ELISA Kit

Catalog # **KRC2371 (96 tests)**
KRC2372 (192 tests)

Rat

IL-12 p70

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Contents and Storage

Storage

Store at 2 to 8°C.

Contents

Reagents Provided	*96 Test Kit*	*192 Test Kit*
Rt IL-12 p70 Standard, lyophilized, recombinant baculovirus Rt IL-12. Refer to vial label for quantity and reconstitution volume.	2 vials	4 vials
Standard Diluent Buffer. Contains 8 mM sodium azide; 25 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	2 bottles
Incubation Buffer. Contains 8 mM sodium azide; 11 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	1 bottle
Rt IL-12 p70 High and Low Control, lyophilized, recombinant baculovirus Rt IL-12. Refer to vial label for reconstitution volume and range.	2 vials	4 vials
Rt IL-12 p70 Antibody-Coated Wells, 96 wells per plate.	1 plate	2 plates
Rt IL-12 p70 Biotin Conjugate (Biotin-labeled anti-IL-12 p70). Contains 8 mM sodium azide; 11 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	2 bottles
Streptavidin-Peroxidase (HRP), (100x) concentrate. Contains 3.3 mM thymol; 0.125 mL per vial.	1 vial	2 vials
Streptavidin-Peroxidase (HRP) Diluent. Contains 3.3 mM thymol; 25 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	1 bottle
Wash Buffer Concentrate (25X); 100 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	1 bottle
Stabilized Chromogen, *Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB);* 25 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	1 bottle
Stop Solution; 25 mL per bottle.	1 bottle	1 bottle
Plate Covers, adhesive strips.	4	6

Disposal Note

This kit contains materials with small quantities of sodium azide. Sodium azide reacts with lead and copper plumbing to form explosive metal azides. Upon disposal, flush drains with a large volume of water to prevent azide accumulation. Avoid ingestion and contact with eyes, skin and mucous membranes. In case of contact, rinse affected area with plenty of water. Observe all federal, state and local regulations for disposal.

Safety

All blood components and biological materials should be handled as potentially hazardous. Follow universal precautions as established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration when handling and disposing of infectious agents.

Introduction

Purpose

The Invitrogen Rat Interleukin-12 p70 (Rt IL-12 p70) ELISA is to be used for the quantitative determination of IL-12 in rat serum, EDTA plasma, buffered solution, or cell culture medium. The assay will exclusively recognize both natural and recombinant Rt IL-12 heterodimer.

For Research Use Only. CAUTION: Not for human or animal therapeutic or diagnostic use.

Principle of the Method

The Invitrogen Rt IL-12 p70 kit is a solid phase sandwich Enzyme Linked-Immuno-Sorbent Assay (ELISA). A monoclonal antibody specific for Rt IL-12 p35 has been coated onto the wells of the microtiter strips provided. Samples, including standards of known Rt IL-12 content, control specimens, and unknowns, are pipetted into these wells.

During the first incubation, the Rt IL-12 antigen binds to the immobilized (capture) antibody on one site. After washing, a biotinylated monoclonal antibody specific for Rt IL-12 p40 is added. During the second incubation, this antibody binds to the immobilized Rt IL-12 heterodimer captured during the first incubation.

After removal of excess second antibody, Streptavidin-Peroxidase (enzyme) is added. This binds to the biotinylated antibody to complete the four-member sandwich. After a second incubation and washing to remove all the unbound enzyme, a substrate solution is added, which is acted upon by the bound enzyme to produce color. The intensity of this colored product is directly proportional to the concentration of Rt IL-12 present in the original specimen.

Background Information

Interleukin-12 (IL-12) is a heterodimeric cytokine that plays a central role in promoting type 1 T helper cell (Th1) responses and thus, cell-mediated immunity. Its active form is a disulfide-linked, 70 kDa (p70) glycoprotein composed of 40 kDa (p40) and 35 kDa (p35) subunits. The individual p40 and p35 subunits show no IL-12 activity, although p40 does exist as a dimer that has been shown to bind the IL-12 receptor and act as an IL-12 antagonist. IL-12 is produced by phagocytic cells, antigen-presenting cells and B lymphocytes in response to bacteria or intracellular parasites. IL-12 acts on T and natural killer (NK) cells inducing proliferation, enhancement of cell-mediated cytotoxicity and production of cytokines, particularly IFN-γ. IL-12 and IL-12-induced IFN-γ are considered critical in early immune responses. If both are present during early T cell expansion in response to antigen, Th1 cell generation is favored and generation of Th2 cells is inhibited (1,2).

