.260 OD450nm
Higher than Cal 0 + 0.100 – Accepted
Calibrator 250 IU/ml: 2.845 OD450nm
Higher than 1.000 – Accepted

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Samples with a concentration lower than 10 WHO IU/ml are considered negative for anti Rubella Virus IgG antibody by most of the international medical literature.
Samples with a concentration higher than 10 WHO IU/ml are considered positive for anti Rubella Virus IgG antibody.
This titer is considered the lowest concentration of IgG to provide an effective immunological protection against a second infection of Rubella Virus by NCCLS, USA.
Particular attention in the interpretation of results has to be used in the follow-up of pregnancy for an infection of Rubella Virus due to the risk of severe neonatal malformations.

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. *When test results are transmitted from the laboratory to another facility, attention must be paid to avoid erroneous data transfer.*
3. *In the follow-up of pregnancy for Rubella Virus infection a positive result (presence of IgG antibody > 10 IU/ml) should be confirmed to ruled out the risk of a false positive result and a false definition of protection.*

R. PERFORMANCES

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what suggested in NCCLS's approved guideline for Rubella IgG testing (I/LA6-A)

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of the 1st W.H.O international standard for anti-Rubella immunoglobulin code RUBI-1-94. The limit of detection has been calculated as mean OD450nm Calibrator 0 IU/ml + 5 SD.
The table below reports the mean OD450nm values of this standard when diluted in negative plasma and then examined in the assa for three lots.

WHO IU/ml	RUBG.CE Lot. 0303	RUBG.CE Lot. 0503	RUBG.CE Lot. 0603
50	1.292	1.301	1.354
20	0.701	0.742	0.724
10	0.402	0.451	0.425
5	0.211	0.241	0.231
Std 0	0.024	0.032	0.038

The assay shows a limit of detection far better than 10 IU/ml.

2. Diagnostic sensitivity:

The diagnostic sensitivity has been tested in an external study of performance evaluation (University Hospital, Microbiology Department, Salamanca, Spain) on panels of samples classified positive by a kit US FDA approved. Positive samples from different stage of Rubella Virus infection were tested.
The value, obtained from the analysis of more than 300 specimens, has been > 98%.

3. Diagnostic specificity:

The diagnostic specificity has been determined in the same centre on panels of negative samples from not infected individuals, classified negative with a kit US FDA approved.
Both plasma, derived with different standard techniques of preparation (citrate, EDTA and heparin), and sera have been used to determine the value of specificity.
Frozen specimens have been tested, as well, to check for interferences due to collection and storage.
No interference was observed.
Potentially interfering samples derived from patients with different pathologies (mostly ANA, AMA and RF positive) and from pregnant women were tested.
No crossreaction was observed.
An overall value > 98% of specificity was found when examined on more than 100 specimens.

4. Precision:

It has been calculated on three samples, a negative, a low positive and a positive, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs for three lots. Results are reported as follows:

RUBG.CE: lot 0303

Calibrator 0 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.048	0.054	0.052	0.051
Std.Deviation	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.005
CV %	9.3	8.6	8.9	8.9

Calibrator 10 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.530	0.503	0.484	0.505
Std.Deviation	0.034	0.022	0.019	0.025
CV %	6.4	4.4	4.0	4.9

Calibrator 250 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.299	3.281	3.267	3.282
Std.Deviation	0.228	0.119	0.067	0.138
CV %	6.9	3.6	2.1	4.2

RUBG.CE: lot 0503

Calibrator 0 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.046	0.052	0.051	0.049
Std.Deviation	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.005
CV %	9.5	8.9	9	9.2

Calibrator 10 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.531	0.504	0.484	0.506
Std.Deviation	0.034	0.022	0.019	0.025
CV %	6.4	4.3	4	4.9

Calibrator 250 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.281	3.281	3.272	3.278
Std.Deviation	0.199	0.155	0.147	0.167
CV %	6.1	4.7	4.5	5.1

RUBG.CE: lot 0603

Calibrator 0 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.052
Std.Deviation	0.005	0.004	0.004	0.004
CV %	9	8.1	6.9	8

