Human IL-1RA ELISA Kit

Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay for quantitative detection of human IL-1RA

Catalog Numbers BMS2080 and BMS2080TEN

Pub. No. MAN0016527 **Rev.** A.0 (30)

⚠️ **WARNING!** Read the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and follow the handling instructions. Wear appropriate protective eyewear, clothing, and gloves. Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are available from **thermofisher.com/support**.

Product description

The Human IL-1RA ELISA Kit is an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for the quantitative detection of human IL-1RA.

Summary

Interleukin 1 receptor antagonist (IL-1RA) is a protein that appears to be related to the IL-1 family based on its similarities in amino acid sequence to both IL-1 beta and IL-1 alpha; similarities in gene structure; and collective gene localization. The human gene contains four exons and maps to chromosome 2q13-14. One exon in the vicinity of the two genes, encoding for the two molecular forms of IL-1.

IL-1 induces the release of prostaglandins, nitric oxide, and the synthesis of chemokines that promote cells of the immune system to the site of infection. IL-1RA binds to the IL-1 receptor and blocks IL-1 action through competitive inhibition. The binding of IL-1RA does not initiate such events because IL-1RA does not induce a signal on its own. The secretion of IL-1RA is apparently mediated by a classical signal sequence present at the N terminus of the protein that is encoded in the first exon of the IL-1RA gene. Neither IL-1 alpha nor IL-1 beta possesses such a sequence. The lack of homology between IL-1RA and IL-1 alpha or IL-1 beta near the N terminus may provide an explanation for the biosynthetic and functional differences between IL-1RA and the two IL-1 proteins.

The production of IL-1RA is stimulated by many substances including adherent IgG, other cytokines, and bacterial or viral components. Triggering IL-1 production through cytokines like IL-13, IL-6, IL-4, IFN gamma, GM-CSF, and TGF beta apparently triggers IL-1RA synthesis through elevated levels of IL-1. A number of cell types express IL-1RA, including monocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, Sertoli cells, hepatocytes, adipocytes, synovial fibroblasts, mast cells, pancreatic cells, and intestinal epithelial cells. IL-1RA is an important natural anti-inflammatory protein that when missing or just available in inadequate amounts plays a key role in several pathological conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, colitis, osteomyelitis, periostitis, and pustulosis. A polymorphism of the IL-1RA gene is reported to be associated with increased risk of osteoporotic fractures and gastric cancer.

In healthy tissue sufficient interleukin-1-receptor antagonist is produced to hold interleukin-1-mediated inflammation at bay. In cases of uncontrolled inflammation, there is an insufficient amount of interleukin-1-receptor antagonist to regulate the activity of interleukin-1.

For literature update refer to our website.

Principles of the test

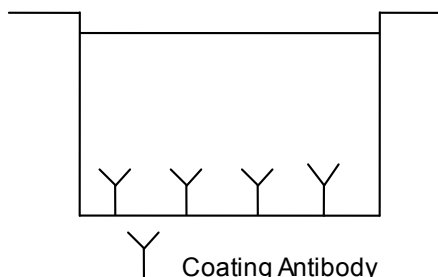An anti-human IL-1RA coating antibody is adsorbed onto microwells.

Fig. 1 Coated microwell.

Human IL-1RA present in the sample or standard binds to antibodies adsorbed to the microwells.
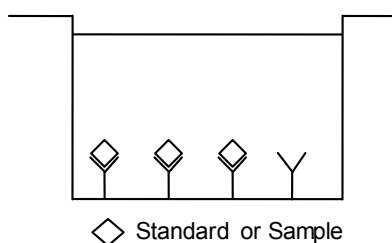

Fig. 2 First incubation.

Following incubation unbound biological components are removed during a wash step and biotin-conjugated anti-human IL-1RA antibody is added and binds to human IL-1RA captured by the first antibody.
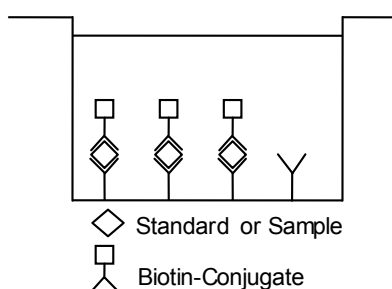

Fig. 3 Second incubation.

