

KIT COMPONENTS

Component	Amount
96-well plate precoated with anti-human VEGF antibody	1 Plate
Protein Standard: Lyophilized recombinant human VEGF	2 tubes, 10 ng/tube
Sample Diluent Buffer	30 ml
Biotinylated Antibody (Anti-human VEGF)	130 μ l (100x)
Antibody Diluent Buffer	12ml
Avidin-Biotin-Peroxidase Complex (ABC) Solution	130 μ l (100x)
ABC Diluent Buffer	12 ml
Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) Color Developing Agent	10 ml
TMB Stop Solution	10 ml

Storage

Store at 4°C. Cell Applications, Inc. recommends using the kit within 6 months of order.

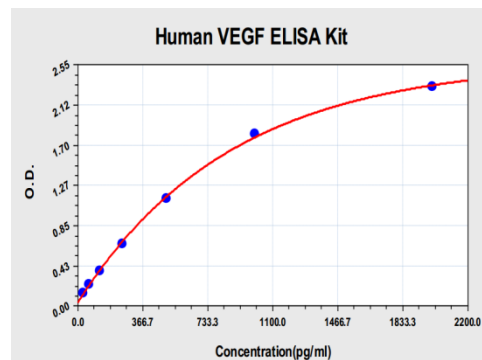


Figure 1: VEGF Standard Curve. Using the Human VEGF ELISA Kit, O.D. data was graphed against VEGF protein concentration. The TMB reaction was incubated at 37° C for 25min.

BACKGROUND

Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF, also designated as VEGF-A) is the founding member of a family of homodimeric glycoproteins that are structurally related to the platelet-derived growth factors (PDGF); this family also includes placenta growth factor (PlGF), VEGF-B, VEGF-C, VEGF-D and VEGF-E. This VEGF family of proteins binds selectively with different affinities to at least five distinct receptors. Three of them belong to the superfamily of receptor tyrosine kinases and are termed VEGF receptor-1 (VEGFR-1), also called Flt-1 (fms-like tyrosine kinase 1), VEGFR-2, also called KDR (kinase insert-domain containing receptor) in humans, and Flk-1 (fetal liver kinase 1) in rodents, respectively, as well as VEGFR-3, also called Flt-4. The fourth and fifth receptors are neuropilin-1 and neuropilin-2.¹ VEGF is a highly specific mitogen for vascular endothelial cells. Five VEGF isoforms of 121, 145, 165, 189 and 206 amino acids (VEGF121-206) are generated as a result of alternative splicing from a single VEGF gene. These isoforms differ in their molecular mass and in biological properties such as their ability to bind to cell-surface heparan-sulfate proteoglycans. The expression of VEGF is potentiated in response to hypoxia, by activated oncogenes, and by a variety of cytokines. VEGF induces endothelial cell proliferation, promotes cell migration, and inhibits apoptosis. In vivo VEGF induces angiogenesis as well as permeabilization of blood vessels, and plays a central role in the regulation of vasculogenesis.² Deregulated VEGF expression contributes to the development of solid tumors by promoting tumor angiogenesis and to the etiology of several additional diseases that are characterized by abnormal angiogenesis. Consequently, inhibition of VEGF signaling abrogates the development of a wide variety of tumors.³

Reference

1. Kurebayashi J et al.: Jpn J Cancer Res. 90:977-81, 1999.
2. Shinkaruk S et al.: Curr Med Chem Anticancer Agents. 3:95-117, 2003.
3. Rini BI: Oncologist 10:191-197,2005.

ELISA OVERVIEW

Cell Applications ELISA Kits are based on standard sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay technology. Freshly prepared standards, samples, and solutions are recommended for best results.

1. Prepare test samples.
2. Prepare a protein standard of the target protein.
3. Add test samples and standards to the pre-coated 96-well plate. Do not wash.
4. Add biotinylated detection antibodies. Wash.
5. Add Avidin-Biotin-Peroxidase Complex (ABC) Solution. Wash.
6. Add Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) Color Developing Agent, containing HRP substrate.
7. Add TMB Stop Solution
8. Subject the plate to analysis.

NOTES:

- Before using the kit, quick spin tubes to bring down all solution to the bottom of tube.
- Duplicate assay wells are recommended for both standard and sample testing.
- Do not let the 96-well plate dry, this will lead to inactivation of plate components.
- When diluting samples and reagents, ensure that they are mixed completely and evenly.
- Pre-warm diluted ABC and TMB solutions at 37°C for 30 min before use to avoid variable temperature effects.
- For washes, use TBS or PBS. Do not touch well walls.
- A protein standard is included in the kit. A protein standard detection curve should be generated with each experiment, no more than 2 hours prior to the experiment.
- The user will determine sample dilution fold by estimation of target protein amount in samples.

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PROTOCOL

I. Plate Washing

Discard the solution in the plate without touching the side walls. Blot the plate onto paper towels or other absorbent material. Soak each well with at least 0.3 ml PBS or TBS buffer for 1–2 minutes. Repeat this process two additional times for a total of three washes.

II. Preparation of Test Samples

Test Sample Processing

- **Cell culture supernate, tissue lysate or body fluids:** Remove particulates by centrifugation.
- **Serum:** Allow the serum to clot in a serum separator tube (about 2 hours) at room temperature. Centrifuge at approximately 1000 X g for 10 min.
- **Plasma:** Collect plasma using heparin, EDTA as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge for 10 min at 1000 x g within 30 min of collection. Analyze immediately or aliquot and store frozen at -20°C.

