

## Quantification of functional IL-6 using *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells

*For research and professional use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.*

*This application note contains a suggested protocol and performance data.  
Each individual laboratory must set up their own method and perform relevant validations.*

### Background

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is member of the cytokine family. It is found relevant to many inflammatory diseases and many cancers and can act as both a pro-inflammatory cytokine and an anti-inflammatory myokine. In classic signaling, IL-6 stimulates target cells via a membrane bound interleukin-6 receptor (IL-6R), which upon ligand binding associates with the signaling receptor protein gp130. The anti-inflammatory activities of IL-6 are transmitted by this signaling pathway whereas pro-inflammatory responses of IL-6 are mediated by trans-signaling (cells expressing only gp130 respond to a complex of IL-6 bound to a soluble form of the IL-6R). This is important since therapeutic inhibition of IL-6 by the neutralizing anti-IL-6R monoclonal antibody has been focused on the treatment of inflammatory diseases (1).

### Principle of the assay

The *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells are engineered cells optimized to express Firefly luciferase under the control of a IL-6 responsive promoter. Binding of IL-6 to the membrane bound IL-6 receptor (IL-6RA and IL6ST) results in activation of the IL-6 regulated Firefly luciferase reporter gene construct. *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells also contain the Renilla Luciferase (RL) reporter gene, under the control of a constitutive promoter. The constitutive expression of RL allows normalization of IL-6 induced FL activity, and renders assay results independent of variations in cell number or serum matrix effects. The luciferase signal can be measured in a luminometer following addition and incubation of luciferase substrate. The Firefly luciferase signal is proportional to the concentration of functional IL-6 in a sample (Fig.1).

### Specimen collection

The *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells can be used for measuring concentration of IL-6 in test samples including human serum.

### Material and equipment needed

Material and equipment	Suggested supplier	Reference
<i>iLite</i> <sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells	Svar Life Science	BM4061
Diluent (DMEM containing 9% heat inactivated FBS + 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin)	Gibco	31966-021 (DMEM) 26140-079 (FBS) 15140-122 (Penicillin-Streptomycin)
IL-6 or analogues	R&D Systems	206-IL
Firefly/Renilla luciferase substrate	Promega	E2920, Dual-Glo Luciferase Assay System
Plate; White walled micro well plate suitable for luminescence	PerkinElmer	6005680
Microplate Luminometer with appropriate reading software – no filter on luminometer	Contact Svar Life Science for list of recommended suppliers	NA
Incubator, 37 °C with 5% CO <sub>2</sub>	NA	NA

Water bath, 37 °C	NA	NA
Single-channel and multi-channel pipettes with polypropylene disposable tips	NA	NA
Polypropylene tubes or plate for dilution	NA	NA
Single-use polypropylene reservoir	NA	NA
Plate shaker	NA	NA
Timer	NA	NA

## Protocol

### Preparation of calibrators (IL-6)

Recombinant IL-6 from R&D Systems has successfully been used to stimulate the *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells. The below table shows the dilutions of IL-6, used for QC release of the *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells.

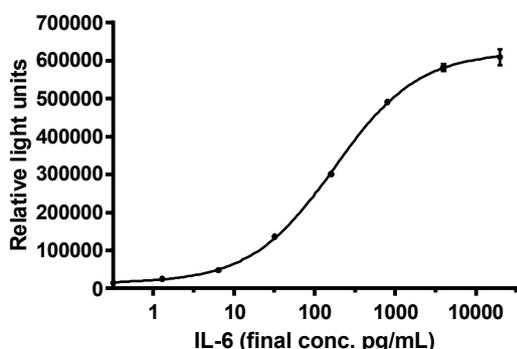


Figure 1. Example of IL-6 calibration curve.

Calibrator	IL-6
	Suggested calibrator solution conc. (pg/ml)
A	40 000
B	8 000
C	1 600
D	320
E	64
F	13
G	2.6
H	0

Table 1. Suggested calibrator solution concentrations for IL-6.

### Incubation

1. Design a plate layout. It is recommended to perform the test at least in duplicates.
2. Dilute calibrators, controls and samples to fall within the expected **in assay values** of 0-20 000 pg/mL.
3. Add 40 µL calibrators, controls and samples in duplicate to assigned wells (final concentration will be half of solution concentration).
4. Thaw the vial of *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells in a 37°C water bath with gentle agitation. The cell suspension is mixed very carefully ten times with pipette to ensure a homogeneous distribution of cells.
5. Dilute 250 µL cell suspension with 5.75 mL Diluent.
6. Add 40 µL diluted cells to each well.
7. Place the lid on the plate, mix and incubate for 6 hours at 37 °C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Adding substrate solutions

8. Equilibrate the plate and the substrate solution to room temperature.
9. Prepare the **Firefly luciferase** substrate according to the suppliers instructions and add 80 µL per well. Mix and protect the plate from light. After 10 minutes incubation at room temperature read in a luminometer.

