

ab108888 – Human alpha 2 Macroglobulin ELISA Kit

Instructions for Use

For the quantitative measurement of Human alpha 2 Macroglobulin in plasma and serum.

This product is for research use only and is not intended for diagnostic use.

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1. BACKGROUND

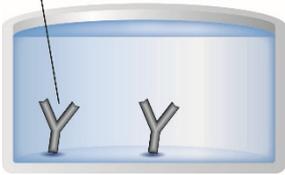
Abcam's alpha 2 Macroglobulin Human *in vitro* competitive ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) kit is designed for the quantitative measurement of alpha 2 Macroglobulin in plasma and serum.

An alpha 2 Macroglobulin specific antibody has been precoated onto 96-well plates and blocked. Standards or test samples are added to the wells and subsequently biotinylated alpha 2 Macroglobulin is added and then followed by washing with wash buffer. Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate is added and unbound conjugates are washed away with wash buffer. TMB is then used to visualize Streptavidin-Peroxidase enzymatic reaction. TMB is catalyzed by Streptavidin-Peroxidase to produce a blue color product that changes into yellow after adding acidic stop solution. The density of yellow coloration is inversely proportional to the amount of alpha 2 Macroglobulin captured in plate.

Alpha-2-Macroglobulin is a major serum protein with diverse functions, including inhibition of protease activity and binding of growth factors, cytokines, and disease factors. Increased serum alpha 2 Macroglobulin has been suggested to be associated with multiple sclerosis (MS), glomerular disease, and liver diseases.

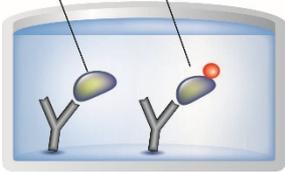
2. ASSAY SUMMARY

Primary Capture Antibody



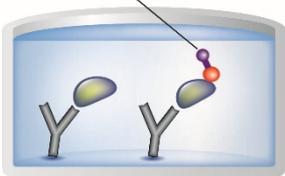
Prepare all reagents, samples and standards as instructed.

Sample Biotinylated Antigen



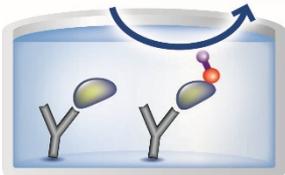
Add standard or sample to each well used and add prepared biotin protein to each well. Incubate at room temperature.

Streptavidin-HRP



Wash and add prepared Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate. Incubate at room temperature.

Substrate Colored Product



Wash and add Chromogen Substrate to each well. Incubate at room temperature. Add Stop Solution to each well. Read immediately.

3. PRECAUTIONS

Please read these instructions carefully prior to beginning the assay.

Modifications to the kit components or procedures may result in loss of performance.

4. STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store kit at 4°C immediately upon receipt, apart from the SP Conjugate which should be stored at -20°C.

Refer to list of materials supplied for storage conditions of individual components. Observe the storage conditions for individual prepared components in sections 9 & 10.

5. MATERIALS SUPPLIED

Item	Amount	Storage Condition (Before Preparation)
alpha 2 Macroglobulin Microplate (12 x 8 well strips)	96 wells	4°C
alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard	1 vial	4°C
10X Diluent M Concentrate	30 mL	4°C
Biotinylated Human alpha 2 Macroglobulin (Lyophilized)	1 vial	4°C
100X Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate)	80 µL	-20°C
Chromogen Substrate	7 mL	4°C
Stop Solution	11 mL	4°C
20X Wash Buffer Concentrate	30 mL	4°C
Sealing Tapes	3	N/A

6. MATERIALS REQUIRED, NOT SUPPLIED

These materials are not included in the kit, but will be required to successfully utilize this assay:

- 1 Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Precision pipettes to deliver 1 μ L to 1 mL volumes.
- Adjustable 1-25 mL pipettes for reagent preparation.
- 100 mL and 1 liter graduated cylinders.
- Absorbent paper.
- Distilled or deionized water.
- Log-log graph paper or computer and software for ELISA data analysis.
- 7 tubes to prepare standard or sample dilutions.

7. LIMITATIONS

- Do not mix or substitute reagents or materials from other kit lots or vendors.

