



ab202403 – PF4 (CXCL4) Mouse SimpleStep ELISA[®] Kit

Instructions for Use

For the quantitative measurement of mouse PF4 (CXCL4) protein in serum, plasma and cell culture supernatant samples.

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

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

- 1. BACKGROUND 2
- 2. ASSAY SUMMARY 3

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 3. PRECAUTIONS 4
- 4. STORAGE AND STABILITY 4
- 5. MATERIALS SUPPLIED 4
- 6. MATERIALS REQUIRED, NOT SUPPLIED 5
- 7. LIMITATIONS 5
- 8. TECHNICAL HINTS 5

ASSAY PREPARATION

- 9. REAGENT PREPARATION 7
- 10. STANDARD PREPARATION 8
- 11. SAMPLE PREPARATION 9
- 12. PLATE PREPARATION 10

ASSAY PROCEDURE

- 13. ASSAY PROCEDURE 11

DATA ANALYSIS

- 14. CALCULATIONS 13
- 15. TYPICAL DATA 14
- 16. TYPICAL SAMPLE VALUES 15
- 17. ASSAY SPECIFICITY 19
- 18. SPECIES REACTIVITY 20

RESOURCES

- 19. TROUBLESHOOTING 21
- 20. NOTES 22

1. BACKGROUND

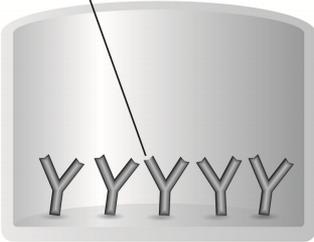
Abcam's mouse PF4 (CXCL4) *in vitro* SimpleStep ELISA® (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) kit is designed for the quantitative measurement of mouse PF4 protein in serum, plasma and cell culture supernatant samples.

The SimpleStep ELISA® employs an affinity tag labeled capture antibody and a reporter conjugated detector antibody which immunocapture the sample analyte in solution. This entire complex (capture antibody/analyte/detector antibody) is in turn immobilized via immunoaffinity of an anti-tag antibody coating the well. To perform the assay, samples or standards are added to the wells, followed by the antibody mix. After incubation, the wells are washed to remove unbound material. TMB substrate is added and during incubation is catalyzed by HRP, generating blue coloration. This reaction is then stopped by addition of Stop Solution completing any color change from blue to yellow. Signal is generated proportionally to the amount of bound analyte and the intensity is measured at 450 nm. Optionally, instead of the endpoint reading, development of TMB can be recorded kinetically at 600 nm.

Platelet factor 4 (PF4) is a small cytokine belonging to the CXC chemokine family that is also known as chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 4 (CXCL4). Chemokines play fundamental roles in the development, homeostasis, and function of the immune system, and they have effects on cells of the central nervous system as well as on endothelial cells involved in angiogenesis and angiostasis. PF4 is a 70-amino acid protein (8 kDa) that is released from the alpha-granules of activated platelets and binds with high affinity to heparin. Specifically, the active protein is a tetramer of PF4 subunits that forms a ring of heparin-binding positive charges from sites at the C-terminal region of each monomer. In contrast to other CXC chemokines, PF4 does not contain an ELR motif and lacks binding to nearly all chemokine receptors. Mouse PF4 shares 64% and 89% amino acid identity with human and rat PF4, respectively.

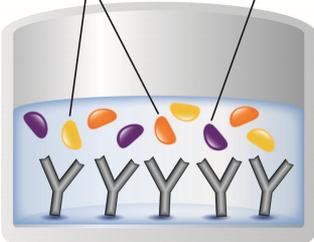
2. ASSAY SUMMARY

Immobilization Antibody



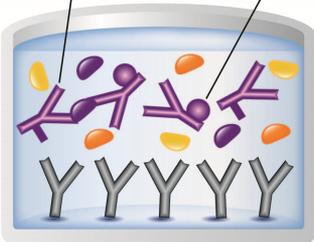
Remove appropriate number of antibody coated well strips. Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature. Prepare all reagents, samples, and standards as instructed.