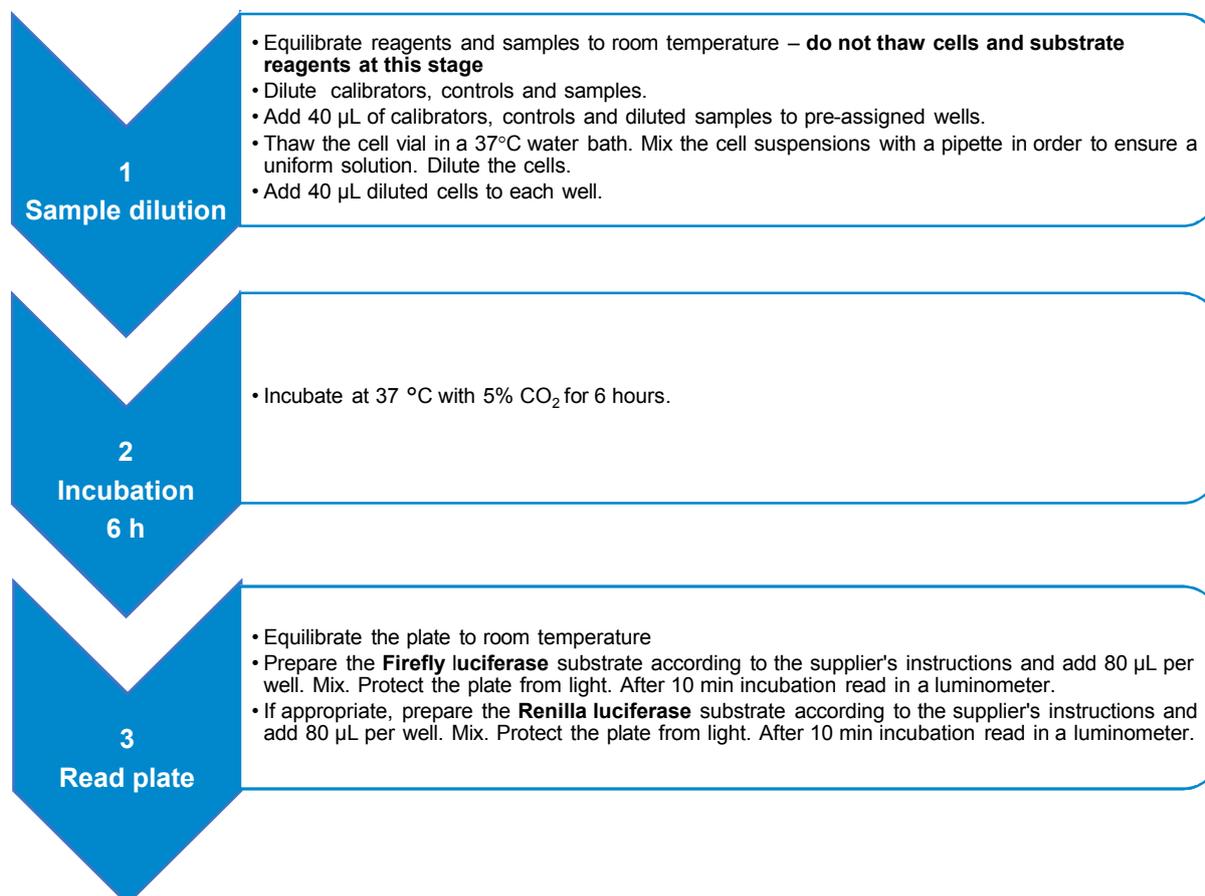
10. If appropriate, prepare the **Renilla luciferase** substrate according to the suppliers instructions and add 80 µL per well. Mix and protect the plate from light. After 10 minutes incubation at room temperature read in a luminometer.

### Precautions

- This application note is intended for professional laboratory research use only. The data and results originating from following the Application Note should not be used either in diagnostic procedures or in human therapeutic applications.
- Use and handle the material and instruments referenced according to the supplier's/manufacturer's instructions or product specifications accompanying the individual material and instruments.
- Dispose of all sample specimens, infected or potentially infected material in accordance with good microbiological practice. All such materials should be handled and disposed as though potentially infectious.
- Residues of chemicals and preparations are generally considered as biohazardous waste and should be inactivated prior to disposal by autoclaving or using bleach. All such materials should be disposed of in accordance with established safety procedures.

### Proprietary Information

In accepting delivery of *iLite*<sup>®</sup> Assay Ready Cells the recipient agrees not to sub-culture these cells, attempt to sub-culture them or to give them to a third-party recipient, and only to use them directly in assays. *iLite*<sup>®</sup> cell-based products are covered by patents which are the property of Svar Life Science AB and any attempt to reproduce the delivered *iLite*<sup>®</sup> Assay Ready Cells is an infringement of these patents.

**QUICK GUIDE****Quantification of functional IL-6 using *iLite*<sup>®</sup> IL-6 Assay Ready Cells****Troubleshooting and FAQ**

Please consult the Svar Life Science website [www.svarlifescience.com](http://www.svarlifescience.com)

**References**

1. Jürgen Scheller, Athena Chalaris, Dirk Schmidt-Arras, Stefan Rose-John, *The pro- and anti-inflammatory properties of the cytokine interleukin-6*. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* 1813 (2011) 878–888.