Following incubation unbound biotin-conjugated anti-human IL-1RA antibody is removed during a wash step. Streptavidin-HRP is added and binds to the biotin- conjugated anti-human IL-1RA antibody.
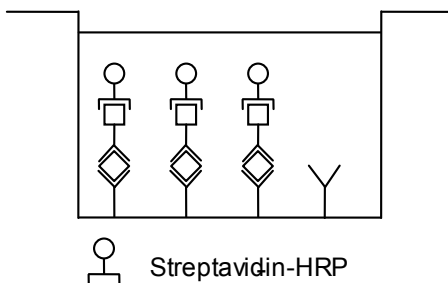
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Streptavidin-HRP

Fig. 4 Third incubation.

Following incubation unbound Streptavidin-HRP is removed during a wash step, and substrate solution reactive with HRP is added to the wells.
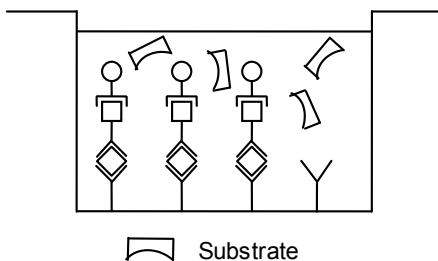

Substrate

Fig. 5 Fourth incubation.

A colored product is formed in proportion to the amount of human IL-1RA present in the sample or standard. The reaction is terminated by addition of acid and absorbance is measured at 450 nm. A standard curve is prepared from 7 human IL-1RA standard dilutions and human IL-1RA sample concentration determined.
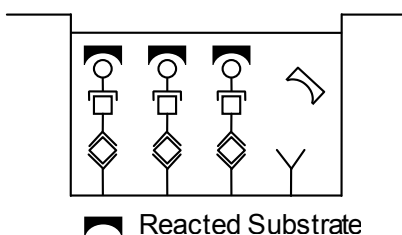

Reacted Substrate

Fig. 6 Stop reaction.

Reagents provided

Reagents for human IL-1RA ELISA BMS2080 (96 tests)

1 aluminum pouch with a Microwell Plate (12 strips of 8 wells each) coated with monoclonal polyclonal antibody to human IL-1RA

1 vial (70 µL) Biotin-Conjugate anti-human IL-1RA polyclonal antibody

1 vial (150 µL) Streptavidin-HRP

2 vials human IL-1RA Standard lyophilized, 14 ng/mL upon reconstitution

1 bottle (12 mL) Sample Diluent

1 vial (5 mL) Assay Buffer Concentrate 20x (PBS with 1% Tween™ 20, 10% BSA)

1 bottle (50 mL) Wash Buffer Concentrate 20x (PBS with 1% Tween™ 20)

1 vial (15 mL) Substrate Solution (tetramethyl-benzidine)

1 vial (15 mL) Stop Solution (1M Phosphoric acid)

4 Adhesive Films

Reagents for human IL-1RA ELISA BMS2080TEN (10x96 tests)

10 aluminum pouches with a Microwell Plate (12 strips of 8 wells each) coated with monoclonal antibody to human IL-1RA

10 vials (70 µL) Biotin-Conjugate anti-human IL-1RA polyclonal antibody

10 vials (150 µL) Streptavidin-HRP

10 vials human IL-1RA Standard lyophilized, 14 ng/mL upon reconstitution

7 vials (12 mL) Sample Diluent

2 vials (5 mL) Assay Buffer Concentrate 20x (PBS with 1% Tween™ 20, 10% BSA)

5 bottles (50 mL) Wash Buffer Concentrate 20x (PBS with 1% Tween™ 20)

10 vials (15 mL) Substrate Solution (tetramethyl-benzidine)

1 vial (100 mL) Stop Solution (1M Phosphoric acid)

20 Adhesive Films

Storage instructions – ELISA kit

Store kit reagents between 2° and 8°.

Immediately after use remaining reagents should be returned to cold storage (2–8°C), respectively. Expiry of the kit and reagents is stated on labels.

Expiry of the kit components can be guaranteed only if the components are stored properly, and if, in case of repeated use of one component, this reagent is not contaminated by the first handling.

Sample collection and storage instructions

Cell culture supernatant, serum, and, plasma (EDTA, citrate, heparin), were tested with this assay. Other biological samples might be suitable for use in the assay. Remove serum or plasma from the clot or cells as soon as possible after clotting and separation.