Calibrator 10 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.524	0.510	0.483	0.505
Std.Deviation	0.037	0.022	0.020	0.027
CV %	7.1	4.4	4.2	5.2

Calibrator 250 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.300	3.286	3.253	3.280
Std.Deviation	0.195	0.126	0.074	0.131
CV %	5.9	3.8	2.3	4

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

5. 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 1.000 IU/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.
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates after thawing may generate some false results.
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:
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CE
0318

Parvovirus B19 IgM

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the qualitative determination of IgM antibodies to Parvovirus B19 in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF PARVOM.CE
96 Tests

Parvovirus B19 IgM

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the qualitative determination of IgM antibodies to Parvovirus B19 in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

The **B19 virus**, generally referred to as **parvovirus B19** was the first (and until 2005 the only) known human virus in the family of parvoviruses, genus erythrovirus. Parvovirus B19 is a non-enveloped, icosahedral virus that contains a single-stranded linear DNA genome. It is classified as erythrovirus because of its capability to invade red blood cell precursors in the bone marrow. Three genotypes (with subtypes) have been recognized. The viral capsid is composed of two structural proteins , namely VP1 (83kD) and VP2 (53 kD). Infection by Parvovirus B19 spreads through respiratory secretions but also through blood or blood products. The infection causes a mild illness characterized by an erythematous maculopapular facial rash called fifth disease or erythema infectious. It is tipical in childhood and is also seen in adults. A person usually gets sick within 4 to 14 days after getting infected with parvovirus B19 but about 20% of children and adults who get infected with this virus will not have any symptoms. Infection during pregnancy presents the risk of transmission to the fetus that may result in hydrops fetalis. In particular the presence of IgM antibodies is reported to be correlated to the acute phase of illness, while IgG antibodies become present at different titers shortly after primary infections and last in blood for many years.
People with weakened immune systems caused by leukemia, cancer, organ transplants, or HIV infection are at risk for serious complications from fifth disease. It can cause chronic anemia that requires medical treatment.
Therefore the detection of Parvovirus B19-specific antibodies becomes very important.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Microplates are coated with Parvovirus B19 antigens.
The solid phase is first treated with the diluted sample and IgM to Parvovirus B19 are captured, if present, by the antigens.
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation bound anti Parvovirus IgM are detected by the addition of polyclonal specific anti hIgM antibodies, labelled with peroxidase (HRP).
The enzyme captured on the solid phase, acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of anti Parvovirus IgM antibodies present in the sample. The presence of IgM in the sample may therefore be determined by means of a cut-off value able to discriminate between negative and positive samples.
Neutralization of IgG anti-Parvovirus , carried out directly in the well, is performed in the assay in order to block interferences due to this class of antibodies in the determination of IgM.

D. COMPONENTS

Each kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
12 strips x 8 microwells coated with Parvovirus B19 antigens.
Plates are 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 -
1x4.0 ml/vial. Ready to use. It contains, human plasma negative to Parvovirus B19, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The Negative Control is pale yellow color coded.

3. Positive Control: CONTROL +
1x4.0 ml/vial. Ready to use. It contains human plasma positive to Parvovirus B19, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.
The Positive Control is green yellow color coded.

4. Calibrator: CAL ...
n° 1 vial. Lyophilized reagent to be dissolved with EIA grade water as reported in the label. It contains bovine serum proteins, human plasma positive to Parvovirus, 0.2 mg/ml 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
1x60ml/bottle20x concentrated solution.
Once diluted, the wash solution contains 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0+/-0.2, 0.05% Tween 20 and 0.05% Kathon GC.

6. Enzyme conjugate : CONJ
1x16ml/vial. Ready to use and red colour coded. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated polyclonal antibodies to human IgM, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.1% Kathon GC and 0.02% gentamicine sulphate as preservatives.

7. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffer pH 3.5-3.8, 4% dimethylsulphoxide, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (or TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (or H_2O_2).
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

8. Sulphuric Acid: H2SO4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vialIt contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

9. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
2x60ml/vial. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.5% NP40, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. To be used to dilute the sample.

