C-reactive Protein (Feline) ELISA

For the quantitative determination of CRP in feline biological samples.

Please see Appendix A for Reference Serum information.

For Research Use Only. Not For Use In Diagnostic Procedures.

Catalog Number: 41-CRPFE-E01
Size: 96 wells
Version: 3 2.1 - ALPCO August 27, 2012
INTENDED USE

The CRP test kits are a highly sensitive two-site enzyme linked immunoassay (ELISA) for measuring CRP in feline biological samples.

INTRODUCTION

Acute phase proteins are plasma proteins which increase in concentration following infection, inflammation or trauma. The first acute phase protein to be recognized was discovered in felines by Tillet and Frances in 19301. This C-reactive protein (CRP) is so named because it is able to effect precipitation of somatic C-polysaccharide of *Streptococcus pneumonia*. CRP is an alpha globulin with a mass of 110,000 to 140,000 daltons, and composed of five identical subunits, which are non-covalently assembled as a cyclic pentamer. It is synthesized in the liver and, in felines, is normally present as a trace constituent of serum at levels less that 0.3 mg/dl. The levels in serum rise quickly following acute tissue damage and also fall very rapidly once the stimulus is removed. It has been proposed that the function of CRP is to aid in complement activation, influence phagocytic cell function, and augment cell mediated cytotoxicity. Investigations over the past few years have shown that quantification of these in plasma or serum can provide valuable diagnostic information in the detection, prognosis, and monitoring of disease not only in felines, but in companion animals and farm herds as well2.

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

The principle of the double antibody sandwich ELISA is represented in Figure 1. In this assay the CRP present in samples reacts with the anti-CRP antibodies which have been adsorbed to the surface of polystyrene microtiter wells. After the removal of unbound proteins by washing, anti-CRP antibodies conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP) are added. These enzyme-labeled antibodies form complexes with the previously bound CRP. Following another washing step, the enzyme bound to the immunosorbent is assayed by the addition of a chromogenic substrate, 3,3′,5,5′-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB). The quantity of bound enzyme varies directly with the concentration of CRP in the sample tested; thus, the absorbance, at 450 nm, is a measure of the concentration of CRP in the test sample. The quantity of CRP in the test sample can be interpolated from the standard curve constructed from the standards, and corrected for sample dilution.

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| Anti-CRP Antibodies Bound To Solid Phase |
| Standards and Samples Added |
| CRP*Anti-CRP Complexes Formed |
| Unbound Sample Proteins Removed |
| Anti-CRP-HRP Conjugate Added |
| Anti-CRP-HRP * CRP * Anti-CRP Complexes Formed |
| Unbound Anti-CRP-HRP Removed |
| Chromogenic Substrate Added |
| Determine Bound Enzyme Activity |

Figure 1.
REAGENTS  
(Quantities sufficient for 96 determinations)

1. DILUENT CONCENTRATE (Assay Buffer)
   One bottle containing 50 ml of a 5X concentrated diluent running buffer.

2. WASH SOLUTION CONCENTRATE
   One bottle containing 50 ml of a 20X concentrated wash solution.

3. ENZYME-ANTIBODY CONJUGATE 100X
   One vial containing 150 µl of affinity purified anti-feline CRP antibody conjugated with horseradish peroxidase in a stabilizing buffer.

4. CHROMOGEN-SUBSTRATE SOLUTION
   One vial containing 12 ml of 3,3',5,5'-tetramethybenzidine (TMB) and hydrogen peroxide in citric acid buffer at pH 3.3.

5. STOP SOLUTION
   One vial containing 12 ml 0.3 M sulfuric acid. **WARNING:** Avoid contact with skin.

6. ANTI-FELINE CRP ELISA MICROPLATE
   Twelve removable eight (8) well micro well strips in well holder frame. Each well is coated with affinity purified anti-feline CRP.

7. FELINE CRP CALIBRATOR
   One vial containing a feline CRP calibrator.

REAGENT PREPARATION

1. DILUENT CONCENTRATE
   The Diluent Solution supplied is a 5X concentrate and must be diluted 1:5 with distilled or deionized water (1 part buffer concentrate, 4 parts dH2O).

