

## Human Aggrecan (AGC/ACAN) ELISA Kit

**Catalog No.:** abx251976

**Size:** 96T

**Range:** 0.156 ng/ml - 10 ng/ml

**Sensitivity:** 0.094 ng/ml

**Storage:** Store at 4°C for up to 6 months.

**Application:** For quantitative detection of AGC in Human Serum, Plasma and other biological fluids.

**Introduction:** Aggrecan (ACAN), also known as cartilage-specific proteoglycan core protein (CSPCP) or chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan 1, is a protein that in humans is encoded by the ACAN gene. This gene is a member of the lectican (chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan) family. The encoded protein is an integral part of the extracellular matrix in cartilagenous tissue and it withstands compression in cartilage. Aggrecan is a proteoglycan, or a protein modified with large carbohydrates; the human form of the protein is 2316 amino acids long and can be expressed in multiple isoforms due to alternative splicing.

### Principle of the Assay

This kit is based on sandwich enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay technology. An antibody specific to AGC is pre-coated onto a 96-well plate. The standards and samples are added to the wells, incubated and washed with wash buffer. A biotin conjugated antibody specific to AGC is used for detection. TMB substrate is used to visualize HRP activity. TMB is catalyzed by HRP to produce a blue colour product that changes into yellow after adding stop solution. The intensity of the color yellow is proportional to the AGC amount bound on the plate. The O.D. absorbance is measured spectrophotometrically at 450 nm in a microplate reader, and then the concentration of AGC can be calculated.

### Kit components

1. One pre-coated 96-well microplate (12 × 8 well strips)
2. Standard: 2 tubes
3. Sample/Standard Diluent Buffer: 20 ml
4. Biotin conjugated antibody (Dilution 1:100): 120 µl
5. Antibody diluent buffer: 12 ml
6. HRP Conjugate Reagent (Dilution 1:100): 120 µl
7. HRP diluent buffer: 12 ml
8. TMB substrate: 10 ml
9. Stop solution: 10 ml
10. Wash buffer (25X): 30 ml
11. Plate Sealer: 5

### Material Required But Not Provided

1. 37°C incubator
2. Microplate reader (wavelength: 450 nm)
3. Precision pipette and disposable pipette tips
4. Automated plate washer
5. ELISA shaker
6. 1.5 ml tubes to prepare standard/sample dilutions
7. Absorbent filter papers
8. 100 ml and 1 liter graduated cylinders

## Protocol

### A. Preparation of sample and reagents

#### 1. Sample

Store samples to be assayed within 24 hours at 2-8°C. Alternatively, aliquot and store at -20°C or -80°C for long term. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

- **Serum:** Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. Coagulate the serum by leaving the tube undisturbed in a vertical position overnight at 4°C or at room temperature for up to 60 minutes. Centrifuge at approximately 1000 × g for 15 min. Analyze the serum immediately or aliquot and store at -20°C or -80°C.
- **Plasma:** Collect plasma using heparin or EDTA as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge for 15 minutes at 1000 x g within 30 minutes of collection. Assay immediately or aliquot and store at -20°C. Avoid hemolysis and high cholesterol samples.
- **Other biological fluids:** Centrifuge at approximately 1000 × g for 20 min to remove precipitant. Analyze immediately or aliquot and store at -20°C or -80°C.

#### Note:

- » Fresh samples or recently obtained samples are recommended to prevent degradation and denaturalization that may lead to erroneous results. It is recommended to store samples to be used within 5 days at 4°C, within 1 month at -20°C and within 2 months at -80°C.
- » Samples should be clear and transparent. Samples must be diluted so that the expected concentration falls within the kit's range.
- » Please bring sample slowly to room temperature. Sample hemolysis will influence the result. Hemolyzed specimen should not be used. Samples that contain NaN<sub>3</sub> cannot be detected as it interferes with HRP.
- » Always use non-pyrogenic, endotoxin-free tubes for blood collection.