8. TECHNICAL HINTS

- Samples generating values higher than the highest standard should be further diluted in the appropriate sample dilution buffers.
- Avoid foaming or bubbles when mixing or reconstituting components.
- Avoid cross contamination of samples or reagents by changing tips between sample, standard and reagent additions.
- Ensure plates are properly sealed or covered during incubation steps.
- Complete removal of all solutions and buffers during wash steps.
- **This kit is sold based on number of tests. A ‘test’ simply refers to a single assay well. The number of wells that contain sample, control or standard will vary by product. Review the protocol completely to confirm this kit meets your requirements. Please contact our Technical Support staff with any questions.**

9. REAGENT PREPARATION

Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature (18-25°C) prior to use. Prepare fresh reagents immediately prior to use. When diluting the concentrates, make sure to rinse the bottle thoroughly to extract any precipitates left in the bottle. Mix the 1x solution gently until the crystals have completely dissolved.

9.1 1X Diluent M

Dilute the 10X Diluent M Concentrate 1:10 with reagent grade water. Mix gently and thoroughly. *Store for up to 1 month at 4°C.*

9.2 1X Wash Buffer

Dilute the 20X Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:20 with reagent grade water. Mix gently and thoroughly.

9.3 1X Biotinylated alpha 2 Macroglobulin

Reconstitute the Biotinylated Human alpha-2-Macroglobulin Protein with 5 ml of 1X Diluent M to generate a stock solution. Allow the vial to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to dilution. Any remaining stock solution should be stored at -20°C and used within 30 days. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

9.4 1X SP Conjugate

Spin down the 100X Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate) briefly and dilute the desired amount of the conjugate 1:100 with 1X Diluent M.

Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C

10. STANDARD PREPARATIONS

- Prepare serially diluted standards immediately prior to use. Always prepare a fresh set of standards for every use.
- Any remaining standard should be stored at -20°C after reconstitution and used within 30 days.
- This procedure prepares sufficient standard dilutions for duplicate wells.
- • It is normal for there to be residual undissolved particulates when reconstituting the standards. The standard is purified from human plasma, and fibers and aggregates often form during the lyophilization process. This is not detrimental because such “solids” will not bind to the plate and will be removed during the first wash step of the assay.

10.1 Reconstitution of the alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard vial to prepare a 40 µg/mL alpha 2 Macroglobulin **Standard #1**.

10.1.1 First consult the alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard vial to determine the mass of protein in the vial.

10.1.2 Calculate the appropriate volume of 1X Diluent M to add when resuspending the alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard vial to produce a 40 µg/mL alpha 2 Macroglobulin **Standard #1** by using the following equation:

C_S = Starting mass of alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard (see vial label) (µg)

C_F = 40 µg/mL alpha 2 Macroglobulin **Standard #1** final required concentration

V_D = Required volume of 1X Diluent M for reconstitution (µL)

Calculate total required volume 1X Diluent M for resuspension:

$$(C_S / C_F) \times 1,000 = V_D$$

Example:

NOTE: This example is for demonstration purposes only. Please remember to check your standard vial for the actual amount of standard provided.

C_S = 80 μg of alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard in vial

C_F = 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ alpha 2 Macroglobulin **Standard #1** final concentration

V_D = Required volume of 1X Diluent M for reconstitution

$$(80 \mu\text{g} / 40 \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}) \times 1,000 = 2,000 \mu\text{L}$$

- 10.1.3 First briefly spin the alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard vial to collect the contents on the bottom of the tube.
- 10.1.4 Reconstitute the alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard vial by adding the appropriate calculated amount V_D of 1X Diluent M to the vial to generate the 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ alpha 2 Macroglobulin **Standard #1**. Mix gently and thoroughly.
- 10.2 Allow the reconstituted 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ alpha 2 Macroglobulin **Standard #1** to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making subsequent dilutions
- 10.3 Label six tubes #2 – 7.
- 10.4 Add 120 μL of 1X Diluent M to tubes #2 – 7.
- 10.5 To prepare **Standard #2**, add 120 μL of the **Standard #1** into tube #2 and mix gently.
- 10.6 To prepare **Standard #3**, add 120 μL of the **Standard #2** into tube #3 and mix gently.
- 10.7 Using the table below as a guide, prepare subsequent serial dilutions.
- 10.8 1X Diluent M serves as the zero standard, 0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ (tube #7).