Human and rat IL-12 share 64% and 58% amino acid sequence homology in their p40 and p35 subunits, respectively. IL-12 apparently shows species specificity, with human IL-12 reportedly showing minimal activity in the rat system. The p40 subunit of IL-12 has been shown to have extensive amino acid sequence homology to the extracellular domain of the human IL-6 receptor while the p35 subunit shows distant but significant sequence similarity to IL-6 and G-CSF. These observations have led to the suggestion that IL-12 might have evolved from a cytokine/soluble receptor complex.

Both p40 and p35 are LPS-inducible in monocytes following IFN-γ pre-treatment. Although each subunit is independently controlled, the regulated expression of p35 determines the level of active IL-12 protein (3). Free p35 has not been detected in supernatant solutions of cultured cells expressing only p35 or both p35 and p40 mRNAs. In contrast, p40 is secreted in excess of IL-12 in cells

expressing both p35 and p40 mRNAs.

IL-12 activity is mediated through a high-affinity receptor composed of two subunits, designated beta 1 and beta 2. Of these two subunits, beta 2 is more restricted in its distribution, and regulation of its expression is likely a central mechanism by which IL-12 responsiveness is controlled. Studies with neutralizing anti-IL-12 antibodies and IL-12-deficient mice have suggested that endogenous IL-12 plays an important role in the normal host's defense against infection. IL-12 appears also to play an important role in the genesis of certain forms of immunopathology.

Methods

Materials Needed But Not Provided

- Microtiter plate reader (at or near 450 nm) with software
- Calibrated adjustable precision pipettes
- Distilled or deionized water
- Plate washer: automated or manual (squirt bottle, manifold dispenser, etc.)
- Glass or plastic tubes for diluting solutions
- Absorbent paper towels
- Calibrated beakers and graduated cylinders

Procedural Notes

1. When not in use, kit components should be refrigerated. All reagents should be warmed to room temperature before use.
2. **Microtiter plates should be allowed to come to room temperature before opening the foil bags.** Once the desired number of strips has been removed, immediately reseal the bag and store at 2 to 8°C to maintain plate integrity.
3. Samples should be collected in pyrogen/endotoxin-free tubes.
4. Samples should be frozen if not analyzed shortly after collection. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles of frozen samples. Thaw completely and mix well prior to analysis.
5. When possible, avoid use of badly hemolyzed or lipemic sera. If large amounts of particulate matter are present, centrifuge or filter prior to analysis.
6. It is recommended that all standards, controls and samples be run in duplicate.
7. When pipetting reagents, maintain a consistent order of addition from well-to-well. This ensures equal incubation times for all wells.
8. **Do not mix or interchange different reagent lots from various kit lots**.
9. Do not use reagents after the kit expiration date.
10. Absorbances should be read immediately, but can be read up to 2 hours after assay completion. For best results, keep plate covered in the dark.
11. In-house controls or kit controls, if provided, should be run with every assay. If control values fall outside pre-established ranges, the accuracy of the assay is suspect.
12. All residual wash liquid must be drained from the wells by efficient aspiration or by decantation followed by tapping the plate forcefully on absorbent paper. ***Never*** insert absorbent paper directly into the wells.
13. Because Stabilized *Chromogen* is light sensitive, avoid prolonged exposure to light. Avoid contact between chromogen and metal, or color may develop.