10. Neutralizing Reagent: SOLN NEUT
1x8ml/vial. It contains goat anti hIgG, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives.

11. Plate sealing foils n°2

12. Package insert n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance)..
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.

H. PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND WARNINGS

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

Negative Control
Ready to use components. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

Positive Control
Ready to use components. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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.*

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*

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

Neutralizing Reagent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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.
3. The ELISA washer is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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 "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.
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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dissolve the content of the Calibrator as reported.
6. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
7. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
8. 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.
9. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
10. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
11. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.

12. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
13. 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.

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Controls/Calibrator as they are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Not dispense Neutralizing Reagent in A1 used for blanking operations and in the wells used for the Controls and the Calibrator.
4. Dispense 50 µl Neutralizing Reagent in all the samples wells.
5. Dispense 100 µl of Negative Control in duplicate, 100 µl of Positive Control in single, 100 µl of Calibrator in duplicate and 100 ul of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
6. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

7. Wash the microplate with an automatic as reported previously (section I.3).
8. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

9. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
10. Wash microwells as in step 6.
11. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes.**

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

12. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
13. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1.

General Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Controls & Calibrator (*)	100 µl
Neutralizing Reagent (only for samples)	50 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	**60 min**
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	**20 min**
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

(*) **Important Notes:**

- *The Calibrator (CAL) does not affect the Cut Off calculation, therefore it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Calibrator (CAL) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme is reported in the table below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	S3										
B	NC	S4										
C	NC	S5										
D	CAL(*)	S6										
E	CAL(*)	S7										
F	PC	S8										
G	S1	S9										
H	S2	S10										

Legenda: BLK = Blank NC = Negative Control
CAL = Calibrator - Not mandatory PC = Positive Control
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 expected and required by the IVDD directive 98/79/EC. Control that the following data are matched:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.100 OD450nm value
Negative Control	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking coefficient of variation < 30%
Positive Control	OD450nm > 1.000

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.100 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Substrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay.
Negative Control > 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 a positive control instead of the negative one; 4. that no contamination of the negative control or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
Positive Control < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong 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.

Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

** **Note:**

If Calibrator has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Calibrator	S/Co > 1.0

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Calibrator S/Co < 1.0	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong 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.

Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, Negative Control, Positive Control), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

P. RESULTS

If the test turns out to be valid, results are calculated from the mean OD450nm value of the Negative Control (NC) by means of a cut-off value (Co) determined with the following formula:

Cut-Off = NC + 0.250

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 generate the correct interpretation of results.*

Q. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Test results are interpreted as a ratio of the sample OD450nm value (S) and the cut-off value (Co), or 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 has not developed IgM antibodies to Parvovirus.
Any patient showing an equivocal result should be retested on a second sample taken 1-2 weeks after the initial sample.
A positive result is indicative of an ongoing Parvovirus infection and therefore the patient should be treated accordingly.

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. *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.*

An example of calculation is reported below.

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

Negative Control: 0.100 – 0.120 – 0.080 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.100 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted

Positive Control: 1.500 OD450nm
Higher than 0.1000 – Accepted

Cut-Off = 0.100+0.250 = 0.350

Calibrator: 0.500 – 0.540 OD450nm
Mean value: 0.520 OD450nm
S/Co higher than 1.0 – Accepted

Sample 1: 0.080 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.800 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 1.0 = negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1.2 = positive

R. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what suggested in NCCLS's approved guideline C24-A2.

1. Limit of detection

No international standard for Parvovirus B19 IgM Antibody detection has been defined so far by the European Community. In its absence, an Internal Gold Standard (or IGS), has been defined in order to provide the device with a constant and excellent sensitivity.

I.G.S. Dilution	PARVOM.CE Lot P1	PARVOM.CE Lot P2
1x	1.418	1.219
2x	0.804	0.665
4x	0.407	0.383
8x	0.225	0.212
Negative Control	0.065	0.070

2. Diagnostic Sensitivity and Specificity:

The Diagnostic **Sensitivity** was calculated on a panel of 50 samples classified positive for the IgM anti Parvovirus B19 by a reference kit CE marked.
A value of ≥ 98% was observed when referring to the reference device.
The Diagnostic **Specificity** was calculated on a panel of more than 100 samples classified negative with the reference device.
A value ≥ 98% was observed.
These findings are summarized in the following table.