Sample Dilution Guideline

Estimate the concentration of the target protein in the sample and select a proper dilution factor such that the diluted target protein concentration falls within the standard curve range. Depending on the sample, several trial dilutions may be necessary. Dilute the sample using the provided diluent buffer, mixing well. Suggested working dilutions of samples are as follows:

Target Protein Concentration Range	Sample Working Dilution	Sample Vol.	Diluent Buffer Vol.
20-200ng/ml	1:100	1 µl	99 µl
2-20 ng/ml	1:10	10 µl	90 µl
31.2-2000 pg/ml	1:2	50 µl	50 µl
≤31.2 pg/ml	n/a	100µl	n/a

If samples will be assayed within 24 hours, store at 2-8°C. For long-term storage, aliquot and freeze samples at -20°C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

III. Preparation of Reagents

Reconstitution of the Standard

The standard solutions should be prepared no more than 2 hours prior to the experiment. Two tubes of the standard are included in each kit. Use one tube for each experiment.

1. 10,000pg/ml of human VEGF standard solution: Add 1 ml sample diluent buffer into one tube, keep the tube at room temperature for 10 min and mix thoroughly.
2. 2000pg/ml of human VEGF standard solution: Add 0.2 ml of the above 10ng/ml VEGF standard solution into 0.8 ml sample diluent buffer and mix thoroughly.
3. 1000pg/ml→31.2pg/ml of human VEGF standard solutions: Label 6 Eppendorf tubes with 1000pg/ml, 500pg/ml, 250pg/ml, 125pg/ml, 62.5pg/ml, 31.2pg/ml, respectively. Aliquot 0.3 ml of the sample diluent buffer into each tube. Add 0.3 ml of the above 2000pg/ml VEGF standard solution into 1st tube and mix. Transfer 0.3 ml from 1st tube to 2nd tube and mix. Transfer 0.3 ml from 2nd tube to 3rd tube and mix, and so on.

Preparation of Biotinylated Antibody Working Solution

The solution should be prepared no more than 2 hours prior to the experiment.

1. The total volume should be: 0.1ml/well x (the number of wells). (Allowing 0.1-0.2 ml more than total volume)
2. Biotinylated antibody should be diluted in 1:100 with the antibody diluent buffer and mixed thoroughly.

Preparation of the Avidin-Biotin-Peroxidase Complex (ABC) Working Solution

The solution should be prepared no more than 1 hour prior to the experiment.

1. The total volume should be: 0.1ml/well x (the number of wells). (Allowing 0.1-0.2 ml more than total volume)
2. Avidin- Biotin-Peroxidase Complex (ABC) should be diluted in 1:100 with the ABC dilution buffer and mixed thoroughly.

IV. ELISA

The ABC working solution and TMB color developing agent must be kept warm at 37°C for 30 min before use. When diluting samples and reagents, they must be mixed completely and evenly. Standard VEGF detection curve should be prepared for each experiment. The user will decide sample dilution fold by crude estimation of VEGF amount in samples.

1. Aliquot 0.1ml per well of the 2000pg/ml, 1000pg/ml, 500pg/ml, 250pg/ml, 125pg/ml, 62.5pg/ml, 31.2pg/ml human VEGF standard solutions into the precoated 96-well plate. Add 0.1ml of the sample diluent buffer into the control well (Zero well). Add 0.1ml of each properly diluted sample of human serum, plasma, body fluids, tissue lysates or cell culture supernatants to each empty well. **See "Sample Dilution Guideline"** above for details. We recommend that each human VEGF standard solution and each sample is measured in duplicate.
2. Seal the plate with the cover and incubate at 37°C for 90 min.
3. Remove the cover, discard plate content, and blot the plate onto paper towels or other absorbent material. Do NOT let the wells completely dry at any time.
4. Add 0.1ml of biotinylated anti-human VEGF antibody working solution into each well and incubate the plate at 37°C for 60 min.
5. Wash plate 3 times with 0.01M TBS or 0.01M PBS, and each time let washing buffer stay in the wells for 1 min. Discard the washing buffer and blot the plate onto paper towels or other absorbent material. See **"Plate Washing."** For automated washing, aspirate all wells and wash THREE times with PBS or TBS buffer, overfilling wells with PBS or TBS buffer. Blot the plate onto paper towels or other absorbent material.
6. Add 0.1ml of prepared ABC working solution into each well and incubate the plate at 37°C for 30 min.
7. Wash plate 5 times with 0.01M TBS or 0.01M PBS, and each time let washing buffer stay in the wells for 1-2 min. Discard the washing buffer and blot the plate onto paper towels or other absorbent material.(See Step 5 for plate washing method).
8. Add 90 µl of prepared TMB color developing agent into each well and incubate plate at 37°C in dark for 25-30 min (**Note:** For reference only, the optimal incubation time should be determined by end user. And the shades of blue can be seen in the wells with the four most concentrated human VEGF standard solutions; the other wells show no obvious color).
9. Add 0.1ml of prepared TMB stop solution into each well. The color changes into yellow immediately.
10. Read the O.D. absorbance at 450nm in a microplate reader within 30 min after adding the stop solution.

V. Calculating Protein Concentration

- For all wells, determine O.D.450(Relative):

$$\text{O.D.450(Relative)} = \text{O.D.450(Reading)} - \text{O.D.450(Blank)}$$
- Plot the standard curve:
 Plot O.D.450(Relative) of each standard solution (Y) vs. the respective concentration of the standard solution (X). See **Figure 1** for a typical standard curve.
- The target protein concentration in samples can be interpolated from the standard curve. Multiply the interpolated concentration by the dilution factor to obtain the target protein concentration in the sample.

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