**Instruction Manual**

**Influenza A IgA ELISA**

*Enzyme immunoassay* based on microtiter plate for the detection and quantitative determination of human IgA antibodies against *Influenza A* in serum and plasma

Cat. No.:  ILE-IFA02  
Storage:  2-8°C  
For in-vitro diagnostic use only

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1. Intended Use

The IMMUNOLAB Influenza A IgA Antibody ELISA Test Kit has been designed for the detection and the quantitative determination of specific IgA antibodies against Influenza A in serum and plasma. Further applications in other body fluids are possible and can be requested from the Technical Service of IMMUNOLAB.

Laboratory results can never be the only base of a medical report. The patient history and further tests have additionally to be taken into account.

2. General Information

The influenza infection is an acute feverish virus infection, which principally leads to an illness of the respiratory tract and appears as an epidemic or pandemic. The infection mostly results from a droplet infection. The virus spreads from the mucous membrane of the upper respiratory to the whole bronchial tract. There the virus and its toxin can lead to a serious inflammation of the bronchial mucosa and a damage of the vessels. After an incubation time of 1 to 3 days the symptoms appear suddenly: Followed by a fast increase of temperature, often accompanied by shivering, the catarrhal leading symptom appears, which contribute to the clinical course beside painful dry cough, tracheitis, laryngitis and frequently a rhinitis and conjunctivitis.

The Influenza viruses form a virus group with principally similar morphological, chemical and biological features. The types A, B and C were defined, from which many other variants are known. The distinction of the types will be possible by the different antigenicity of their nucleoproteins, which are coated by a matrix protein with type-specific antigenicity, too. However, both internal antigens are of less importance for the immunity. The essential antigens are the hemagglutinin and the neuraminidase. Both are surface antigens and subject to a permanent change of their antigenicity, which is called drift or shift. The appearence of permanent new Influenza epidemics and pandemics are particularly facilitated by an antigen variability, because the new drift or shift variants infect a population which is only partly immune or in an extreme case completely susceptible to the disease.

The determination of the Influenza type (A, B, and C) gives both the clinician and epidemiologist important indications for further actions. Thus Influenza B often leads to a serious clinical course and an epidemic spread of the virus. Similarly, during an Influenza A epidemic, the epidemiological importance and derived measures for the protection of the individual and population primarily stand in the foreground together with the severity of the clinical symptoms.

3. Principle of the Tests

The IMMUNOLAB Influenza A IgA antibody test kit is based on the principle of the enzyme immunoassay (EIA). Influenza A antigen is bound on the surface of the microtiter strips. Diluted patient serum or ready-to-use standards are pipetted into the wells of the microtiter plate. A binding between the IgA antibodies of the serum and the immobilized Influenza A antigen takes place. After a one hour incubation at room temperature, the plate is rinsed with diluted wash solution, in order to remove unbound material. Then ready-to-use anti-human-IgA peroxidase conjugate is added and incubated for 30 minutes. After a further washing step, the substrate (TMB) solution is pipetted and incubated for 20 minutes, inducing the development of a blue dye in the wells. The color development is terminated by the addition of a stop solution, which changes the color from blue to yellow. The resulting dye is measured spectrophotometrically at the wavelength of 450 nm. The concentration of the IgA antibodies is directly proportional to the intensity of the color.
4. Limitations, Precautions and General Comments

- Only for in-vitro use! Do not ingest or swallow! The usual laboratory safety precautions as well as the prohibition of eating, drinking and smoking in the lab have to be followed.
- All sera and plasma or buffers based upon, have been tested respective to HBsAg, HIV and HCV with recognized methods and were found negative. Nevertheless precautions like the use of latex gloves have to be taken.
- Serum and reagent spills have to be wiped off with a disinfecting solution (e.g. sodium hypochlorite, 5%) and have to be disposed of properly.
- All reagents have to be brought to room temperature (18 to 25 °C) before performing the test.
- Before pipetting all reagents should be mixed thoroughly by gentle tilting or swinging. Vigorous shaking with formation of foam should be avoided.
- It is important to pipet with constant intervals, so that all the wells of the microtiter plate have the same conditions.
- When removing reagents out of the bottles, care has to be taken that the stoppers are not contaminated. Further a possible mix-up has to be avoided. The content of the bottles is usually sensitive to oxidation, so that they should be opened only for a short time.
- In order to avoid a carry-over or a cross-contamination, separate disposable pipet tips have to be used.
- All reagents have to be used within the expiry period.
- In accordance with a Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) or following ISO9001 all laboratory devices employed should be regularly checked regarding the accuracy and precision. This refers amongst others to microliter pipets and washing or reading (ELISA-Reader) instrumentation.
- The contact of certain reagents, above all the stopping solution and the substrate with skin, eye and mucosa has to be avoided, because possible irritations and acid burns could arise, and there exists a danger of intoxication.