Pay attention to a possible *Hook Effect* due to high sample concentrations (see "Calculation of results" on page 5).

Samples containing a visible precipitate must be clarified prior to use in the assay. Do not use grossly hemolyzed or lipemic samples.

Samples should be aliquoted and must be stored frozen at –20°C to avoid loss of bioactive human IL-1RA. If samples are to be run within 24 hours, they may be stored at 2–8°C (for sample stability refer to "Sample stability" on page 6).

Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Prior to assay, the frozen sample should be brought to room temperature slowly and mixed gently.

Materials required but not provided

- 5 mL and 10 mL graduated pipettes
- 5 µL to 1000 µL adjustable single channel micropipettes with disposable tips
- 50 µL to 300 µL adjustable multichannel micropipette with disposable tips
- Multichannel micropipette reservoir
- Beakers, flasks, and cylinders necessary for preparation of reagents
- Device for delivery of wash solution (multichannel wash bottle or automatic wash system)
- Microwell strip reader capable of reading at 450 nm (620 nm as optional reference wave length)
- Glass-distilled or deionized water
- Statistical calculator with program to perform regression analysis

Precautions for use

- All reagents should be considered as potentially hazardous. We therefore recommend that this product is handled only by those persons who have been trained in laboratory techniques and that it is used in accordance with the principles of good laboratory practice. Wear suitable protective clothing such as laboratory overalls, safety glasses and gloves. Care should be taken to avoid contact with skin or eyes. In the case of contact with skin or eyes wash immediately with water. See material safety data sheet(s) and/or safety statement(s) for specific advice.
- Reagents are intended for research use only and are not for use in diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or other sources.
- Do not use kit reagents beyond expiration date on label.
- Do not expose kit reagents to strong light during storage or incubation.
- Do not pipet by mouth.
- Do not eat or smoke in areas where kit reagents or samples are handled.
- Avoid contact of skin or mucous membranes with kit reagents or samples.
- Rubber or disposable latex gloves should be worn while handling kit reagents or samples.
- Avoid contact of substrate solution with oxidizing agents and metal.
- Avoid splashing or generation of aerosols.
- To avoid microbial contamination or cross-contamination of reagents or samples that may invalidate the test, use disposable pipette tips and/or pipettes.
- Use clean, dedicated reagent trays for dispensing the conjugate and substrate reagent.
- Exposure to acid inactivates the conjugate.
- Glass-distilled water or deionized water must be used for reagent preparation.
- Substrate solution must be at room temperature prior to use.
- Decontaminate and dispose samples and all potentially contaminated materials as if they could contain infectious agents. The preferred method of decontamination is autoclaving for a minimum of 1 hour at 121.5°C.
- Liquid wastes not containing acid and neutralized waste may be mixed with sodium hypochlorite in volumes such that the final mixture contains 1.0% sodium hypochlorite. Allow 30 minutes for effective decontamination. Liquid waste containing acid must be neutralized prior to the addition of sodium hypochlorite.

Preparation of reagents

1. Buffer Concentrates should be brought to room temperature and should be diluted before starting the test procedure.
2. If crystals have formed in the Buffer Concentrates, warm them gently until they have completely dissolved.

Wash buffer (1x)

1. Pour entire contents (50 mL) of the Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x) into a clean 1,000 mL graduated cylinder. Bring to final volume of 1,000 mL with glass-distilled or deionized water. Mix gently to avoid foaming.
2. Transfer to a clean wash bottle and store at 2–25°C. The Wash Buffer (1x) is stable for 30 days.
3. Wash Buffer (1x) may also be prepared as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x) (mL)	Distilled Water (mL)
1–6	25	475
1–12	50	950

Assay buffer (1x)

1. Pour the entire contents (5 mL) of the Assay Buffer Concentrate (20x) into a clean 100 mL graduated cylinder. Bring to final volume of 100 mL with distilled water. Mix gently to avoid foaming.
2. Store at 2–8°C. The Assay Buffer (1x) is stable for 30 days.
3. Assay Buffer (1x) may also be prepared as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Assay Buffer Concentrate (20x) (mL)	Distilled Water (mL)
1–6	2.5	47.5
1–12	5.0	95.0

Biotin-Conjugate

Note: The Biotin-Conjugate should be used within 30 minutes after dilution.