#### Sample dilution guideline:

Estimate the concentration of the target in the sample and select the correct dilution factor to make the diluted target concentration fall near the middle of the kit's range. Generally, for high concentration (100 ng/ml - 1000 ng/ml), dilute 1:100, for medium concentration (10 ng/ml - 100 ng/ml), dilute 1:10 and for low concentration (0.156 ng/ml - 10 ng/ml), dilute 1:2. Very low concentrations ( $\leq 0.156$  ng/ml) do not need dilution. Dilute the sample with the provided Sample Diluent Buffer and mix thoroughly. Several trials may be necessary to determine the optimal dilution factor.

#### 2. Wash buffer

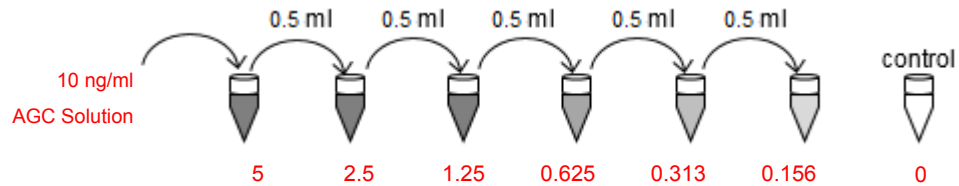
Dilute the concentrated Wash buffer 25-fold (1/25) with distilled water (i.e. add 30 ml of concentrated wash buffer into 720 ml of distilled water).

#### 3. Standard

Preparation of the AGC standard: standard solution should be prepared no more than 15 min prior to the experiment. Centrifuge at 10,000×g for 1 minute as the powder may drop off from the cap when opening. **(Note: Do not dilute the standard directly in the plate).** Once your standard has been reconstituted, it should be used right away. We do not recommend reusing the reconstituted standard.

a.) 10 ng/ml standard solution. Add 1 ml of Sample/Standard diluent buffer into one Standard tube. Allow the reconstituted standard to sit for 15 minutes with gentle agitation prior to carrying out the serial dilutions; avoiding foaming or bubbles.

b.) 5 ng/ml → 0.15625 ng/ml standard solutions: Label 6 tubes with 5 ng/ml, 2.5 ng/ml, 1.25 ng/ml, 0.625 ng/ml, 0.3125 ng/ml and 0.15625 ng/ml. Aliquot 0.5 ml of the Sample / Standard diluent buffer into each tube. Add 0.5 ml of the above 10 ng/ml standard solution into 1st tube and mix thoroughly. Transfer 0.5 ml from 1st tube to 2nd tube and mix thoroughly. Transfer 0.5 ml from 2nd tube to 3rd tube and mix thoroughly, and so on.



**Note:** Do not vortex the standard during reconstitution, as this will destabilize the protein. Once your standard has been reconstituted, it should be used right away. We do not recommend reusing the reconstituted standard. Please use the diluted Standards for a single assay procedure and discard after use.

**4. Preparation of Biotin conjugated antibody working solution:** prepare no more than 1 hour before the experiment.

- Calculate the total volume of the working solution:  $0.1 \text{ ml / well} \times \text{quantity of wells}$ . (Allow 0.1-0.2 ml more than the total volume).
- Dilute the Biotin conjugated antibody with antibody diluent buffer at 1/100 and mix thoroughly. i.e. Add 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of Biotin conjugated antibody into 99  $\mu\text{l}$  of antibody diluent buffer. Discard after use.

**5. Preparation of HRP Conjugated Reagent working solution:** prepare no more than 30 min. before the experiment

- Calculate the total volume of the working solution:  $0.1 \text{ ml / well} \times \text{quantity of wells}$ . (Allow 0.1-0.2 ml more than the total volume).
- Dilute the HRP Conjugate Reagent with HRP diluent buffer at 1/100 and mix thoroughly. i.e. Add 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of HRP Conjugate Reagent into 99  $\mu\text{l}$  of HRP diluent buffer. Discard after use.

