

Version 16c Last updated 14 May 2025

# ab170246 Complement C1q Human ELISA Kit

For the quantitative measurement of human Complement C1q concentrations in plasma, serum, saliva, urine, milk and cerebrospinal fluid.

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

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# 1. Overview

Complement C1q Human in vitro ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) kit (ab170246) is designed for the quantitative measurement of Complement C1q concentrations in plasma, serum, saliva, urine, milk and cerebrospinal fluid.

A Complement C1q specific antibody has been precoated onto 96-well plates and blocked. Standards or test samples are added to the wells and subsequently a Complement C1q specific biotinylated detection antibody 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 directly proportional to the amount of Complement C1q captured in plate.

The Complement C1q is the recognition subunit of C1 complex of the classical pathway of complement activation. C1q is a 460-kDa protein with the overall shape of a bouquet of flowers, comprising six heterotrimeric collagen-like triple helices. The globular heads of the C1q bind to the Fc-fragment of IgM or IgG on the surface of a pathogen, playing an important role in host defense and apoptotic cell clearance. It is a functional ligand for leukocyte-associated Ig-like receptor 1 restricting immune cell differentiation and activation. C1q prevents toxicity induced by oligomeric forms of amyloid- $\beta$ . Failure to efficiently clear apoptotic cells in the absence of C1q is associated with lupus-like autoimmunity.

## 2. Protocol Summary

Prepare all reagents, samples, and standards as instructed



Add standard or sample to appropriate wells.

Incubate at room temperature.



Wash and add prepared biotin antibody to each well. Incubate at room temperature.



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



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.**

- All kit components have been formulated and quality control tested to function successfully as a kit.
- We understand that, occasionally, experimental protocols might need to be modified to meet unique experimental circumstances. However, we cannot guarantee the performance of the product outside the conditions detailed in this protocol booklet.
- Reagents should be treated as possible mutagens and should be handled with care and disposed of properly. Please review the Safety Datasheet (SDS) provided with the product for information on the specific components.
- Observe good laboratory practices. Gloves, lab coat, and protective eyewear should always be worn. Never pipet by mouth. Do not eat, drink or smoke in the laboratory areas.
- All biological materials should be treated as potentially hazardous and handled as such. They should be disposed of in accordance with established safety procedures.

### 4. Storage and Stability

**Store kit at +4°C immediately upon receipt, apart from the SP Conjugate & Biotinylated Antibody, 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 the Materials Supplied section.

## 5. Limitations

- Assay kit intended for research use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents or materials from other kit lots or vendors. Kits are QC tested as a set of components and performance cannot be guaranteed if utilized separately or substituted.

## 6. Materials Supplied

Item	Quantity	Storage Condition
Complement C1q Microplate (12 x 8 wells)	96 wells	4°C
Complement C1q Standard	1 vial	4°C
10X Diluent M Concentrate	30 mL	4°C
Biotinylated Human Complement C1q Antibody	1 vial	-20°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	2 x 30 mL	4°C
Sealing Tapes	3	N/A

## 7. Materials Required, Not Supplied

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

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Precision pipettes to deliver 1  $\mu$ 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.
- 6 tubes to prepare standard or sample dilutions.

## 8. Technical Hints

- 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.
- Selected components in this kit are supplied in surplus amount to account for additional dilutions, evaporation, or instrumentation settings where higher volumes are required. They should be disposed of in accordance with established safety procedures.
- Make sure all buffers and solutions are at room temperature before starting the experiment.
- 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.
- Make sure you have the right type of plate for your detection method of choice.
- Make sure the heat block/water bath and microplate reader are switched on before starting the experiment.

## 9. Reagent Preparation

- Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature (18-25°C) prior to use. The kit contains enough reagents for 96 wells.
- Prepare only as much reagent as is needed on the day of the experiment.