Make a 1:100 dilution of the concentrated Biotin-Conjugate solution with Assay Buffer (1x) in a clean plastic tube as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Biotin-Conjugate (mL)	Assay Buffer (1x) (mL)
1–6	0.03	2.97
1–12	0.06	5.94

Streptavidin-HRP

Note: The Streptavidin-HRP should be used within 30 minutes after dilution.

Make a 1:100 dilution of the concentrated Streptavidin-HRP solution with Assay Buffer (1x) in a clean plastic tube as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Streptavidin-HRP (mL)	Assay Buffer (1x) (mL)
1–6	0.06	5.94
1–12	0.12	11.88

Human IL-1RA standard

1. Reconstitute human IL-1RA standard by addition of distilled water. Reconstitution volume is stated on the label of the standard vial.
2. Swirl or mix gently to insure complete and homogeneous solubilization (concentration of reconstituted standard = 14 ng/mL).
3. Allow the standard to reconstitute for 10–30 minutes. Mix well prior to making dilutions.
4. After usage remaining standard cannot be stored and has to be discarded.

External standard dilution

1. Label 7 tubes, one for each standard point: S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7.
2. Prepare 1:2 serial dilutions for the standard curve as follows: Pipet 225 µL of Sample Diluent into each tube.
3. Pipet 225 µL of reconstituted standard (concentration of standard = 14 ng/mL) into the first tube, labeled S1, and mix (concentration of standard 1 = 7 ng/mL).
4. Pipet 225 µL of this dilution into the second tube, labeled S2, and mix thoroughly before the next transfer.

5. Repeat serial dilutions 5 more times thus creating the points of the standard curve (see Figure 7).
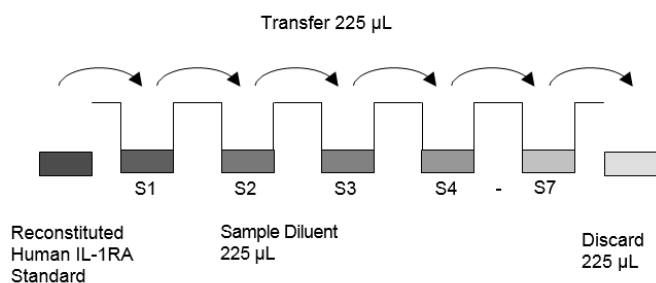
   Sample Diluent serves as blank

Transfer 225 µL

S1   S2   S3   S4   -   S7

Reconstituted Human IL-1RA Standard

Sample Diluent 225 µL

Discard 225 µL

Fig. 7 Dilute standards - tubes.

Test protocol

1. Determine the number of microwell strips required to test the desired number of samples plus appropriate number of wells needed for running blanks and standards. Each sample, standard, blank and optional control sample should be assayed in duplicate. Remove extra microwell strips from holder and store in foil bag with the desiccant provided at 2–8°C sealed tightly.

2. Wash the microwell strips twice with approximately 400 µL Wash Buffer per well with thorough aspiration of microwell contents between washes. Allow the Wash Buffer to sit in the wells for about 10–15 seconds before aspiration. Take care not to scratch the surface of the microwells.

   After the last wash step, empty wells and tap microwell strips on absorbent pad or paper towel to remove excess Wash Buffer. Use the microwell strips immediately after washing. Alternatively microwell strips can be placed upside down on a wet absorbent paper for not longer than 15 minutes. Do not allow wells to dry.

3. Standard dilution on the microwell plate (alternatively, the standard dilution can be prepared in tubes, see "External standard dilution" on page 3

   Add 100 µL of Sample Diluent in duplicate to all standard wells. Pipet 100 µL of prepared standard (see "Human IL-1RA standard" on page 3, concentration = 14,000.0 pg/mL) in duplicate into well A1 and A2 (see Table 1). Mix the contents of wells A1 and A2 by repeated aspiration and ejection (concentration of standard 1, S1 = 7,000.0 pg/mL), and transfer 100 µL to wells B1 and B2, respectively (see Figure 8). Take care not to scratch the inner surface of the microwells. Continue this procedure 5 times, creating two rows of human IL-1RA standard dilutions ranging from 7,000.0 to 109.0 pg/mL. Discard 100 µL of the contents from the last microwells (G1/G2) used.
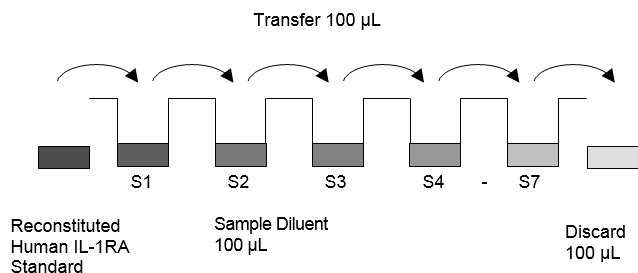