Sensitivity	> 98 %
Specificity	> 98 %

4. Precision:
It has been calculated on three samples, a negative, a low positive and a positive, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs for two lots. Results are reported as follows:

PARVOM.CE: lot P1

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.149	0.136	0.136	0.140
Std.Deviation	0.013	0.018	0.018	0.016
CV %	8.5	13.0	13.0	11.5

Low Positive sample (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.996	0.977	0.950	0.974
Std.Deviation	0.032	0.057	0.056	0.048
CV %	3.2	5.8	5.9	5.0

Positive Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.032	2.671	3.362	3.022
Std.Deviation	0.221	0.221	0.184	0.209
CV %	7.3	8.3	5.5	7.0

PARVOM.CE: lot P2

Negative Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.101	0.091	0.094	0.095
Std.Deviation	0.013	0.010	0.013	0.012
CV %	12.5	11.2	13.7	12.5

Low Positive sample (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.227	1.251	0.970	1.153
Std.Deviation	0.085	0.085	0.090	0.087
CV %	6.9	6.7	9.2	7.6

Positive Control (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	3.350	2.937	3.170	3.152
Std.Deviation	0.174	0.199	0.197	0.190
CV %	5.2	7.0	7.1	6.4

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

5. Accuracy
The assay accuracy has been checked by the dilution and recovery tests.

6. 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.
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates after thawing may generate some false results.
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 in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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
Dia.Pro Diagnostic Bioprobes Srl
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CE

Parvovirus B19 IgG

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Parvovirus B19 in human serum and plasma

- for "in vitro" diagnostic use only -

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REF PARVOG.CE
96 Tests

Parvovirus B19 IgG

A. INTENDED USE

Enzyme ImmunoAssay (ELISA) for the quantitative/qualitative determination of IgG antibodies to Parvovirus B19 in human plasma and sera.
For "in vitro" diagnostic use only.

B. INTRODUCTION

The **B19 virus**, generally referred to as **parvovirus B19** was the first (and until 2005 the only) known human virus in the family of parvoviruses, genus erythrovirus. Parvovirus B19 is a non-enveloped, icosahedral virus that contains a single-stranded linear DNA genome. It is classified as erythrovirus because of its capability to invade red blood cell precursors in the bone marrow. Three genotypes (with subtypes) have been recognized. The viral capsid is composed of two structural proteins , namely VP1 (83kD) and VP2 (53 kD). Infection by Parvovirus B19 spreads through respiratory secretions but also through blood or blood products. The infection causes a mild illness characterized by an erythematous maculopapular facial rash called fifth disease or erythema infectious. It is tipical in childhood and is also seen in adults. A person usually gets sick within 4 to 14 days after getting infected with parvovirus B19 but about 20% of children and adults who get infected with this virus will not have any symptoms. Infection during pregnancy presents the risk of transmission to the fetus that may result in hydrops fetalis. People with weakened immune systems caused by leukemia, cancer, organ transplants, or HIV infection are at risk for serious complications from fifth disease. It can cause chronic anemia that requires medical treatment.
Therefore the detection of Parvovirus B19-specific antibodies becomes very important.

C. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Microplates are coated with Parvovirus B19 antigen.
The solid phase is first treated with the diluted sample and IgG to Parvovirus B19 are captured, if present, by the antigens.
After washing out all the other components of the sample, in the 2nd incubation bound anti Parvovirus IgG are detected by the addition of polyclonal specific anti hIgG antibodies, labelled with peroxidase (HRP).
The enzyme captured on the solid phase, acting on the substrate/chromogen mixture, generates an optical signal that is proportional to the amount of anti Parvovirus IgG antibodies present in the sample. A Calibration Curve, calibrated against the 2nd W.H.O international standard for Anti-Parvovirus B19 code 01/602, makes possible a quantitative determination of the IgG antibody in the patient.

D. COMPONENTS

The kit contains reagents to perform 96 tests.