### 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.* When diluting the concentrate, 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

### 9.2 1X Wash Buffer

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

### 9.3 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody

- 9.3.1 The stock Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody must be diluted with 1X Diluent M according to the label concentration to prepare 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody for use in the assay procedure. Observe the label for the “X” concentration on the vial of Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody.
- 9.3.2 Calculate the necessary amount of 1X Diluent M to dilute the Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody to prepare a 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody solution for use in the assay procedure according to how many wells you wish to use and the following calculation:

Number of Wells Strips	Number of Wells	(V <sub>T</sub> ) Total Volume of 1X Biotinylated Detector Antibody (µL)
4	32	1,760
6	48	2,640
8	64	3,520
10	80	4,400
12	96	5,280

Where:

$C_S$  = Starting concentration (X) of stock Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody (variable)

$C_F$  = Final concentration (always = 1X) of 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody solution for the assay procedure

$V_T$  = Total required volume of 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody solution for the assay procedure

$V_A$  = Total volume of (X) stock Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody

$V_D$  = Total volume of 1X Diluent M required to dilute (X) stock Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody to prepare 1X Biotinylated Detector Antibody solution for assay procedures

Calculate the volume of (X) stock Biotinylated Antibody required for the given number of desired wells:

$$V_A = (C_F / C_S) * V_T$$

Calculate the final volume of 1X Diluent M required to prepare the 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody:

$$V_D = V_T - V_A$$

Example:

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

$C_S$  = 50X Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody stock

$C_F$  = 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody solution for use in the assay procedure

$V_T$  = 3,520  $\mu$ L (8 well strips or 64 wells)

$$(1X/50X) * 3,520 \mu\text{L} = 70.4 \mu\text{L}$$

$$3,520 \mu\text{L} - 70.4 \mu\text{L} = 3,450 \mu\text{L}$$

$V_A$  = 70.4  $\mu$ L total volume of (X) stock Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody required

$V_D$  = 3,450  $\mu$ L total volume of 1X Diluent M required to dilute the 50X stock Biotinylated Antibody to prepare 1X Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody solution for assay procedures.

- 9.3.3 First spin the Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody vial to collect the contents at the bottom.
- 9.3.4 Add calculated amount  $V_A$  of stock Biotinylated Complement C1q Antibody to the calculated amount  $V_D$  of 1X Assay Diluent M. Mix gently and thoroughly.

#### **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 Preparation

- 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.
- The following section describes the preparation of a standard curve for duplicate measurements (recommended). Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

### 10.1 Reconstitution of the Complement C1q Standard vial to prepare the 5 ng/mL Complement C1q **Standard #1**:

10.1.1 First consult the Complement C1q 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 Complement C1q Standard vial to produce a 5 ng/mL Complement C1q **Standard #1** by using the following equation:

$C_S$  = Starting mass of Complement C1q Standard (see vial label)  
(ng)

$C_F$  = 5 ng/mL Complement C1q **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.**

$C_S$  = 7.5 ng of Complement C1q Standard in vial

$C_F$  = 5 ng/mL Complement C1q **Standard #1** final concentration

$V_D$  = Required volume of 1X Diluent M for reconstitution

$$(7.5 \text{ ng} / 5 \text{ ng/mL}) \times 1,000 = 1,500 \mu\text{L}$$

- 10.1.3 First briefly spin the Complement C1q Standard Vial to collect the contents on the bottom of the tube.
- 10.1.4 Reconstitute the Complement C1q Standard vial by adding the appropriate calculated amount  $V_D$  of 1X Diluent M to the vial to generate the 5 ng/mL Complement C1q **Standard #1**. Mix gently and thoroughly.
- 10.2 Allow the reconstituted 5 ng/mL Complement C1q **Standard #1** to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making subsequent dilutions
- 10.3 Label seven tubes #2 – 8
- 10.4 Add 240  $\mu$ L of 1X Diluent M to tubes #2 – 8.
- 10.5 To prepare **Standard #2**, add 240  $\mu$ L of the **Standard #1** into tube #2 and mix gently.
- 10.6 To prepare **Standard #3**, add 240  $\mu$ L 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 ng/mL (tube #8)