Matrix Proteins Target Analyte



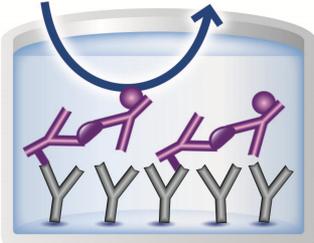
Add standard or sample to appropriate wells.

Capture Antibody Detector Antibody



Add Antibody Cocktail to all wells. Incubate at room temperature.

Substrate Color Development



Aspirate and wash each well. Add TMB Substrate to each well and incubate. Add Stop Solution at a defined endpoint. Alternatively, record color development kinetically after TMB substrate addition.

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

4. STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store kit at 2-8°C immediately upon receipt.

Refer to list of materials supplied for storage conditions of individual components. Observe the storage conditions for individual prepared components in the Reagent and Standard Preparation sections.

5. MATERIALS SUPPLIED

Item	Amount	Storage Condition (Before Preparation)
10X Mouse PF4 Capture Antibody	600 µL	+2-8°C
10X Mouse PF4 Detector Antibody	600 µL	+2-8°C
Mouse PF4 Lyophilized Recombinant Protein	2 Vials	+2-8°C
Antibody Diluent CP2	6 mL	+2-8°C
10X Wash Buffer PT	20 mL	+2-8°C
TMB Substrate	12 mL	+2-8°C
Stop Solution	12 mL	+2-8°C
Sample Diluent NS	50 mL	+2-8°C
Pre-Coated 96 Well Microplate (12 x 8 well strips)	96 Wells	+2-8°C
Plate Seal	1	+2-8°C

Note: Antibody Diluent CP2- This buffer has been reformulated to enhance stability after freeze-thaw cycles while producing data equivalent to the original formulation of antibody diluent CP previously used in this kit.

While we run stock down, you may receive kits containing antibody diluent CP. This does not affect the way you should use the kit.

If you have any questions please contact Abcam Scientific Support.

6. MATERIALS REQUIRED, NOT SUPPLIED

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

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 or 600 nm.
- Method for determining protein concentration (BCA assay recommended).
- Deionized water.
- PBS (1.4 mM KH₂PO₄, 8 mM Na₂HPO₄, 140 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, pH 7.4).
- Multi- and single-channel pipettes.
- Tubes for standard dilution.
- Plate shaker for all incubation steps.
- Phenylmethylsulfonyl Fluoride (PMSF) (or other protease inhibitors).

7. 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.

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 is necessary to minimize background.
- As a guide, typical ranges of sample concentration for commonly used sample types are shown below in Sample Preparation (section 11).
- All samples should be mixed thoroughly and gently.
- Avoid multiple freeze/thaw of samples.
- Incubate ELISA plates on a plate shaker during all incubation steps.
- When generating positive control samples, it is advisable to change pipette tips after each step.
- **To avoid high background always add samples or standards to the well before the addition of the antibody cocktail.**
- **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. The kit contains enough reagents for 96 wells. **The sample volumes below are sufficient for 48 wells (6 x 8-well strips); adjust volumes as needed for the number of strips in your experiment.**
- Prepare only as much reagent as is needed on the day of the experiment. Capture and Detector Antibodies have only been tested for stability in the provided 10X formulations.

9.1 **1X Wash Buffer PT**

Prepare 1X Wash Buffer PT by diluting 10X Wash Buffer PT with deionized water. To make 50 mL 1X Wash Buffer PT combine 5 mL 10X Wash Buffer PT with 45 mL deionized water. Mix thoroughly and gently.