2. WASH SOLUTION CONCENTRATE
   The Wash Solution supplied is a 20X Concentrate and must be diluted 1:20 with distilled or deionized water (1 part buffer concentrate, 19 parts dH2O). Crystal formation in the concentrate is not uncommon when storage temperatures are low. Warming of the concentrate to 30-35°C before dilution can dissolve crystals.

3. ENZYME-ANTIBODY CONJUGATE
   Calculate the required amount of working conjugate solution for each microtiter plate test strip by adding 10 µl Enzyme-Antibody Conjugate to 990 µl of 1X Diluent for each test strip to be used for testing. Mix uniformly, but gently. Avoid foaming.

4. CHROMOGEN-SUBSTRATE SOLUTION
   Ready to use as supplied.

5. STOP SOLUTION
   Ready to use as supplied.

6. ANTI-FELINE CRP ELISA MICRO PLATE
   Ready to use as supplied. Unseal Microtiter Pouch and remove plate from pouch. Remove all strips and wells that will not be used in the assay and place back in pouch and re-seal along with desiccant.
7. FELINE CRP CALIBRATOR

The Feline CRP Calibrator should be aliquoted out and stored frozen. It is at a concentration of 85.07 µg/ml and needs to be diluted in 1X diluent according to the chart below for each run. **Feline CRP standards need to be prepared immediately prior to use (see chart below).** Mix well between each step. Avoid foaming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>ng/ml</th>
<th>Volume added to 1x Diluent</th>
<th>Volume of 1x Diluent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>850.7</td>
<td>5 µl Feline CRP Calibrator</td>
<td>495 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>150 µl standard A</td>
<td>488 µl</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300 µl standard 7</td>
<td>300 µl</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>300 µl standard 6</td>
<td>300 µl</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>300 µl standard 5</td>
<td>300 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>300 µl standard 4</td>
<td>300 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>300 µl standard 3</td>
<td>300 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.125</td>
<td>300 µl standard 2</td>
<td>300 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>600 µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STORAGE AND STABILITY**

The expiration date for the package is stated on the box label.

1. **DILUENT**
   The 5X Diluent Concentrate is stable until the expiration date. The 1X working solution is stable for at least one week from the date of preparation. Both solutions should be stored at 4-8°C.

2. **WASH SOLUTION**
   The 20X Wash Solution Concentrate is stable until the expiration date. The 1X working solution is stable for at least one week from the date of preparation. Both solutions can be stored at room temperature (16-25°C) or at 4-8°C.

3. **ENZYME-ANTIBODY CONJUGATE**
   Undiluted horseradish peroxidase anti-CRP conjugate should be stored at 4-8°C and **diluted immediately prior to use**. The working conjugate solution is stable for up to 8 hours.

4. **CHROMOGEN-SUBSTRATE SOLUTION**
   The Substrate Solution should be stored at 4-8°C and is stable until the expiration date.

5. **STOP SOLUTION**
   The Stop Solution should be stored at 4-8°C and is stable until the expiration date.

6. **ANTI-FELINE CRP ELISA MICROPLATE**
   Anti-feline CRP coated wells are stable until the expiration date, and should be stored at 4-8°C in sealed foil pouch with desiccant pack.

7. **FELINE CRP CALIBRATOR**
   Long Term Storage: Upon receipt, aliquot the calibrator and store them frozen. They will be stable until expiration date. Short Term Storage: the calibrator is stable for up to 14 days at 4°C. The working standard solutions should be prepared immediately prior to use and are stable for up to 8 hours.

**INDICATIONS OF INSTABILITY**
If the test is performing correctly, the results observed with the standard solutions should be within 20% of the expected values.
SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING

Blood should be collected by venipuncture. The serum should be separated from the cells after clot formation by centrifugation. For plasma samples, blood should be collected into a container with an anticoagulant and then centrifuged. Care should be taken to minimize hemolysis; excessive hemolysis can impact your results. Assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at -20°C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

1. Precautions

For any sample that might contain pathogens, care must be taken to prevent contact with open wounds.

2. Additives and Preservatives

No additives or preservatives are necessary to maintain the integrity of the specimen. Avoid azide contamination.

3. Known interfering substances

Azide and thimerosal at concentrations higher than 0.1% inhibits the enzyme reaction.