Directions for Washing

- **Incomplete washing will adversely affect the test outcome**. All washing must be performed with the *Wash Buffer Concentrate (25X)* provided.
- Washing can be performed manually as follows: completely aspirate the liquid from all wells by gently lowering an aspiration tip into the bottom of each well. Take care not to scratch the inside of the well. After aspiration, fill the wells with at least 0.4 ml of diluted *Wash Buffer*. Let soak for 15 to 30 seconds, then aspirate the liquid. Repeat as directed under Assay Procedure. After the washing procedure, the plate is inverted and tapped dry on absorbent tissue.
- Alternatively, the diluted *Wash Buffer* may be put into a squirt bottle. If a squirt bottle is used, flood the plate with the diluted *Wash Buffer*, completely filling all wells. After the washing procedure, the plate is inverted and tapped dry on absorbent tissue.
- If using an automated washer, follow the washing instructions carefully.

Preparation of Reagents

Dilution of Standard

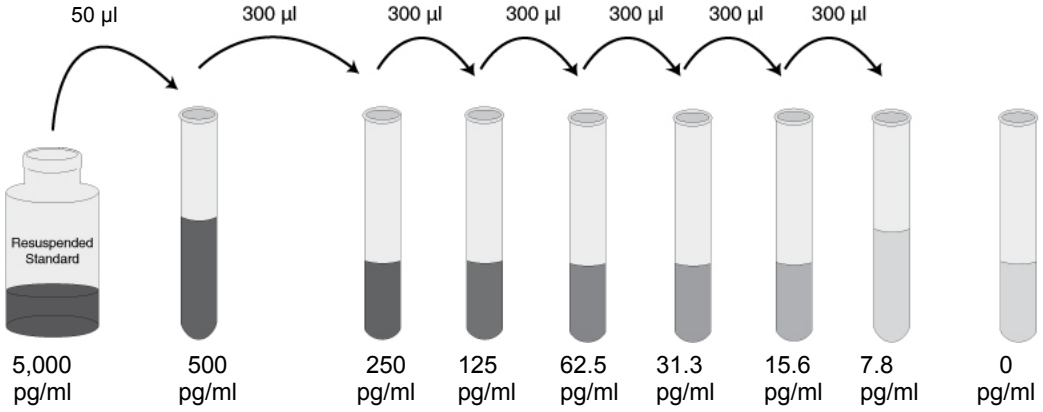
Note: Either glass or plastic tubes may be used for standard dilutions.

The Rt IL-12 p70 standard was calibrated against a highly purified baculovirus recombinant protein expressed in S*f*9 cells.

1. Reconstitute standard to 5,000 pg/ml with *Standard Diluent Buffer*. Refer to standard vial label for instructions. Swirl or mix gently and allow to sit for 10 minutes to ensure complete reconstitution. It is recommended that standard be used within 1 hour of reconstitution.
2. Add 0.05 ml of the reconstituted standard to a tube containing 0.450 ml *Standard Diluent Buffer*. Label as 500 pg/ml Rt IL-12 p70. Mix.
3. Add 0.250 ml of *Standard Diluent Buffer* to each of 6 tubes labeled 250, 125, 62.5, 31.3, 15.6 and 7.8 pg/ml Rt IL-12 p70.
4. Make serial dilutions of the standard as described in the following dilution diagram. Mix thoroughly between steps.

Note

Remaining reconstituted standard should be discarded. Return the *Standard Diluent Buffer* to the refrigerator.



Preparing SAV-HRP

Note: Prepare within 15 minutes of usage. The *Streptavidin-HRP* (100x concentrate) is in 50% glycerol, which is viscous. To ensure accurate dilution, allow *Streptavidin-HRP* concentrate to reach room temperature. Gently mix. Pipette *Streptavidin-HRP* concentrate slowly. Remove excess concentrate solution from pipette tip by gently wiping with clean absorbent paper.

1. Dilute 10 µl of this 100x concentrated solution with 1 ml of *Streptavidin-HRP Diluent* for each 8-well strip used in the assay. Label as Streptavidin-HRP Working Solution.
2. Return the unused *Streptavidin-HRP* concentrate to the refrigerator.