1. Microplate: MICROPLATE
12 strips x 8 microwells coated with Parvovirus B19 antigens.
Plates are 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. Calibration Curve: CAL N° ...
Ready to use and color coded standard curve derived from human plasma positive for Parvovirus B19 IgG and titrated on WHO standard ranging:
4ml/vial CAL1 = 0 WHO IU/ml
4ml/vial CAL2 = 3 WHO IU/ml
2ml/vial CAL3 = 6 WHO IU/ml
2ml/vial CAL4 = 12 WHO IU/ml
2ml/vial CAL5 = 20 WHO IU/ml
4ml/vial CAL6 = 40 WHO IU/ml.
Standards are calibrated against the 2nd W.H.O international standard for Anti-Parvovirus B19 code 01/602.
It contains human serum proteins, 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. Standards are blue colored.

3. Control Serum: CONTROL ...ml
1 vial, Lyophilized.
It contains bovine serum proteins, human plasma positive to Parvovirus B19 calibrated at 12 WHO IU/ml ± 10%, 0.2 mg/ml 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.

4. Wash buffer concentrate: WASHBUF 20X
1x60ml/bottle20x 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.

5. Enzyme conjugate : CONJ
2x8ml/vial,Ready to use and red colour coded. It contains Horseradish peroxidase conjugated polyclonal antibodies to human IgG, 5% BSA, 10 mM Tris buffer pH 6.8+/-0.1, 0.1% Kathon GC, 0.02 mg/ml gentamicine sulphate as preservatives and 0.01% red alimentary dye.

6. Chromogen/Substrate: SUBS TMB
1x16ml/vial. It contains 50 mM citrate-phosphate buffer pH 3.5-3.8, 0.03% tetra-methyl-benzidine (or TMB) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide (or H_2O_2) and 4% dimethylsulphoxide.
Note: To be stored protected from light as sensitive to strong illumination.

7. Sulphuric Acid: H_2SO_4 0.3 M
1x15ml/vial. It contains 0.3 M H_2SO_4 solution.
Attention: Irritant (H315, H319; P280, P302+P352, P332+P313, P305+P351+P338, P337+P313, P362+P363).

8. Specimen Diluent: DILSPE
2x60ml/vial. It contains 2% casein, 10 mM Na-citrate buffer pH 6.0 +/-0.1, 0.1% Tween 20, 0.09% Na-azide and 0.1% Kathon GC as preservatives. The reagent is blue colour coded.

9. Plate sealing foils n°2

10. Package insert n°1

E. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

1. Calibrated Micropipettes (1000 ul, 100 ul and 10 ul) 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 (+/-0.5°C tolerance)..
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 (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 3 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 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. 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 frozen/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 0.2-0.8u filters to clean up the sample for testing.
6. Samples whose anti-Parvovirus B19 IgG antibody concentration is expected to be higher than 40 IU/ml should be diluted before use, either 1:10 in the Specimen Diluent. Dilutions have to be done in clean disposable tubes by diluting 50 ul of each specimen with 450 ul of Specimen Diluent (1:10). Mix tubes thoroughly on vortex and then proceed toward the dilution step reported in section M.

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 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.

Calibration Curve
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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. Do not thaw and freeze the aliquot again.*

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.*

Enzyme conjugate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possibly sterile disposable containers.

Chromogen/Substrate:
Ready to use. Mix well on vortex before use.
Be careful not to contaminate the liquid with oxidizing chemicals, air-driven dust or microbes.
Do not expose to strong illumination, oxidizing agents and metallic surfaces.
If this component has to be transferred use only plastic, possible sterile disposable container

Sample Diluent
Ready to use component. Mix carefully on vortex before use.