5. Reagents Provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Volume / Qty.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A antigen coated microtiter strips</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibrator A (Negative Control)</td>
<td>2 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibrator B (Cut-Off Standard)</td>
<td>2 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibrator C (Weak Positive Control)</td>
<td>2 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibrator D (Positive Control)</td>
<td>2 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enzyme Conjugate</td>
<td>15 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substrate</td>
<td>15 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop Solution</td>
<td>15 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Diluent</td>
<td>60 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing Buffer (10×)</td>
<td>60 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic foils</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bag</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Storage and Stability** (refer to the expiry date on the outer box label)
Store kit components at 2-8°C. After use, the plate should be resealed, the bottle caps replaced and tightened and the kit stored at 2-8°C. The opened kit should be used within three months.
Universal Reagents
Washing buffer, substrate and stop solution are identical for all infectious disease test kits from IMMUNOLAB with Peroxidase as detecting enzyme and may be interchanged between products and lots. All other reagents are assigned to a special kit lot and must not be mixed.

5.1. Mikrotiter Strips
12 strips with 8 breakable wells each, coated with Influenza A antigen (strains Beijing 265/95 (H1N1) and Sydney 5/97 (H3N2)). Ready-to-use.

5.2. Calibrator A (Negative Control)
2 mL, protein solution diluted with PBS, contains no IgA antibodies against Influenza A. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.3. Calibrator B (Cut-Off Standard)
2 mL human serum diluted with PBS, contains a low concentration of IgA antibodies against Influenza A. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.4. Calibrator C (Weak Positive Control)
2 mL, human serum diluted with PBS, contains a medium concentration of IgA antibodies against Influenza A. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.5. Calibrator D (Positive Control)
2 mL, human serum diluted with PBS, contains a high concentration of IgA antibodies against Influenza A. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane. Ready-to-use.

5.6. Enzyme Conjugate
15 mL, anti-human-IgA-HRP (rabbit), in protein-containing buffer solution. Addition of 0.01 % methylisothiazolone and 0.01 % bromonitrodioxane and 5 mg/L Proclin™. Ready-to-use.

5.7. Substrate
15 mL, TMB (tetramethylbenzidine). Ready-to-use.

5.8. Stop Solution
15 mL, 0.5 M sulfuric acid. Ready-to-use.

5.9. Sample Diluent
60 mL, PBS/BSA buffer. Addition of 0.095 % sodium azide. Ready-to-use.

5.10. Washing Buffer
60 mL, PBS + Tween 20, 10x concentrate. Final concentration: dilute 1+9 with deionized water. If during the cold storage crystals precipitate, the concentrate should be warmed up at 37°C for 15 minutes.

5.11. Plastic Foils
2 pieces to cover the microtiter strips during the incubation.

5.12. Plastic Bag
Resealable, for the dry storage of non-used strips.
6. Materials Required but not Provided

- 5 µL-, 100 µL- and 500 µL micro- and multichannel pipets
- Microtiter Plate Reader (450 nm)
- Microtiter Plate Washer
- Reagent tubes for the serum dilution
- Deionized water

7. Specimen Collection and Handling

Principally serum or plasma (EDTA, heparin) can be used for the determination. Serum is separated from the blood, which is aseptically drawn by venipuncture, after clotting and centrifugation. The serum or plasma samples can be stored refrigerated (2-8°C) for up to 7 days. For a longer storage they should be kept at -20°C. The samples should not be frozen and thawed repeatedly. Lipemic, hemolytic or bacterially contaminated samples can cause false positive or false negative results.

For the performance of the test the samples (not the standards) have to be diluted 1:101 with ready-to-use sample diluent (e.g. 5 µL serum + 500 µL sample diluent).

8. Assay Procedure

8.1. Preparation of Reagents

Washing Solution: dilute before use 1+9 with deionized water. If during the cold storage crystals precipitate, the concentrate should be warmed up at 37°C for 15 minutes.

- Strict adherence to the protocol is advised for reliable performance. Any changes or modifications are the responsibility of the user.
- All reagents and samples must be brought to room temperature before use, but should not be left at this temperature longer than necessary.
- A standard curve should be established with each assay.
- Return the unused microtiter strips to the plastic bag and store them dry at 2-8°C.