Transfer 100 µL

S1   S2   S3   S4   -   S7

Reconstituted Human IL-1RA Standard

Sample Diluent 100 µL

Discard 100 µL

Fig. 8 Dilute standards - microwell plate.

Table 1 Example of the arrangement of blanks, standards, and samples in the microwell strips.

	1	2	3	4
A	Standard 1 7,000.0 pg/mL	Standard 1 7,000.0 pg/mL	Sample 1	Sample 1
B	Standard 2 3,500.0 pg/mL	Standard 2 3,500.0 pg/mL	Sample 2	Sample 2
C	Standard 3 1,750.0 pg/mL	Standard 3 1,750.0 pg/mL	Sample 3	Sample 3
D	Standard 4 875.0 pg/mL	Standard 4 875.0 pg/mL	Sample 4	Sample 4
E	Standard 5 438.0 pg/mL	Standard 5 438.0 pg/mL	Sample 5	Sample 5
F	Standard 6 219.0 pg/mL	Standard 6 219.0 pg/mL	Sample 6	Sample 6
G	Standard 7 109.0 pg/mL	Standard 7 109.0 pg/mL	Sample 7	Sample 7
H	Blank	Blank	Sample 8	Sample 8

   In case of an external standard dilution (see "External standard dilution" on page 3), pipet 100 µL of these standard dilutions (S1–S7) in the standard wells according to Table 1.

4. Add 100 µL of Sample Diluent in duplicate to the blank wells.

5. Add 50 µL of Sample Diluent to the sample wells.

6. Add 50 µL of each sample in duplicate to the sample wells.

7. Prepare Biotin-Conjugate (see "Biotin-Conjugate" on page 3).

8. Add 50 µL of Biotin-Conjugate to all wells.

9. Cover with an adhesive film and incubate at room temperature (18–25°C) for 2 hours on a microplate shaker.

10. Prepare Streptavidin-HRP (see "Streptavidin-HRP" on page 3).

11. Remove adhesive film and empty wells. Wash microwell strips 4 times according to step 2. Proceed immediately to the next step.

12. Add 100 µL of diluted Streptavidin-HRP to all wells, including the blank wells.

13. Cover with an adhesive film and incubate at room temperature (18–25°C) for 1 hour on a microplate shaker.

14. Remove adhesive film and empty wells. Wash microwell strips 4 times according to step 2. Proceed immediately to the next step.

15. Pipet 100 µL of TMB Substrate Solution to all wells.

16. Incubate the microwell strips at room temperature (18–25°C) for about 30 minutes. Avoid direct exposure to intense light.

   The color development on the plate should be monitored and the substrate reaction stopped (see next step) before positive wells are no longer properly recordable. Determination of the ideal time period for color development has to be done individually for each assay.

   It is recommended to add the stop solution when the highest standard has developed a dark blue color. Alternatively the color development can be monitored by the ELISA reader at 620 nm. The substrate reaction should be stopped as soon as Standard 1 has reached an OD of 0.9–0.95.

17. Stop the enzyme reaction by quickly pipetting 100 µL of Stop Solution into each well. It is important that the Stop Solution is spread quickly and uniformly throughout the microwells to completely inactivate the enzyme. Results must be read immediately after the Stop Solution is added or within one hour if the microwell strips are stored at 2–8°C in the dark.

18. Read absorbance of each microwell on a spectro-photometer using 450 nm as the primary wave length (optionally 620 nm as the reference wave length; 610 nm to 650 nm is acceptable). Blank the plate reader according to the manufacturer's instructions by using the blank wells. Determine the absorbance of both the samples and the standards.

Note: In case of incubation without shaking the obtained O.D. values may be lower than indicated below. Nevertheless the results are still valid.