9.2 **Antibody Cocktail**

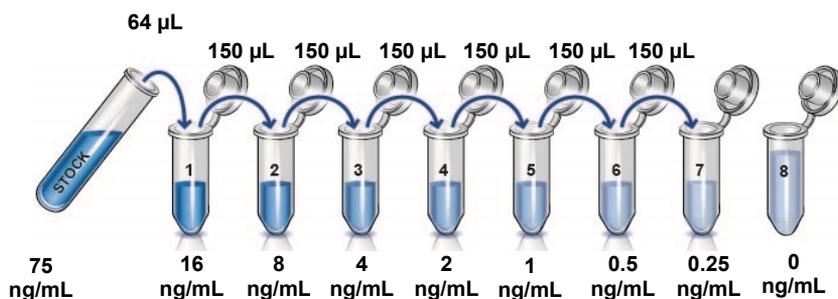
Prepare Antibody Cocktail by diluting the capture and detector antibodies in Antibody Diluent CP2. To make 3 mL of the Antibody Cocktail combine 300 μ L 10X Capture Antibody and 300 μ L 10X Detector Antibody with 2.4 mL Antibody Diluent CP2. Mix thoroughly and gently.

10. STANDARD PREPARATION

Prepare serially diluted standards immediately prior to use. Always prepare a fresh set of positive controls for every use.

The following table describes the preparation of a standard curve for duplicate measurements (recommended).

- 10.1 **IMPORTANT:** If the protein standard vial has a volume identified on the label, reconstitute the PF4 standard by adding that volume of Sample Diluent NS indicated on the label. Alternatively, if the vial has a mass identified, reconstitute the PF4 standard by adding 500 μL Sample Diluent NS. Hold at room temperature for 10 minutes and mix gently. This is the 75 ng/mL **Stock Standard** Solution.
- 10.2 Label eight tubes, Standards 1– 8.
- 10.3 Add 236 μL Sample Diluent NS into tube number 1 and 150 μL of Sample Diluent NS into numbers 2-8.
- 10.4 Use the Stock Standard to prepare the following dilution series. Standard #8 contains no protein and is the Blank control:



11. SAMPLE PREPARATION

TYPICAL SAMPLE DYNAMIC RANGE	
Sample Type	Range
Mouse Serum	1:2,500 – 1:40,000
Mouse Plasma - Citrate	1:300 – 1:4,800
Mouse Plasma - EDTA	1:400 – 1:6,400
Mouse Plasma EDTA – Platelet Poor	1:350 – 1:5,600
Cell Culture Media	1:10 – 1:160

11.1 Plasma

Collect plasma using citrate or EDTA. Centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes. Dilute samples into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store un-diluted plasma samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

11.2 Platelet Poor Plasma

Collect plasma using citrate or EDTA. Centrifuge fresh samples at 10,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C to remove platelets. Dilute samples into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store un-diluted platelet poor plasma samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

11.3 Serum

Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. After clot formation, centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes and collect serum. Dilute samples into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store un-diluted serum at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

11.4 Cell Culture Supernatants

Centrifuge cell culture media at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants and dilute samples into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store samples at -20°C or below. 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 plate strips should be immediately returned to the foil pouch containing the desiccant pack, resealed and stored at 4°C.
- For each assay performed, a minimum of two wells must be used as the zero control.
- For statistical reasons, we recommend each sample should be assayed with a minimum of two replicates (duplicates).
- Differences in well absorbance or “edge effects” have not been observed with this assay.

13. ASSAY PROCEDURE

- **Equilibrate all materials and prepared reagents to room temperature 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 directed in the previous sections.

13.2 Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame, return them to the foil pouch containing the desiccant pack, reseal and return to 4°C storage.

13.3 Add 50 µL of all sample or standard to appropriate wells.

13.4 Add 50 µL of the Antibody Cocktail to each well.

13.5 Seal the plate and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature on a plate shaker set to 400 rpm.

13.6 Wash each well with 3 x 350 µL 1X Wash Buffer PT. Wash by aspirating or decanting from wells then dispensing 350 µL 1X Wash Buffer PT into each well. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the last wash invert the plate and blot it against clean paper towels to remove excess liquid.

13.7 Add 100 µL of TMB Development Solution to each well and incubate for 10 minutes in the dark on a plate shaker set to 400 rpm.