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 in order to show a precision of 1% and a trueness of +/-2%. Decontamination of spills or residues of kit components should also be carried out regularly.
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 and the right temperature of +37°C is assured to the microplate.
3. The **ELISA washer** is extremely important to the overall performances of the assay. The washer must be carefully validated and correctly optimised using the kit controls and reference panels, before using the kit for routine laboratory tests. Usually 4-5 washing cycles (aspiration + dispensation of 350ul/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 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 by, 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 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.
3. Check that the Chromogen (TMB) is colourless or pale blue by aspirating a small volume of it with a sterile plastic pipette.
4. 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.
5. Dissolve the content of the lyophilised Control Serum as reported in the proper section.
6. Dilute all the content of the 20x concentrated Wash Solution as described above.
7. Allow all the other components to reach room temperature (about 1 hr) and then mix gently on vortex all liquid reagents.
8. Set the ELISA incubator at +37°C and prepare the ELISA washer by priming with the diluted washing solution, according to the manufacturer instructions. Set the right number of washing cycles as found in the validation of the instrument for its use with the kit.
9. Check that the ELISA reader is turned on or ensure it will be turned on at least 20 minutes before reading.
10. If using an automated work station, turn on, check settings and be sure to use the right assay protocol.
11. Check that the micropipettes are set to the required volume.
12. Check that all the other equipment is available and ready to use.
13. 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.

The kit may be used for quantitative and qualitative determinations as well.

M1. QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibration Set as calibrators are ready to use. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of microwells in the microwell holder. Leave the A1 and B1 empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrators in duplicate. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well. The Control Serum doesn't have to be used in every single analysis: it may be used whenever an internal quality control is required by the management to check the overall performances of the laboratory itself. In case, dispense 100 ul of the Control Serum, prepared according to instructions, in duplicate into a proper well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer by delivering and aspirating 350 µl/well of diluted washing solution as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except A1+B1 blanking wells, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1 and B1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank wells A1 and B1 included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid to stop the enzymatic reaction into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and at 620-630nm (background subtraction, strongly recommended), blanking the instrument on A1 or B1 or both.

M2. QUALITATIVE DETERMINATION

If only a qualitative determination is required, proceed as described below:

1. Dilute samples 1:101 into a properly defined dilution tube (example: 1000 µl Sample Diluent + 10 µl sample). Do not dilute the Calibrator 1 (0IU/ml) and Calibrator 5 (20IU/ml) as they are ready to use. The Control Serum doesn't have to be used in every single analysis, it may be used whenever an internal quality control is required by the management to check the overall performances of the laboratory itself. Mix carefully all the liquid components on vortex and then proceed as described below.
2. Place the required number of Microwells in the microwell holder. Leave A1 well empty for the operation of blanking.
3. Dispense 100 µl of Calibrator 1 (0 IU/ml) and 100 µl Calibrator 5 (20 IU/ml) in duplicate, and 100 µl Control Serum, prepared according to instructions, in single. Then dispense 100 µl of diluted samples in each properly identified well.
4. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.

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

5. Wash the microplate with an automatic washer by delivering and aspirating 350 µl/well of diluted washing solution as reported previously (section I.3).
6. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate into each well, except the A1 well, and cover with the sealer. Check that this red coloured component has been dispensed in all the wells, except A1.

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.*

7. Incubate the microplate for **60 min at +37°C**.
8. Wash microwells as in step 5.
9. Pipette 100 µl Chromogen/Substrate mixture into each well, the blank well included. Then incubate the microplate at **room temperature (18-24°C) for 20 minutes**.

Important note: *Do not expose to strong direct illumination. High background might be generated.*

10. Pipette 100 µl Sulphuric Acid into all the wells using the same pipetting sequence as in step 9. Addition of acid will turn the positive calibrators, the control serum and the positive samples from blue to yellow.
11. Measure the colour intensity of the solution in each well, as described in section I.5, at 450nm filter (reading) and possibly at 620-630nm (background subtraction), blanking the instrument on A1.