Calculation of results

- Calculate the average absorbance values for each set of duplicate standards and samples. Duplicates should be within 20% of the mean value.
- Create a standard curve by plotting the mean absorbance for each standard concentration on the ordinate against the human IL-1RA concentration on the abscissa. Draw a best fit curve through the points of the graph (a 5-parameter curve fit is recommended).
- To determine the concentration of circulating human IL-1RA for each sample, first find the mean absorbance value on the ordinate and extend a horizontal line to the standard curve. At the point of intersection, extend a vertical line to the abscissa and read the corresponding human IL-1RA concentration.
- If instructions in this protocol have been followed, samples have been diluted 1:2 (50 µL sample + 50 µL Sample Diluent) and the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor (x 2).
- Calculation of samples with a concentration exceeding standard 1 may result in incorrect, low human IL-1RA levels (Hook Effect). Such samples require further external predilution according to expected human IL-1RA values with Sample Diluent in order to precisely quantitate the actual human IL-1RA level.
- It is suggested that each testing facility establishes a control sample of known human IL-1RA concentration and runs this additional control with each assay. If the values obtained are not within the expected range of the control, the assay results may be invalid.
- A representative standard curve is shown in Figure 9.

  Note: Do not use this standard curve to derive test results. Each laboratory must prepare a standard curve for each group of microwell strips assayed.
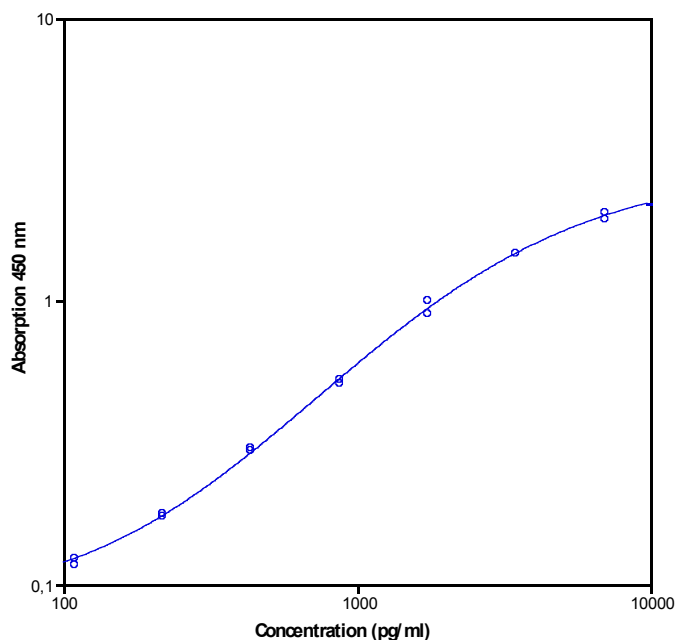

Fig. 9 Representative standard curve for Human IL-1RA ELISA Kit. Human IL-1RA was diluted in serial 2-fold steps in Sample Diluent.

Table 2   Typical data using the Human IL-1RA ELISA Kit (measuring wavelength of 450 nm, reference wavelength of 620 nm).

Standard	Human IL-1RA concentration (pg/mL)	O.D. at 450 nm	Mean O.D. at 450 nm	C.V. (%)
1	7,000.0	2.060 1.960	2.010	2.5
2	3,500.0	1.479 1.479	1.479	0.0
3	1,750.0	0.908 1.002	0.955	5.0
4	875.0	0.515 0.527	0.521	1.1
5	437.5	0.298 0.305	0.301	1.1
6	218.8	0.179 0.175	0.177	1.2
7	109.4	0.124 0.117	0.120	3.0
Blank	0.00	0.061 0.060	0.061	0.8

The OD values of the standard curve may vary according to the conditions of assay performance (e.g., operator. pipetting technique, washing technique, or temperature effects). Furthermore, shelf life of the kit may affect enzymatic activity and thus color intensity. Values measured are still valid.