Standard Dilution Preparation Table

Standard #	Volume to Dilute (μL)	Volume Diluent M (μL)	Total Volume (μL)	Starting Conc. (μg/mL)	Final Conc. (μg/mL)
1	Step 10.1				40.00
2	120	120	240	40.00	20.00
3	120	120	240	20.00	10.00
4	120	120	240	10.00	5.000
5	120	120	240	5.000	2.500
6	120	120	240	2.500	1.250
7	-	120	120	-	0



11. SAMPLE PREPARATION

11.1 Plasma

Collect plasma using one-tenth volume of 0.1 M sodium citrate as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples at 3,000 x *g* for 10 minutes. Dilute samples 1:400 into 1X Diluent M and assay. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. (EDTA or Heparin can also be used as anticoagulant).

11.2 Serum

Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. After clot formation, centrifuge samples at 3,000 x *g* for 10 minutes and remove serum. Dilute samples 1:400 into 1X Diluent M and assay. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

12. PLATE PREPARATION

- The 96 well plate strips included with this kit are supplied ready to use. It is not necessary to rinse the plate prior to adding reagents.
- Unused well plate strips should be returned to the plate packet and stored at 4°C.
- For statistical reasons, we recommend each sample should be assayed with a minimum of two replicates (duplicates).
- Well effects have not been observed with this assay. Contents of each well can be recorded on the template sheet included in the Resources section.

13. ASSAY PROCEDURE

- **Equilibrate all materials and prepared reagents to room temperature (18-25°C) prior to use.**
- **It is recommended to assay all standards, controls and samples in duplicate.**

13.1 Prepare all reagents, working standards and samples as instructed. Equilibrate reagents to room temperature before use. The assay is performed at room temperature (18-25°C).

13.2 Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame and return them immediately to the foil pouch with desiccant inside. Reseal the pouch securely to minimize exposure to water vapor and store in a vacuum desiccator.

13.3 Add 25 μL of alpha 2 Macroglobulin Standard or sample per well and immediately add 25 μL of 1X Biotinylated alpha 2 Macroglobulin to each well (on top of the standard or sample). Gently tap plate to ensure thorough mixing. Break any bubbles that may have formed. Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for two hours at room temperature. Start the timer after the last sample addition.

13.4 Wash five times with 200 μL of 1X Wash Buffer manually. Invert the plate each time and decant the contents; tap it 4-5 times on absorbent paper towel to completely remove the liquid. If using a machine wash six times with 300 μL of 1X Wash Buffer and then invert the plate, decant the contents; tap it 4-5 times on absorbent paper towel to completely remove the liquid.

13.5 Add 50 μL of 1X SP Conjugate to each well. Gently tap plate to thoroughly coat the wells. Break any bubbles that may have formed. Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for 30 minutes. Turn on the microplate reader and set up the program in advance.

13.6 Wash microplate as described above.

- 13.7 Add 50 μL of Chromogen Substrate per well. Gently tap plate to thoroughly coat the wells. Break any bubbles that may have formed. Incubate in ambient light for about 12 minutes or till the optimal blue colour density develops.
- 13.8 Add 50 μL of Stop Solution to each well. The color will change from blue to yellow. Gently tap plate to ensure thorough mixing. Break any bubbles that may have formed.
- 13.9 Read the absorbance on a microplate reader at a wavelength of 450 nm immediately. If wavelength correction is available, subtract readings at 570 nm from those at 450 nm to correct optical imperfections. Otherwise, read the plate at 450 nm only. Please note that some unstable black particles may be generated at high concentration points after stopping the reaction for about 10 minutes, which will reduce the readings