# of 8-Well Strips	Volume of Streptavidin-HRP Concentrate	Volume of Diluent
2	20 µl solution	2 ml
4	40 µl solution	4 ml
6	60 µl solution	6 ml
8	80 µl solution	8 ml
10	100 µl solution	10 ml
12	120 µl solution	12 ml

Dilution of Wash Buffer

1. Allow the *Wash Buffer Concentrate (25X)* to reach room temperature and mix to ensure that any precipitated salts have redissolved. Dilute 1 volume of the *Wash Buffer Concentrate (25X)* with 24 volumes of deionized water (e.g., 50 ml may be diluted up to 1.25 liters, 100 ml may be diluted up to 2.5 liters). Label as Working Wash Buffer.
2. Store both the concentrate and the Working Wash Buffer in the refrigerator. The diluted buffer should be used within 14 days.

Assay Procedure

Be sure to read the *Procedural Notes* section before carrying out the assay.

Allow all reagents to reach room temperature before use. Gently mix all liquid reagents prior to use.

Note: A standard curve must be run with each assay.

1. Determine the number of 8-well strips needed for the assay. Insert these in the frame(s) for current use. (Re-bag extra strips and frame. Store these in the refrigerator for future use.)
2. Add 100 µl of the *Standard Diluent Buffer* to the zero standard wells. Well(s) reserved for chromogen blank should be left empty.
3. Add 100 µl of standards, samples or controls to the appropriate microtiter wells. (See **Preparation of Reagents**.)
4. Add 50 µl of *Incubation Buffer* to the zero standard wells and to the wells containing standards, controls and serum/plasma samples, or 50 µl of *Standard Diluent Buffer* to the wells containing cell culture samples. Well(s) reserved for chromogen blank should be left empty. Tap gently on the side of the plate to mix.
5. Cover plate with *plate cover* and incubate for **2 hours at room temperature**.
6. Thoroughly aspirate or decant solution from wells and discard the liquid. Wash wells 4 times. See **Directions for Washing**.
7. Pipette 100 µl of biotinylated anti-IL-12 p70 (*Biotin Conjugate*) solution into each well except the chromogen blank(s). Tap gently on the side of the plate to mix.
8. Cover plate with *plate cover* and incubate for **1 hour at room temperature.**
9. Thoroughly aspirate or decant solution from wells and discard the liquid. Wash wells 4 times. See **Directions for Washing**.
10. Add 100 µl Streptavidin-HRP Working Solution to each well except the chromogen blank(s). See **Preparations of Reagents**.
11. Cover plate with the *plate cover* and incubate for **30 minutes at room temperature**.
12. Thoroughly aspirate or decant solution from wells and discard the liquid. Wash wells 4 times. See **Directions for Washing**.
13. Add 100 µl of *Stabilized Chromogen* to each well. The liquid in the wells will begin to turn blue.
14. Incubate for **30 minutes at room temperature and in the dark**. ***Note*: Do not cover the plate with aluminum foil or metalized mylar**. The incubation time for chromogen substrate is often determined by the microtiter plate reader used. Many plate readers have the capacity to record a maximum optical density (O.D.) of 2.0. The O.D. values should be monitored and the substrate reaction stopped before the O.D. of the positive wells exceeds the limits of the instrument. The O.D. values at 450 nm can only be read after the *Stop Solution* has been added to each well.
15. Add 100 µl of *Stop Solution* to each well. Tap side of plate gently to mix. The solution in the wells should change from blue to yellow.
16. Read the absorbance of each well at 450 nm having blanked the plate reader

against a chromogen blank composed of 100 µl each of *Stabilized Chromogen* and *Stop Solution*. Read the plate within 30 minutes after adding the *Stop Solution*.

17. Use a curve fitting software to generate the standard curve. A four parameter algorithm provides the best standard curve fit.
18. Read the concentrations for unknown samples and controls from the standard curve. (Samples producing signals greater than that of the highest standard should be diluted in *Standard Diluent Buffer* for serum/plasma samples or corresponding medium for cell culture samples and reanalyzed, multiplying the concentration found by the appropriate dilution factor.

Typical Data (Example)

The following data were obtained for the various standards over the range of 0 to 500 pg/ml Rt IL-12 p70.