MATERIAL PROVIDED - See "REAGENTS"

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- Precision pipette (2 µl to 1000 µl) for making and dispensing dilutions
- Test tubes
- Microtiter washer/aspirator
- Distilled or deionized H₂O
- Microtiter plate reader
- Assorted glassware for the preparation of reagents and buffer solutions
- Timer
- Vortex mixer
- Centrifuge
- Anticoagulant for collection of plasma samples

ASSAY PROTOCOL

DILUTION OF SAMPLES

The assay for quantification of CRP requires that each test sample be diluted before use. For a single step determination a dilution of serum/plasma at 1:8,000 is appropriate for most samples. For absolute quantification, samples that yield results outside the range of the standard curve, a lesser or greater dilution might be required. If unsure of sample level, a serial dilution with one or two representative samples before running the entire plate is highly recommended.

1. To prepare a 1:8,000 dilution of sample, transfer 5 µl of sample to 495 µl of 1X diluent. This yields a 1:100 dilution. Next, dilute the 1:100 samples by transferring 5 µl, to 395 µl of 1X diluent. This yields a 1:8,000 dilution of the sample. Mix thoroughly at each stage.
PROCEDURE

1. Bring all reagents to room temperature before use.

2. Pipette 100 μl of
   - Standard 0 (0.0 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 1 (3.125 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 2 (6.25 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 3 (12.5 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 4 (25 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 5 (50 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 6 (100 ng/ml) in duplicate
   - Standard 7 (200 ng/ml) in duplicate

3. Pipette 100 μl of sample (in duplicate) into pre-designated wells.

4. Incubate the microtiter plate at room temperature, 16-25°C, for thirty (30 ± 2) minutes. Keep plate covered and level during incubation.

5. Following incubation, aspirate the contents of the wells.

6. Completely fill each well with appropriately diluted Wash Solution and aspirate. Repeat three times, for a total of four washes. If washing manually: completely fill wells with wash buffer, invert the plate then pour/shake out the contents in a waste container. Follow this by sharply striking the wells on absorbent paper to remove residual buffer. Repeat 3 times for a total of four washes.

7. Pipette 100 μl of appropriately diluted Enzyme-Antibody Conjugate to each well. Incubate at 22°C (room temperature) for thirty (30 ± 2) minutes. Keep plate covered in the dark and level during incubation.

8. Wash and blot the wells as described in Steps 5 and 6.

9. Pipette 100 μl of TMB Substrate Solution into each well.

10. Incubate in the dark at room temperature for precisely ten (10) minutes.

11. After ten minutes, add 100 μl of Stop Solution to each well.

12. Determine the absorbance (450 nm) of the contents of each well. Calibrate the plate reader to air.

STABILITY OF THE FINAL REACTION MIXTURE

The absorbance of the final reaction mixture can be measured up to 2 hours after the addition of the Stop Solution. However, good laboratory practice dictates that the measurement be made as soon as possible.

RESULTS

1. Subtract the average background value from the test values for each sample.

2. Using the results observed for the standards construct a Standard Curve. The appropriate curve fit is that of a four-parameter logistics curve. A second order polynomial (quadratic) or other curve fits may also be used.

3. Interpolate test sample values from standard curve. Correct for sera dilution factor to arrive at the CRP concentration in original samples.
LIMITATION OF THE PROCEDURE

1. Reliable and reproducible results will be obtained when the assay procedure is carried out with a complete understanding of the information contained in the package insert instructions and with adherence to good laboratory practice.

2. Factors that might affect the performance of the assay include proper instrument function, cleanliness of glassware, quality of distilled or deionized water, and accuracy of reagent and sample pipettings, washing technique, incubation time or temperature.

3. Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or sources.

REFERENCES


Appendix A – Reference Serum Information

One vial containing a Reference Serum is included with this kit. Please refer to the enclosed Product Profile Sheet for lot-specific information.

Please note the following:

1. The Reference Serum is stable until the expiry date.
2. The Reference Serum should be diluted as appropriate to fit within the standard range curve. Refer to the “Dilution of Samples” section of the protocol for instructions.
3. While pipetting the samples (Procedure section), also pipette the Reference Serum in duplicate.