Given variability in laboratory environmental conditions, optimal incubation time may vary between 5 and 20 minutes.

Note: The addition of Stop Solution will change the color from blue to yellow and enhance the signal intensity about 3X. To avoid signal saturation, proceed to the next step before the high concentration of the standard reaches a blue color of O.D.600 equal to 1.0.

13.8 Add 100 µL of Stop Solution to each well. Shake plate on a plate shaker for 1 minute to mix. Record the OD at 450 nm. This is an endpoint reading.

ASSAY PROCEDURE

Alternative to 13.7 – 13.8: Instead of the endpoint reading at 450 nm, record the development of TMB Substrate kinetically. Immediately after addition of TMB Development Solution begin recording the blue color development with elapsed time in the microplate reader prepared with the following settings:

Mode:	Kinetic
Wavelength:	600 nm
Time:	up to 20 min
Interval:	20 sec - 1 min
Shaking:	Shake between readings

Note that an endpoint reading can also be recorded at the completion of the kinetic read by adding 100 μ L Stop Solution to each well and recording the OD at 450 nm.

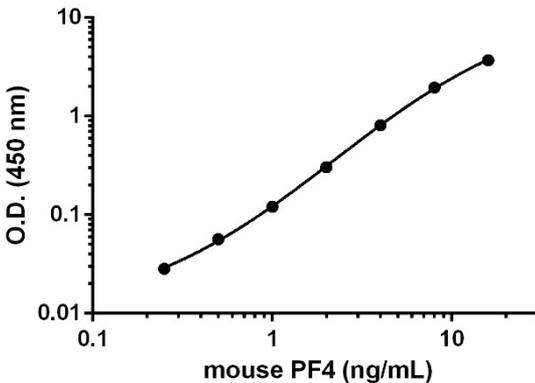
13.9 Analyze the data as described below.

14. CALCULATIONS

Subtract average of the zero standard absorbance measurement from all readings. Determine the average of the duplicate readings of the standards and plot against their concentrations. Draw the best smooth curve through these points to construct a standard curve. Most plate reader software or graphing software can plot these values and curve fit. A four parameter algorithm (4PL) usually provides the best fit, though other equations can be examined to see which provides the most accurate fit (e.g. linear, semi-log, log/log, 4 parameter logistic). Interpolate protein concentrations for unknown samples from the equation of the line of the standard curve plotted. Samples producing signals greater than that of the highest standard should be further diluted and reanalyzed, then multiplying the concentration found by the appropriate 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.



Standard Curve Measurements			
Conc. (ng/mL)	O.D. 450 nm		Mean O.D.
	1	2	
0	0.056	0.049	0.053
0.25	0.083	0.080	0.082
0.5	0.111	0.108	0.110
1	0.186	0.164	0.175
2	0.354	0.361	0.357
4	0.882	0.844	0.863
8	2.092	1.938	2.015
16	3.758	3.752	3.755

Figure 1. Example of the mouse PF4 standard curve. The mouse CXCL4 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 calculated minimal detectable dose (MDD) is 148 pg/mL. The MDD was determined by calculating the mean of zero standard replicates (n=24) and adding 2 standard deviations then extrapolating the corresponding concentration.

RECOVERY –

Three concentrations of mouse PF4 were spiked in duplicate to the indicated biological matrix to evaluate signal recovery in the working range of the assay.

Sample Type	Average % Recovery	Range (%)
Mouse Serum	97	93 - 99
Mouse Plasma - Citrate	110	106 - 114
Mouse Plasma - EDTA	101	100 - 102
Mouse Plasma EDTA – Platelet Poor	108	107 - 110
Cell Culture Media	91	83 - 96

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.

Native mouse PF4 was measured in mouse serum, plasma (citrate and EDTA) and platelet poor EDTA plasma in a 2-fold dilution series. Sample dilutions were made in Sample Diluent NS.