Limitations

- Because exact conditions may vary from assay to assay, a standard curve must be established for every run.
- Bacterial or fungal contamination of either screen samples or reagents or cross-contamination between reagents may cause erroneous results.
- Disposable pipette tips, flasks, or glassware are preferred. Reusable glassware must be washed and thoroughly rinsed of all detergents before use.
- Improper or insufficient washing at any stage of the procedure will result in either false positive or false negative results. Empty wells completely before dispensing fresh wash solution, fill with Wash Buffer as indicated for each wash cycle, and do not allow wells to sit uncovered or dry for extended periods.
- The use of radioimmunotherapy has significantly increased the number of patients with human anti-mouse IgG antibodies (HAMA). HAMA may interfere with assays utilizing murine monoclonal antibodies leading to both false positive and false negative results. Serum samples containing antibodies to murine immunoglobulins can still be analyzed in such assays when murine immunoglobulins (serum, ascitic fluid, or monoclonal antibodies of irrelevant specificity) are added to the sample.

Performance characteristics

Sensitivity

The limit of detection of human IL-1RA defined as the analyte concentration resulting in an absorbance significantly higher than that of the dilution medium (mean plus 2 standard deviations) was determined to be 30 pg/mL (mean of 6 independent assays).

Reproducibility

Intra-assay

Reproducibility within the assay was evaluated in 3 independent experiments. Each assay was carried out with 6 replicates of 8 serum samples containing different concentrations of human IL-1RA. Two standard curves were run on each plate. Data below show the mean human IL-1RA concentration and the coefficient of variation for each

sample. The calculated overall intra-assay coefficient of variation was 7.2%.

Table 3   The mean human IL-1RA concentration and the coefficient of variation for each sample.

Sample	Experiment	Mean concentration (pg/mL)	Coefficient of variation (%)
1	1	3,013.01	4.5
	2	3,216.53	6.7
	3	3,583.88	4.9
2	1	2,175.99	12.2
	2	2,144.66	7.2
	3	2,274.87	7.9
3	1	1,541.52	11.0
	2	1,667.27	6.5
	3	1,474.23	9.4
4	1	1,021.30	13.0
	2	1,220.31	7.7
	3	861.50	5.4
5	1	5,146.88	8.2
	2	5,360.40	5.1
	3	4,889.97	5.7
6	1	2,947.58	4.3
	2	3,018.50	7.2
	3	2,748.80	4.5
7	1	841.22	7.5
	2	904.05	5.3
	3	756.11	4.9
8	1	804.39	3.7
	2	797.33	11.2
	3	733.27	8.7

Inter-assay

Assay-to-assay reproducibility within one laboratory was evaluated in 3 independent experiments. Each assay was carried out with 6 replicates of 8 serum samples containing different concentrations of human IL-1RA. Two standard curves were run on each plate. Data below show the mean human IL-1RA concentration and the coefficient of variation calculated on 18 determinations of each sample. The calculated overall inter-assay coefficient of variation was 7.4%.

Table 4   The mean human IL-1RA concentration and the coefficient of variation of each sample.

Sample	Mean concentration (pg/mL)	Coefficient of variation (%)
1	3,271.14	8.8
2	2,198.51	3.1
3	1,561.01	6.3
4	1,034.37	17.4
5	5,132.42	4.6
6	2,904.96	4.8
7	833.80	8.9
8	778.33	5.0

Spike recovery

The spike recovery was evaluated by spiking 3 levels of human IL-1RA into serum, plasma, and cell culture supernatant. Recoveries were determined with 4 replicates each. The unspiked serum, plasma, and cell culture supernatant was used as blank in these experiments.

Sample matrix	Spike high (%)		Spike medium (%)		Spike low (%)	
	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean
Serum	70–94	80	66–96	77	69–106	91
Plasma (EDTA)	44–59	49	40–47	43	40–63	51
Plasma (citrate)	75–59	75	59–91	67	79– 89	85
Plasma (heparin)	76–80	80	49–93	67	111–120	115
Cell culture supernatant	–	75	–	110	–	116

Dilution parallelism

Serum, plasma, and cell culture supernatant samples with different levels of human IL-1RA were analyzed at serial 2-fold dilutions with 4 replicates each.

Sample matrix	Recovery of exp. val. (%)	
	Range	Mean
Serum	86–101	93
Plasma (EDTA)	98–107	110
Plasma (citrate)	64–103	87
Cell culture supernatant	–	104

Sample stability

Freeze-thaw stability

Aliquots of serum samples were stored at –20°C and thawed 3 times, and the human IL-1RA levels determined. There was no significant loss of human IL-1RA immunoreactivity detected by freezing and thawing.