Standard Rt IL-12 p70 (pg/ml)	Optical Density (450 nm)
500	2.64
250	1.53
125	0.88
62.5	0.50
31.3	0.31
15.6	0.19
7.8	0.13
0	0.06

Performance Characteristics

Sensitivity

The minimum detectable dose of Rt IL-12 p70 is < 2.5 pg/ml. This was determined by adding two standard deviations to the mean O.D. obtained when the zero standard was assayed 30 times.

Precision

1. Intra-Assay Precision

Samples of known Rt IL-12 p70 concentration were assayed in replicates of 22 to determine precision within an assay.

	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
Mean (pg/ml)	47	169	416
SD	1.8	5.1	13.1
%CV	3.8	3.0	3.2

SD = Standard Deviation
CV = Coefficient of Variation

2. Inter-Assay Precision

Samples were assayed 42 times in multiple assays to determine precision between assays.

	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
Mean (pg/ml)	49	166	392
SD	2.4	5.4	15.7
%CV	4.9	3.2	4.0

SD = Standard Deviation
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Linearity of Dilution

Rat serum or cell culture samples containing IL-12 p70 were serially diluted over the range of the assay in *Standard Diluent Buffer* or *RPMI containing 1% fetal bovine serum*, respectively. Linear regression analysis of samples versus the expected concentration yielded an average correlation coefficient of 0.99.

Dilution	Serum			Cell Culture		
	Measured (pg/ml)	Expected (pg/ml)	% Expected	Measured (pg/ml)	Expected (pg/ml)	% Expected
neat	367	-		359	-	
1/2	181	184	101	180	179.5	100
1/4	85	92	92	89.6	89.8	99.8
1/8	44.5	46	97	41.4	45	92
1/16	21.2	23	92	21.3	22.4	95

Recovery

The recovery of Rt IL-12 p70 added to rat serum averaged 97%. The recovery of Rt IL-12 p70 added to tissue culture medium containing 1% fetal bovine serum averaged 98%, while the recovery of Rt IL-12 p70 added to tissue culture medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum averaged 96%.

Specificity

Buffered solutions of a panel of substances at 50 ng/ml were assayed with the Invitrogen Rt IL-12 p70 kit. The following substances were tested and found to have no cross-reactivity: rat IL-1β, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-10, IL-18, MIP-2, TNF-α, CINC-2β, VEGF, IFN-γ, mouse IFN-γ; IL-12, IL-15, IL-18, VEGF; Swine IL-1β, IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, IL-15, IFN-γ, TNF-α and human IL-12.

A large excess of the p40 subunit of Rt IL-12 (100 ng/ml) did not interfere with the quantitation of Rt IL-12 p70.

Both *E. Coli* and baculovirus derived Rt IL-12 p70 were detectable with this kit.

Expected Values

Twelve pools of rat serum and one pool of EDTA plasma were evaluated in this assay. The values were below 2.5 pg/ml.

Limitations of the Procedure

Do not extrapolate the standard curve beyond the top standard point; the dose-response is non-linear in this region and accuracy is difficult to obtain. Dilute all samples above the top standard point with *Standard Diluent Buffer*; reanalyze these and multiply results by the appropriate dilution factor.

The influence of various drugs, aberrant sera (hemolyzed, hyperlipidemic, jaundiced, etc.) and the use of biological fluids in place of serum samples have not been thoroughly investigated. The rate of degradation of native Rt IL-12 p70 in various matrices has not been investigated. The immunoassay literature contains frequent references to aberrant signals seen with some sera, attributed to heterophilic antibodies. Though such samples have not been seen to date, the possibility of this occurrence cannot be excluded.