Standard #	Volume to Dilute ( $\mu$ L)	Volume Diluent M ( $\mu$ L)	Total Volume ( $\mu$ L)	Starting Conc. (ng/mL)	Final Conc. (ng/mL)
1	Step 10.1				5.000
2	240	240	480	5.000	2.500
3	240	240	480	2.500	1.250
4	240	240	480	1.250	0.625
5	240	240	480	0.625	0.313
6	240	240	480	0.313	0.156
7	240	240	480	0.156	0.078
8	-	240	240	-	0

## 11. Sample Preparation

### 11.1 Plasma:

Collect plasma using one-tenth volume of 0.1 M sodium citrate as an anticoagulant (EDTA or Heparin can also be used as an anticoagulant). Centrifuge samples at 3,000 x g for 10 minutes. Dilute samples 1:100,000 into 1X Diluent M and assay. The undiluted samples should be aliquoted to limit repeated freeze-thaw cycles and stored at -80°C for up to 3 months. When needed the frozen sample should be thawed rapidly in a water bath at 37°C and immediately placed on ice until use to prevent complement activation.

### 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 1:100,000 into 1X Diluent M and assay. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20°C for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

### 11.3 Urine:

Collect urine using sample tube. Centrifuge samples at 800 x g for 10 minutes and assay. The sample is suggested for use at 1X or within the range of 2x – 10x into 1X Diluent M; however, user should determine optimal dilution factor depending on application needs. Store samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

### 11.4 Milk:

Collect milk using sample tube. Centrifuge samples at 800 x g for 10 minutes. A 4-fold sample dilution is suggested into 1X Diluent M and assay or within the range of 1x – 50x. The undiluted samples can be stored at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

### 11.5 Cerebrospinal Fluid:

Collect cerebrospinal fluid using sample tube. Centrifuge samples at 3,000 x g for 10 minutes. Dilute samples 1:300 into 1X Diluent M and assay or within the range of 20x – 500x. The undiluted samples can be stored at -80°C for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

## 11.6 Saliva:

Collect saliva using sample tube. Centrifuge samples at 800 x g for 10 minutes and assay. The sample is suggested for use at 1X or within the range of 2x – 10x into 1X Diluent M; however, user should determine optimal dilution factor depending on application needs. Store samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

*Refer to Dilution Guidelines for further instruction.*

<b>Guidelines for Dilutions of 100-fold or Greater</b> <i>(for reference only; please follow the insert for specific dilution suggested)</i>	
<b>100x</b>	<b>10000x</b>
4 µl sample + 396 µl buffer (100X) = 100-fold dilution  <i>Assuming the needed volume is less than or equal to 400 µl</i>	A) 4 µl sample + 396 µl buffer (100X) B) 4 µl of A + 396 µl buffer (100X) = 10000-fold dilution  <i>Assuming the needed volume is less than or equal to 400 µl</i>
<b>1000x</b>	<b>100000x</b>
A) 4 µl sample + 396 µl buffer (100X) B) 24 µl of A + 216 µl buffer (10X) = 1000-fold dilution  <i>Assuming the needed volume is less than or equal to 240 µl</i>	A) 4 µl sample + 396 µl buffer (100X) B) 4 µl of A + 396 µl buffer (100X) C) 24 µl of A + 216 µl buffer (10X) = 100000-fold dilution  <i>Assuming the needed volume is less than or equal to 240 µl</i>

## 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 each assay performed, a minimum of 2 wells must be used as blanks, omitting primary antibody from well additions.
- For statistical reasons, we recommend each sample should be assayed with a minimum of two replicates (duplicates).

## 13. Assay Procedure

- Equilibrate all materials and prepared reagents to room temperature prior to use.
- We recommend that you 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 50 µL of Complement C1q standard or sample per well. Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for two hours. 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 Biotinylated Complement C1q Detector Antibody to each well and incubate for one hour.
- 13.6** Wash microplate as described above.