Storage stability

Aliquots of serum samples were stored at –20°C, 2–8°C, room temperature, and at 37°C, and the human IL-1RA level determined after 24 hours. There was no significant loss of human IL-1RA immunoreactivity detected during storage at –20°C, 4°C, and room temperature under the above conditions.

A significant loss of human IL-1RA immunoreactivity was detected during storage at 37°C after 24 hours.

Specificity

The assay detects both natural and recombinant human IL-1RA. The cross-reactivity and interference of circulating factors of the immune system was evaluated by spiking these proteins at physiologically relevant concentrations into a human IL-1RA positive sample. No cross-reactivity or interference was detected.

Expected values

Panels of 40 serum as well as EDTA, citrate, and heparin plasma samples from randomly selected healthy donors (males and females) were tested for human IL-1RA. The levels measured may vary with the sample collection used. Elevated human IL-1RA levels depend on the type of immunological disorder.

Sample matrix	Number of samples evaluated	Range (pg/mL)	Detectable (%)	Mean of detectable (pg/mL)
Serum	40	78–970	100	439
Plasma (EDTA)	40	nd[1]–515	75	130
Plasma (citrate)	40	nd–1,496	97.5	325
Plasma (heparin)	40	nd–1,811	95	449

[1] nd = nondetectable. samples measured below the lowest standard point are considered to be nondetectable.

Reagent preparation summary

Wash buffer (1x)

Add Wash Buffer Concentrate 20x (50 mL) to 950 mL distilled water.

Number of Strips	Wash Buffer Concentrate (mL)	Distilled Water (mL)
1–6	25	475
1–12	50	950

Assay buffer (1x)

Add Assay Buffer Concentrate 20x (5 mL) to 95 mL distilled water.

Number of Strips	Assay Buffer Concentrate (mL)	Distilled Water (mL)
1–6	2.5	47.5
1–12	5.0	95.0

Biotin-Conjugate

Make a 1:100 dilution of Biotin-Conjugate in Assay Buffer (1x):

Number of Strips	Biotin-Conjugate (mL)	Assay Buffer (1x) (mL)
1–6	0.03	2.97
1–12	0.06	5.94

Streptavidin-HRP

Make a 1:100 dilution of Streptavidin-HRP in Assay Buffer (1x):

Number of Strips	Streptavidin-HRP (mL)	Assay Buffer (1x) (mL)
1–6	0.06	5.97
1–12	0.12	11.94

Human IL-1RA standard

Reconstitute lyophilized human IL-1RA standard with distilled water. (Reconstitution volume is stated on the label of the standard vial.)

Test protocol summary

Note: If instructions in this protocol have been followed, samples have been diluted 1:2 (50 µL sample + 50 µL Sample Diluent) and the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor (x 2).

1. Determine the number of microwell strips required.
2. Wash microwell strips twice with Wash Buffer.

3. Standard dilution on the microwell plate: Add 100 µL Sample Diluent, in duplicate, to all standard wells. Pipette 100 µL prepared standard into the first wells and create standard dilutions by transferring 100 µL from well to well. Discard 100 µL from the last wells.

   Alternatively, external standard dilution in tubes (see "External standard dilution" on page 3): Pipette 100 µL of these standard dilutions in the microwell strips.
4. Add 100 µL Sample Diluent in duplicate, to the blank wells.
5. Add 50 µL Sample Diluent to sample wells.
6. Add 50 µL sample in duplicate, to designated sample wells.
7. Prepare Biotin-Conjugate.
8. Add 50 µL Biotin-Conjugate to all wells.
9. Cover microwell strips and incubate 2 hours at room temperature (18° to 25°C).
10. Prepare Streptavidin-HRP.
11. Empty and wash microwell strips 4 times with Wash Buffer.
12. Add 100 µL diluted Streptavidin-HRP to all wells.
13. Cover microwell strips and incubate 1 hour at room temperature (18° to 25°C).
14. Empty and wash microwell strips 4 times with Wash Buffer.
15. Add 100 µL of TMB Substrate Solution to all wells.
16. Incubate the microwell strips for about 30 minutes at room temperature (18° to 25°C).
17. Add 100 µL Stop Solution to all wells.
18. Blank microwell reader and measure color intensity at 450 nm.

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