General Important 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 to be carried out just after the addition of the Stop Solution and anyway not any longer than 20 minutes after its addition. Some self oxidation of the chromogen can occur leading to high background.*

N. ASSAY SCHEME

Method	Operations
Calibrators & Control(*)	100 µl
Samples diluted 1:101	100 µl
1st incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
Enzyme conjugate	100 µl
2nd incubation	60 min
Temperature	+37°C
Wash step	4-5 cycles
TMB/H2O2	100 µl
3rd incubation	20 min
Temperature	r.t.
Sulphuric Acid	100 ul
Reading OD	450nm

(*) **Important Notes:**

- *The Control Serum (CS) it does not affect the test's results calculation.*
- *The Control Serum (CS) used only if a laboratory internal quality control is required by the Management.*

An example of dispensation scheme for Quantitative Analysis is reported below:

Microplate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BLK	CAL4	S 1									
B	BLK	CAL4	S 2									
C	CAL1	CAL5	S 3									
D	CAL1	CAL5	S 4									
E	CAL2	CAL6	S 5									
F	CAL2	CAL6	S 6									
G	CAL3	CS(*)	S 7									
H	CAL3	CS(*)	S 8									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator CS(*) = Control Serum - Not mandatory
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	CAL5	S 6	S 14									
E	CAL5	S 7	S 15									
F	CS(*)	S 8	S 16									
G	S 1	S 9	S 17									
H	S 2	S 10	S 18									

Legenda: BLK = Blank CAL = Calibrator CS(*) = Control Serum - Not mandatory
S = Sample

O. ASSAY QUALITY CONTROL

A validation check is carried out on the Calibrators any time the kit is used in order to verify whether the performances of the assay are as expected and required by the IVDD directive 98/79/EC.

The Control Serum is used only when required by the management for an internal verification of the performances of the laboratory itself.

Control that the following data are matched:

Check	Requirements
Blank well	< 0.050 OD450nm value
CAL 1 0 IU/ml	< 0.150 mean OD450nm value after blanking
	coefficient of variation < 30%
CAL 2 3 IU/ml	OD450nm > OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100
CAL 5 20 IU/ml	OD450nm > 0.750
CAL 6 40 IU/ml	OD450nm > 1.000

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 operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Blank well > 0.050 OD450nm	1. that the Chromogen/Sustrate solution has not got contaminated during the assay
CAL 1 **0 IU/ml** > 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 a positive calibrator instead of the negative one; 4. that no contamination of the negative calibrator or of their wells has occurred due spills of positive samples or the enzyme conjugate; 5. that micropipettes haven't got contaminated with positive samples or with the enzyme conjugate 6. that the washer needles are not blocked or partially obstructed.
CAL 2 **3 IU/ml** OD450nm < OD450nm CAL1 + 0.100	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (ex.: dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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.
CAL 5 **20 IU/ml** < 0.750 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control has occurred.
CAL 6 **40 IU/ml** < 1.000 OD450nm	1. that the procedure has been correctly executed; 2. that no mistake has been done in its distribution (dispensation of a wrong calibrator 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 positive control has occurred.

Should one of these problems have happened, after checking, report to the supervisor for further actions.

** Note:

If Control Serum has used, verify the following data:

Check	Requirements
Control Serum	Mean OD450nm CAL4 ± 20%

If the results of the test doesn't match the requirements stated above, operate as follows:

Problem	Check
Control Serum Different from expected value	First verify that: 1. the procedure has been correctly performed; 2. no mistake has occurred during its distribution (e.g.: dispensation of a wrong sample); 3. the washing procedure and the washer settings are correct; 4. no external contamination of the control 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.

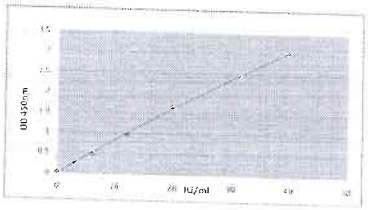
Anyway, if all other parameters (Blank, CAL1, CAL2, CAL5, CAL6), match the established requirements, the test may be considered valid.

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 Parvovirus B19 IgG antibody in samples.

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 Calibrator 1(0 IU/ml), and for Calibrator 5(20IU/ml) and then check that the assay is valid.
In this case the results are calculated by means of a cut-off value determined with the following formula:

Cut-Off (Co) = CAL5/5

***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

Q.1 Quantitative method

Samples with a concentration lower than 3 WHO IU/ml are considered negative for anti Parvovirus B19 IgG antibody by most of the international medical literature.
Samples with a concentration between 3 and 5 WHO IU/ml are considered equivocal for anti Parvovirus B19 IgG antibody.
Samples with a concentration higher than 5 WHO IU/ml are considered positive for anti Parvovirus B19 IgG antibody.
This titer is considered the lowest concentration of IgG to provide an effective immunological protection.