DATA ANALYSIS

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	0.04% Mouse Serum	0.33% Mouse Plasma (Citrate)	0.25% Mouse Plasma (EDTA)	0.22% Mouse Plasma (Platelet Poor EDTA)
Undiluted	ng/mL	14.61	8.35	5.55	11.91
	% Expected value	100	100	100	100
2	ng/mL	6.93	4.39	2.83	5.01
	% Expected value	95	105	102	84
4	ng/mL	3.57	2.34	1.48	2.58
	% Expected value	98	112	107	87
8	ng/mL	1.69	1.21	0.69	1.40
	% Expected value	92	116	99	94
16	ng/mL	0.84	0.53	0.32	0.62
	% Expected value	92	101	91	83

Recombinant mouse PF4 was spiked into 10% RPMI Base Media and diluted in a 2-fold dilution series in Sample Diluent NS.

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	10% Cell Culture Media
Undiluted	ng/mL	15.99
	% Expected value	100
2	ng/mL	8.60
	% Expected value	108
4	ng/mL	4.00
	% Expected value	100
8	ng/mL	2.02
	% Expected value	101
16	ng/mL	0.97
	% Expected value	97

PRECISION –

Mean coefficient of variations of interpolated values from 3 concentrations of Mouse serum within the working range of the assay.

	Intra- Assay	Inter- Assay
n=	8	3
CV (%)	3.2	5.5

SAMPLE DATA –

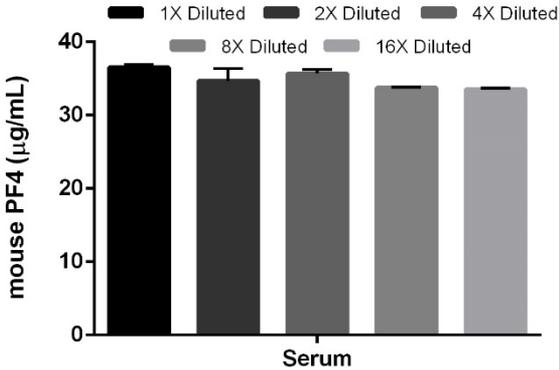


Figure 2. Linearity of dilution of native mouse PF4 in mouse serum. Native mouse PF4 protein was measured in serum (diluted 1:2,500 in Sample Diluent NS) in a 2-fold dilution series in Sample Diluent NS. The interpolated dilution factor corrected values are graphed (mean +/- SD).

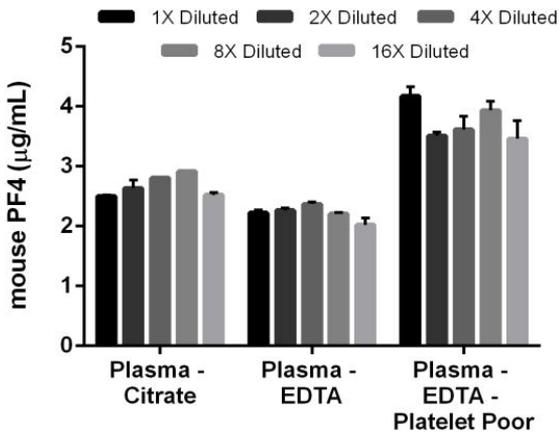


Figure 3. Linearity of dilution of native mouse PF4 in mouse Citrate, EDTA, and Platelet Poor EDTA plasmas. Native mouse PF4 protein was measured in citrate plasma (1:300), EDTA plasma (1:400), and Platelet Poor EDTA plasma (1:350) in a 2-fold dilution series in Sample Diluent NS. The interpolated dilution factor corrected values are graphed (mean +/- SD).