## B. Assay Procedure

- Set standard, test sample and control (zero) wells on the pre-coated plate and record their positions. It is recommended to measure each standard and sample in duplicate.
- Add 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of the prepared standards solutions into the standard wells.
- Add 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of Sample / Standard diluent buffer into the control (zero) well.
- Add 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of appropriately diluted sample into test sample wells.
- Cover the plate and incubate at 37°C for 90 minutes.
- Remove the cover and discard the liquid. Do not wash.
- Add 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of prepared Biotin conjugated antibody working solution into each well (standard, test sample and zero well). Add the solution at the bottom of each well without touching the side walls. Seal the plate with a cover and incubate at 37°C for 60 minutes.
- Remove the cover, and wash the plate 3 times. Discard the solution without touching the side walls. Blot the plate on an absorbent material. Fill each well completely with wash buffer and soak for at least 1-2 min. Discard the contents and clap the plate on absorbent filter papers or other absorbent material. Repeat this procedure for a total of three times.

**Please note:** For automated washing, discard the solution in all wells and wash three times overfilling the wells with Wash buffer. After the final wash invert the plate and tap on absorbent filter papers or other absorbent material. It is recommended that the washer be set for a soaking time of 1 min.

- Add 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of HRP working solution into each well, cover the plate and incubate at 37°C for 30 minutes.
- Remove the cover and wash the plate 5 times with Wash buffer. Allow the wash buffer to remain in the wells 1-2 min for each wash. Discard the washing buffer and blot the plate onto absorbent filter papers or other absorbent material.

11. Add 90 µl of TMB substrate into each well. Cover the plate and incubate at 37°C in dark conditions for 15-20 minutes (incubation time is for reference only, do not exceed 30 minutes). When an apparent gradient appears in the standard wells the reaction can be terminated.
12. Add 50 µl of Stop solution into each well. There should be a color change to yellow. Gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing.
13. Ensure that there are no fingerprints or water on the bottom of the plate, and that the fluid in the wells is free of bubbles. Measure the absorbance at 450 nm immediately.

For calculation, (the relative O.D.450) = (the O.D.450 of each well) – (the O.D.450 of Zero well). The standard curve can be plotted as the relative O.D.450 of each standard solution (Y) vs. the respective concentration of the standard solution (X). Log-log curve fitting is recommended for data analysis. The Human AGC concentration of the samples can be interpolated from the standard curve.

**Note:** If the samples measured were diluted, multiply the dilution factor by the concentrations from interpolation to obtain the concentration before dilution.

## C. Precautions

1. Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature (18-25°C) prior to use and centrifuge the tubes briefly in case any contents are trapped in the lid.
2. For each step in the procedure, total dispensing time for addition of reagents to the assay plate should not exceed 10 minutes.
3. Wash buffer may crystallize and separate. If this happens, please warm the tube and mix gently to dissolve.
4. Avoid foaming or bubbles when mixing or reconstituting components.
5. It is recommended to assay all standards, controls and samples in duplicate or triplicate.
6. Do NOT let the plate dry out completely during the assay as this will inactivate the biological material on the plate.
7. Ensure plates are properly sealed or covered during incubation steps.
8. Complete removal of all solutions and buffers during wash steps is necessary for accurate measurement readings.
9. To avoid cross contamination do not reuse pipette tips and tubes.
10. Do not use components from a different kit or expired ones.
11. The TMB Substrate solution is easily contaminated; work under sterile conditions when handling the TMB substrate solution. The TMB Substrate solution should also be protected from light. Unreacted substrate should be colorless or very light yellow in appearance. Aspirate the dosage needed with sterilized tips and do not dump the residual solution back into the vial.

## D. Precision

Intra-assay Precision (Precision within an assay): 3 samples with low, medium and high levels of AGC were tested 20 times on one plate, respectively.

Inter-assay Precision (Precision between assays): 3 samples with low, medium and high levels of AGC were tested on 3 different plates, 8 replicates in each plate.

CV (%) = (Standard Deviation / mean) × 100

Intra-Assay: CV<10%

# Product Manual

Revision date: 08/Dec/2017



Inter-Assay: CV<10%

For Reference Only