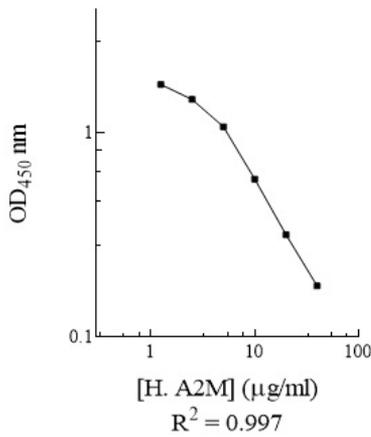
14. CALCULATIONS

Calculate the mean value of the triplicate readings for each standard and sample. To generate a Standard Curve, plot the graph using the standard concentrations on the x-axis and the corresponding mean 450 nm absorbance on the y-axis. The best-fit line can be determined by regression analysis using log-log or four-parameter logistic curve-fit. Determine the unknown sample concentration from the Standard Curve and multiply the value by the dilution factor.

15. TYPICAL DATA

TYPICAL STANDARD CURVE – Data provided for demonstration purposes only. A new standard curve must be generated for each assay performed.

Human A2M Standard Curve



16. TYPICAL SAMPLE VALUES

SENSITIVITY –

The minimum detectable dose of alpha 2 Macroglobulin is typically 1.0 µg/mL.

SPIKING RECOVERY –

Recovery was determined by spiking one plasma and one serum sample with different A2M concentrations.

Sample	Unspiked Sample (µg/mL)	Spiking Value (µg/mL)	Expected	Observed	Recovery (%)
Plasma	2.982	7.280	10.262	11.202	109
		3.085	6.067	6.559	108
		2.252	5.234	5.594	107
Serum	3.628	7.280	10.908	12.004	110
		3.085	6.713	7.227	108
		2.252	5.880	6.049	103
Average Recovery (%)					108

REFERENCE VALUE –

The normal blood levels of alpha 2 Macroglobulin are 1 – 3 mg/mL.

Sample	n	Average Value (mg/ml)
Pooled normal plasma	10	1.42
Pooled normal serum	10	1.78

LINEARITY OF DILUTION –

Plasma Dilution	Average % Expected Value
1:200	104
1:400	100
1:800	95

Serum Dilution	Average % Expected Value
1:200	102
1:400	101
1:800	96

PRECISION –

	Intra-Assay	Inter-Assay
% CV	6.0	10.2

17. ASSAY SPECIFICITY

Species	% Cross Reactivity
Beagle	None
Mouse	None
Monkey	10
Bovine	None
Equine	4
Rat	None
Swine	10
Rabbit	None

18. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Cause	Solution
Poor standard curve	Improper standard dilution	Confirm dilutions made correctly
	Standard improperly reconstituted (if applicable)	Briefly spin vial before opening; thoroughly resuspend powder (if applicable)
	Standard degraded	Store sample as recommended
	Curve doesn't fit scale	Try plotting using different scale
Low signal	Incubation time too short	Try overnight incubation at 4°C
	Target present below detection limits of assay	Decrease dilution factor; concentrate samples
	Precipitate can form in wells upon substrate addition when concentration of target is too high	Increase dilution factor of sample
	Using incompatible sample type (e.g. serum vs. cell extract)	Detection may be reduced or absent in untested sample types
	Sample prepared incorrectly	Ensure proper sample preparation/dilution
Large CV	Bubbles in wells	Ensure no bubbles present prior to reading plate
	All wells not washed equally/thoroughly	Check that all ports of plate washer are unobstructed wash wells as recommended
	Incomplete reagent mixing	Ensure all reagents/master mixes are mixed thoroughly
	Inconsistent pipetting	Use calibrated pipettes and ensure accurate pipetting
	Inconsistent sample preparation or storage	Ensure consistent sample preparation and optimal sample storage conditions (e.g. minimize freeze/thaws cycles)

RESOURCES

Problem	Cause	Solution
High background/ Low sensitivity	Wells are insufficiently washed	Wash wells as per protocol recommendations
	Contaminated wash buffer	Make fresh wash buffer
	Waiting too long to read plate after adding STOP solution	Read plate immediately after adding STOP solution
	Improper storage of ELISA kit	Store all reagents as recommended. Please note all reagents may not have identical storage requirements.
	Using incompatible sample type (e.g. Serum vs. cell extract)	Detection may be reduced or absent in untested sample types

19. NOTES

Technical Support

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