Appendix

Troubleshooting Guide

Elevated background	*Cause:* Insufficient washing and/or draining of wells after washing. Solution containing either biotin or SAV-HRP can elevate the background if residual is left in the well. *Solution:* Wash according to the protocol. Verify the function of automated plate washer. At the end of each washing step, invert plate on absorbent tissue on countertop and allow to completely drain and tap forcefully if necessary to remove residual fluid. *Cause:* Contamination of substrate solution with metal ions or oxidizing reagents. *Solution:* Use distilled/deionized water for dilution of wash buffer and use plastic equipment. DO NOT COVER plate with foil. *Cause:* Contamination of pipette, dispensing reservoir or substrate solution with SAV-HRP conjugate. *Solution:* Do not use chromogen that appears blue prior to dispensing onto the plate. Obtain new vial of chromogen. *Cause:* Incubation time is too long or incubation temperature is too high. *Solution:* Reduce incubation time and/or temperature.
Elevated sample/ standard ODs	*Cause:* Incorrect dilution of standard stock solution; intermediary dilutions not followed correctly. *Solution*: Follow the protocol instructions regarding the dilution of the standard. *Cause:* Incorrect dilution of the SAV-HRP conjugate. *Solution:* Warm solution of SAV-HRP concentrate to room temperature, draw up slowly and wipe tip with kim-wipe to remove excess. Dilute ONLY in SAV diluent provided. *Cause*: Incubation times extended. *Solution:* Follow incubation times outlined in protocol. *Cause:* Incubations carried out at 37°C when RT is dictated. *Solution:* Perform incubations at RT (= 25 ± 2°C) when instructed in the protocol.
Poor standard curve	*Cause:* Improper preparation of standard stock solution. *Solution:* Dilute lyophilized standard as directed by the vial label only with the standard diluent buffer or in a diluent that most closely matches the matrix of your sample. *Cause:* Reagents (lyophilized standard, standard diluent buffer, etc.) from different kits, either different cytokine or different lot number, were substituted. *Solution:* NEVER substitute any components from another kit. *Cause*: Errors in pipetting the standard or subsequent steps. *Solution*: Always dispense into wells quickly and in the same order. Do not touch the pipette tip on the individual microwells when dispensing. Use calibrated pipettes and the appropriate tips for that device.

Weak/no color develops	*Cause:* Reagents not at RT (25 ± 2°C) at start of assay. *Solution:* Allow ALL reagents to warm to RT prior to commencing assay. *Cause:* Incorrect storage of components, e.g., not stored at 2 to 8°C. *Solution:* Store all components exactly as directed in protocol and on labels. *Cause:* Working SAV-HRP solution made up longer than 15 minutes before use in assay. *Solution:* Use the diluted SAV-HRP within 15 minutes of dilution. *Cause:* TMB solution lost activity. *Solution 1:* The TMB solution should be clear before it is dispensed into the wells of the microtiter plate. An intense aqua blue color indicates that the product is contaminated. Please contact Technical Support if this problem is noted. To avoid contamination, we recommend that the quantity required for an assay be dispensed into a disposable trough for pipetting. Any TMB solution left in the trough should be discarded. *Solution 2:* Avoid contact of the TMB solution with items containing metal ions. *Cause:* Attempt to measure analyte in a matrix for which the ELISA assay has not been optimized. *Solution:* Please contact Technical Support for advice when using nonvalidated sample types. *Cause:* Wells have been scratched with pipette tip or washing tips. *Solution:* Use caution when dispensing and aspirating into and out of microwells.
Poor Precision	*Cause:* Errors in pipetting the standards, samples or subsequent steps. *Solution:* Always dispense into wells quickly and in the same order. Do not touch the pipette tip on the individual microwells when dispensing. Use calibrated pipettes and the appropriate tips for that device. Check for any leaks in the pipette tip. *Cause:* Repetitive use of tips for several samples or different reagents. *Solution:* Use fresh tips for each sample or reagent transfer. *Cause:* Wells have been scratched with pipette tip or washing tips. *Solution:* Use caution when dispensing and aspirating into and out of microwells.

Technical Support

Contact Us

For more troubleshooting tips, information, or assistance, please call, email, or go online to www.invitrogen.com/ELISA.

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Explanation of symbols

Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
	Catalogue Number		Batch code
	Research Use Only		*In vitro* diagnostic medical device
	Use by		Temperature limitation
	Manufacturer		European Community authorised representative
[-]	Without, does not contain	[+]	With, contains
	Protect from light		Consult accompanying documents
	Directs the user to consult instructions for use (IFU), accompanying the product.		

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Rat IL-12 p70 Assay Summary