Q.2 Qualitative method

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

Results are interpreted according to the following table:

S/Co	Interpretation
< 0.8	Negative
0.8 – 1.2	Equivocal
> 1.2	Positive

Any patient showing an equivocal result should be retested on a second sample taken 1-2 weeks after the initial sample.

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. *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.*

An example of calculation is reported below.

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

Calibrator 0 IU/ml: 0.020 – 0.024 OD450nm
Mean Value: 0.022 OD450nm
Lower than 0.150 – Accepted
Calibrator 20 IU/ml: 1.489 - 1.545 OD450nm
Mean Value: 1.517 OD450nm
Higher than 0.750 – Accepted

Cut-Off = 1.517 / 5 = 0.303

Sample 1: 0.028 OD450nm
Sample 2: 1.890 OD450nm
Sample 1 S/Co < 0.9 negative
Sample 2 S/Co > 1.0 positive

R. PERFORMANCES

Evaluation of Performances has been conducted in accordance to what suggested in NCCLS's approved guideline C24-A2.

1. Limit of detection

The limit of detection of the assay has been calculated by means of the 2nd W.H.O international standard for Anti-Parvovirus B19 code 01/602. The limit of detection has been calculated as mean OD450nm Calibrator 0 IU/ml + 5 SD.
The table below reports the mean OD450nm values of this standard when diluted in negative plasma and then examined in the assa for two lots.

WHO IU/ml	PARVOG.CE Lot P1	PARVOG.CE Lot P2
40	3.041	3.110
20	1.686	1.570
12	0.954	0.925
6	0.473	0.549
3	0.266	0.233
1.5	0.112	0.087
Std 0	0.030	0.055

The assay shows a limit of detection far better than 3 IU/ml.

2. Diagnostic sensitivity & Specificity :

The Diagnostic **Sensitivity** was calculated on a panel of 50 samples classified positive for the IgG anti parvovirus B19 by a reference kit CE marked.
A value of ≥ 98% was observed when referring to the reference device.
The Diagnostic **Specificity** was calculated on a panel of more than 100 samples classified negative with the reference device.
A value ≥ 98% was observed.
These findings are summarized in the following table.

Sensitivity	≥ 98 %
Specificity	≥ 98 %

4. Precision:

It has been calculated on three samples, a negative, a low positive and a positive, examined in 16 replicates in three separate runs for two lots. Results are reported as follows:

PARVOG.CE: lot P1

Calibrator 0 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.064	0.065	0.069	0.066
Std.Deviation	0.007	0.010	0.011	0.009
CV %	10.6	15.3	15.2	13.7

Calibrator 3 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.313	0.305	0.352	0.323
Std.Deviation	0.031	0.036	0.024	0.030
CV %	9.9	11.7	6.9	9.5

Calibrator 20 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	1.790	1.799	2.077	1.888
Std.Deviation	0.085	0.084	0.082	0.084
CV %	4.7	4.6	3.9	4.4

PARVOG.CE: lot P2

Calibrator 0 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.099	0.089	0.087	0.092
Std.Deviation	0.017	0.012	0.009	0.013
CV %	17.4	13.8	10.3	13.8

Calibrator 3 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	0.334	0.362	0.380	0.358
Std.Deviation	0.021	0.035	0.029	0.028
CV %	6.4	9.7	7.7	7.9

Calibrator 20 IU/ml (N = 16)

Mean values	1st run	2nd run	3rd run	Average value
OD 450nm	2.085	2.040	2.591	2.239
Std.Deviation	0.081	0.099	0.125	0.101
CV %	3.9	4.9	4.8	4.5

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

5. 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 77 IU/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.
Frozen samples containing fibrin particles or aggregates after thawing may generate some false results.
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 in compliance with ISO 13485 rule. 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:
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CE

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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REF SAG1ULTRA.CE
96 192 480 960 Tests

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.