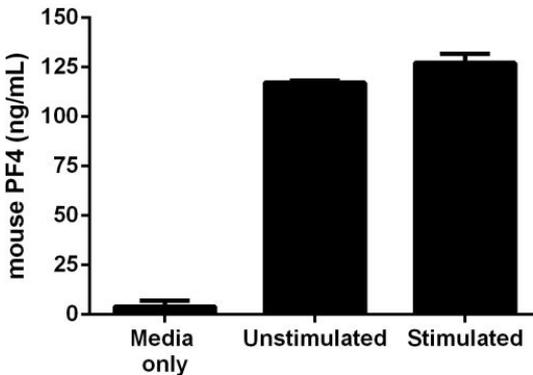


Figure 4. Mouse PF4 expression is shown for cultured media from the J774A.1 mouse cell line. J774A.1 cells were cultured in HGDMEM with 10% fetal calf serum, and 100 µg/mL of Kanamycin. J774A.1 cells were treated for 72 hours in the presence and absence of 1.5% PHA and 10ng/mL of PMA. Samples were loaded on the plate diluted 1:10 and the concentrations of mouse PF4 were interpolated from a calibration curve diluted in Sample Diluent NS. The interpolated dilution factor corrected values are graphed (mean +/- SD).

17. ASSAY SPECIFICITY

This kit recognizes both native and recombinant mouse PF4 protein in serum, plasma (citrate and EDTA), and cell culture supernatant samples only.

Multiple concentrations of recombinant mouse PF4 were assayed in the presence and absence of heparin to assess interference. Heparin was tested at six different concentrations between 0.008 – 2% (w/v). Mouse PF4 recovery was less than 11% at all heparin tested concentrations. Thus, heparin interferes significantly with this assay and is not suitable for use with this assay.

CROSS REACTIVITY

Mouse CXCL1, mouse CXCL2, and mouse CXCL3 were prepared at 100 ng/mL in Sample Diluent NS and assayed for cross-reactivity. No cross reactivity was observed for any of these samples at this concentration, with a mean OD deviation from background of 0.0039.

INTERFERENCE

Recombinant mouse PF4 was assayed at 1.88 ng/mL in the presence and absence of 100 ng/mL of mouse CXCL1, mouse CXCL2, and mouse CXCL3 to determine interference. After background subtraction, recovery of mouse PF4 in the presence of mouse CXCL1, mouse CXCL2, and mouse CXCL3 was 95%, 105%, and 103%, respectively.

18. SPECIES REACTIVITY

This kit recognizes mouse PF4 protein.

Reactivity to other species CXCL4 was determined by measuring 1:3,000 diluted serum samples of various species, interpolating the protein concentrations from the mouse standard curve, and expressing the interpolated concentrations as a percentage of the protein concentration in mouse serum assayed at the same dilution.

Reactivity < 3% was determined for the following species:

- Human
- Rat
- Syrian Hamster
- Guinea Pig
- Rabbit
- Dog
- Pig
- Cow
- Sheep

For more information, please contact our Scientific Support team.

19. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Cause	Solution
Poor standard curve	Inaccurate Pipetting	Check pipettes
	Improper standard dilution	Prior to opening, briefly spin the stock standard tube and dissolve the powder thoroughly by gentle mixing
Low Signal	Incubation times too brief	Ensure sufficient incubation times; increase to 2 or 3 hour standard/sample incubation
	Inadequate reagent volumes or improper dilution	Check pipettes and ensure correct preparation
	Incubation times with TMB too brief	Ensure sufficient incubation time until blue color develops prior addition of Stop solution
Large CV	Plate is insufficiently washed	Review manual for proper wash technique. If using a plate washer, check all ports for obstructions.
	Contaminated wash buffer	Prepare fresh wash buffer
Low sensitivity	Improper storage of the ELISA kit	Store your reconstituted standards at -80°C , all other assay components 4°C . Keep TMB substrate solution protected from light.
Precipitate in Diluent	Precipitation and/or coagulation of components within the Diluent.	Precipitate can be removed by gently warming the Diluent to 37°C .

20. NOTES

Technical Support

Copyright © 2024 Abcam, All Rights Reserved. The Abcam logo is a registered trademark. All information / detail is correct at time of going to print.

For all technical or commercial enquiries please go to:

www.abcam.com/contactus

www.abcam.cn/contactus (China)

www.abcam.co.jp/contactus (Japan)