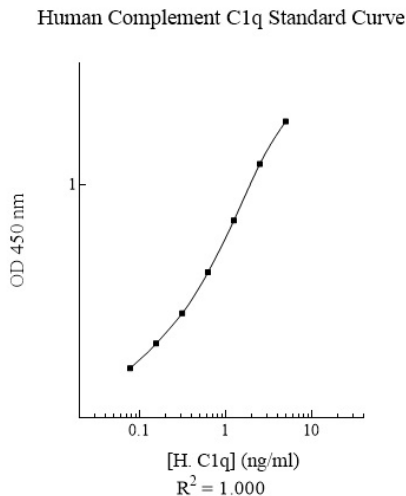
- 13.7** Add 50  $\mu$ L of 1X SP Conjugate to each well and incubate for 30 minutes. Turn on the microplate reader and set up the program in advance.
- 13.8** Wash microplate as described above.
- 13.9** Add 50  $\mu$ L of Chromogen Substrate per well and incubate in ambient light for about 15 minutes or till the optimal blue color density develops. Gently tap plate to ensure thorough mixing and break the bubbles in the well with pipette tip.
- 13.10** Add 50  $\mu$ L of Stop Solution to each well. The color will change from blue to yellow.
- 13.11** 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 duplicate or 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.



**Figure 1.** Example of Complement C1q standard curve. The standard curve was prepared as described in Section 10. Raw data values are shown in the table. Background-subtracted data values (mean +/- SD) are graphed.

## 16. Typical Sample Values

### SENSITIVITY –

The minimum detectable dose (MDD) of Complement C1q is typically 51 pg/ml.

### PRECISION –

	Intra-assay Precision	Inter-Assay Precision
CV (%)	4.8	9.4

### SPIKING RECOVERY –

Recovery was determined by spiking one plasma and one serum with different human c1q concentrations.

Sample	Unspiked Sample (ng/ml)	Spiking Value (ng/ml)	Expected	Observed	Recovery (%)
Plasma	0.595	1.154	1.749	1.702	97%
		0.517	1.112	1.191	107%
		0.185	0.780	0.838	107%
Serum	0.636	1.154	1.790	1.784	100%
		0.517	1.153	1.086	94%
		0.185	0.821	0.878	107%
Average Recovery (%)					102%

## REFERENCE VALUE –

Normal human C1q plasma level is 68.9 µg/ml.

Normal human complement C1q plasma and serum levels range from 50-86 µg/ml.

## LINEARITY OF DILUTION -

Linearity of dilution is determined based on interpolated values from the standard curve. Linearity of dilution defines a sample concentration interval in which interpolated target concentrations are directly proportional to sample dilution.

Plasma and serum samples were serially-diluted to test for linearity.

Average Percentage of Expected Value (%)		
Dilution Factor	Plasma	Serum
1:50,000	92	92
1:100,000	99	101
1:200,000	108	109

## 17. Assay Specificity

This kit recognizes Complement C1q in in plasma, serum, saliva, urine, milk and cerebrospinal fluid.

## 18. Species Reactivity

<b>Species</b>	<b>% Cross Reactivity</b>
Monkey	40
Equine	5
Mouse	5
Rat	None
Swine	5
Canine	50
Bovine	None
Rabbit	None
<b>Proteins</b>	<b>% Cross Reactivity</b>
Human Complement C1	60
Human Compliment C3	1
Human Compliment Factor D	2

*No significant cross-reactivity observed with human complement C1r, C1s, C2, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8 and C9, factor B, factor H, factor I and Factor P proteins*

Please contact our Technical Support team for more information.

## 19. Troubleshooting

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
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

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
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

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
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 (eg. minimize freeze/thaws cycles)

## 20. Notes

# Technical Support

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All information / detail is correct at time of going to print.

For all technical or commercial enquiries please go to:

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[www.abcam.cn/contactus](http://www.abcam.cn/contactus) (China)

[www.abcam.co.jp/contactus](http://www.abcam.co.jp/contactus) (Japan)