8.2. Assay Steps

1. Prepare a sufficient amount of microtiter wells for the standards, controls and samples as well as for a substrate blank.
2. Pipet 100 µL each of the diluted (1:101) samples and the ready-to-use standards and controls respectively into the wells. Leave one well empty for the substrate blank.
3. Cover plate with the enclosed foil and incubate at room temperature for 60 minutes.
4. Empty the wells of the plate (dump or aspirate) and add 300 µL of diluted washing solution. This procedure is repeated totally three times. Rests of the washing buffer are afterwards removed by gentle tapping of the microtiter plate on a tissue cloth.
5. Pipet 100 µL each of ready-to-use conjugate into the wells. Leave one well empty for the substrate blank.
6. Cover plate with the enclosed foil and incubate at room temperature for 30 minutes.
7. Empty the wells of the plate (dump or aspirate) and add 300 µL of diluted washing solution. This procedure is repeated totally three times. Rests of the washing buffer are afterwards removed by gentle tapping of the microtiter plate on a tissue cloth.
8. Pipet 100 µL each of the ready-to-use substrate into the wells. This time also the substrate blank is pipetted.
9. Cover plate with the enclosed foil and incubate at room temperature for 20 minutes in the dark (e.g. drawer).

10. To terminate the substrate reaction, pipet 100 µL each of the ready-to-use stop solution into the wells. Pipet also the substrate blank.

11. After thorough mixing and wiping the bottom of the plate, perform the reading of the absorption at 450 nm (optionally reference wavelength of 620 nm). The color is stable for at least 60 minutes.

9. Evaluation

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OD Value</th>
<th>Corrected OD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substrate Blank</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Control</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut-Off Standard</td>
<td>0.428</td>
<td>0.416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak Positive Control</td>
<td>0.789</td>
<td>0.777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Control</td>
<td>1.875</td>
<td>1.863</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table contains only an example, which was achieved under arbitrary temperature and environmental conditions. The described data constitute consequently no reference values which have to be found in other laboratories in the same way.

9.1. Qualitative Evaluation

The calculated absorptions for the patient sera, as mentioned above, are compared with the value for the cut-off standard. If the value of the sample is higher, there is a positive result. For a value below the cut-off standard, there is a negative result. It seems reasonable to define a range of +/- 20% around the value of the cut-off as a grey zone. In such a case the repetition of the test with the same serum or with a new sample of the same patient, taken after 2-4 weeks, is recommended. Both samples should be measured in parallel in the same run.

The positive control must show at least the double absorption compared with the cut-off standard.

9.2. Quantitative Evaluation

The ready-to-use standards and controls of the Influenza A IgA antibody kit are defined and expressed in arbitrary units (U/mL). This results in an exact and reproducible quantitative evaluation. Consequently for a given patient follow-up controls become possible. The values for controls and standards in units are printed on the labels of the vials.

For a quantitative evaluation the absorptions of the standards and controls are graphically drawn point-to-point against their concentrations. From the resulting reference curve the concentration values for each patient sample can then be extracted in relation to their absorptions. It is also possible to use automatic computer programs. As curve fit point-to-point has to be chosen.

Calibrator B with its concentration of 10 U/mL serves as cut-off standard. Analogous to the qualitative evaluation a range of +/-20% around the cut-off is defined as a grey zone. Thus results between 8 and 12 U/mL are reported as borderline.
10. Assay Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IgG</th>
<th>IgA</th>
<th>IgM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intra-Assay-Precision</td>
<td>8.5 %</td>
<td>8.8 %</td>
<td>8.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Assay-Precision</td>
<td>6.5 %</td>
<td>13.6 %</td>
<td>10.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Lot-Precision</td>
<td>3.8 – 6.1 %</td>
<td>4.6 – 15.5 %</td>
<td>1.3 – 9.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Sensitivity</td>
<td>1.09 U/mL</td>
<td>1.29 U/mL</td>
<td>1.17 U/mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>100 – 114 %</td>
<td>93 – 124 %</td>
<td>83 – 90 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linearity</td>
<td>79 – 114 %</td>
<td>75 – 128 %</td>
<td>73 – 122 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Reactivity</td>
<td>No cross-reactivity to RSV, Adenovirus and Parainfluenza 1/2/3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interferences</td>
<td>No interferences to bilirubin up to 0.3 mg/mL, hemoglobin up to 8.0 mg/mL and triglycerides up to 5.0 mg/mL.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Specificity</td>
<td>88 %</td>
<td>99 %</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Sensitivity</td>
<td>100 %</td>
<td>83 %</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. References