



ab207618 – Mouse Decorin(DCN) SimpleStep ELISA[®] Kit

Instructions for Use

For the quantitative measurement of Decorin (DCN) in mouse serum, plasma, urine and cell culture supernatant.

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

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1. BACKGROUND

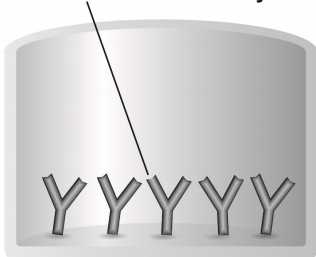
Decorin (DCN) *in vitro* SimpleStep ELISA® (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) kit is designed for the quantitative measurement of Decorin protein in serum, plasma, urine, and cell culture supernatant.

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.

Decorin is a secreted proteoglycan of the small leucine-rich proteoglycan (SLRP) family. Decorin binds to type I and type II collagen fibrils as well as to fibronectin, TGF-beta and epidermal growth factor receptor.

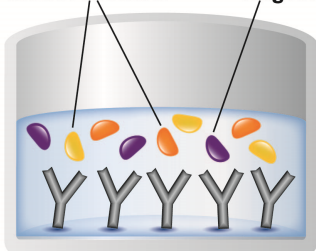
2. ASSAY SUMMARY

Immobilization Antibody



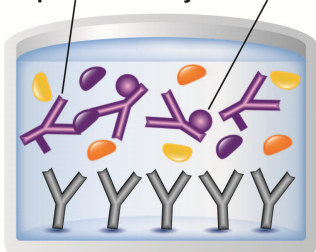
Remove appropriate number of antibody coated well strips. Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature. Prepare all reagents, samples, and standards as instructed.

Matrix Proteins Target Analyte



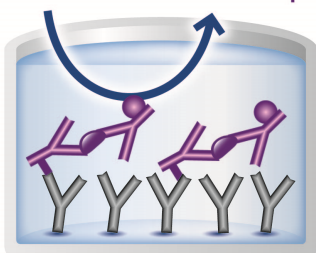
Add standard or sample to appropriate wells.

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 Decorin Capture Antibody	600 µL	+2-8°C
10X Mouse Decorin Detector Antibody	600 µL	+2-8°C
Mouse Decorin Lyophilized Recombinant Protein	2 Vials	+2-8°C
Antibody Diluent 5BR	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
5X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR	10 mL	+2-8°C
50X Cell Extraction Enhancer	1 mL	+2-8°C
Sample Diluent NBS	20 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

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.
- Multi- and single-channel pipettes.
- Tubes for standard dilution.
- Plate shaker for all incubation steps.
- Optional: 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 **Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer**

For cell culture and urine samples, prepare Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer by diluting 50X Enhancer to 1X with Sample Diluent NS. To make 10 mL Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer, combine 9.8 mL Sample Diluent NS and 200 μ L 50X Cell Extraction Enhancer Solution. Mix thoroughly and gently.

9.2 **Sample Diluent 15BS + enhancer**

For serum and plasma samples, prepare Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer by diluting Sample Diluent NBS and 50X Enhancer to 1X with Sample Diluent NS. To make 10 mL Sample Diluent 15BS with enhancer combine 8.3 mL Sample Diluent NS, 1.5 mL Sample Diluent NBS and 200 μ L 50X Cell Extraction Enhancer Solution. Mix thoroughly and gently.

9.3 **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.

9.4 **Antibody Cocktail**

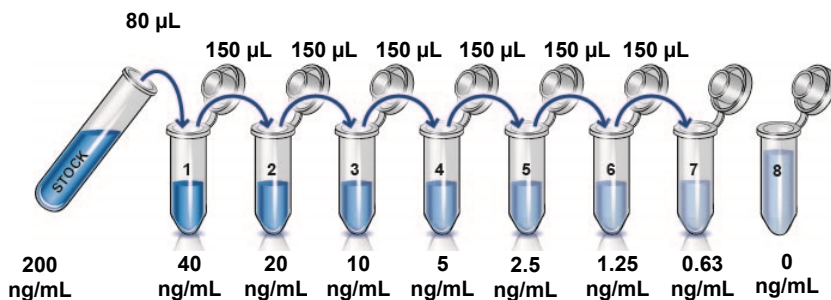
Prepare Antibody Cocktail by diluting the capture and detector antibodies in Antibody Diluent 5BR. To make 3 mL of the Antibody Cocktail combine 300 μ L 10X Capture Antibody and 300 μ L 10X Detector Antibody with 2.4 mL Antibody Diluent 5BR. Mix thoroughly and gently.

10. STANDARD PREPARATION

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

The following section 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 Decorin standard by adding that volume of Diluent indicated on the label. Alternatively, if the vial has a mass identified, reconstitute the Decorin standard by adding 500 μ L Diluent. Hold at room temperature for 10 minutes and mix gently. This is the 200 ng/mL **Stock Standard** Solution.
- 10.2 Label eight tubes, Standards 1–8.
- 10.3 For **cell culture supernatant and urine**, reconstitute the Decorin standard with Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer. Add 320 μ L Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer into tube number 1 and 150 μ L of Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer into numbers 2-8.
For **serum and plasma samples**, reconstitute the Decorin standard with Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer. Add 320 μ L Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer into tube number 1 and add 150 μ L Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer into tube 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 Plasma - Heparin	12.5-50
Mouse Plasma - EDTA	12.5-50
Mouse Plasma - Citrate	12.5-50
Mouse Serum	12.5-50

11.1 Plasma

Collect plasma using citrate, EDTA or heparin. Centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes. Dilute samples into Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer and assay. Store un-diluted plasma samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

11.2 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 15BS + Enhancer and assay. Store un-diluted serum at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

11.3 Cell Culture Supernatants

Centrifuge cell culture media at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants and assay. Or dilute samples into Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer and assay. Store un-diluted samples at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

11.4 Urine

Centrifuge urine at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants, dilute in Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer and assay. Store un-diluted 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.

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

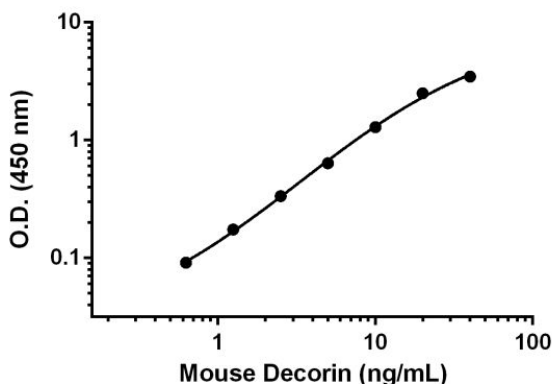
- 14.1 Calculate the average absorbance value for the blank control (zero) standards. Subtract the average blank control standard absorbance value from all other absorbance values.
- 14.2 Create a standard curve by plotting the average blank control subtracted absorbance value for each standard concentration (y-axis) against the target protein concentration (x-axis) of the standard. Use graphing software to draw the best smooth curve through these points to construct the standard curve.

Note: Most microplate reader software or graphing software will plot these values and fit a curve to the data. A four parameter curve fit (4PL) is often the best choice; however, other algorithms (e.g. linear, semi-log, log/log, 4 parameter logistic) can also be tested to determine if it provides a better curve fit to the standard values.

- 14.3 Determine the concentration of the target protein in the sample by interpolating the blank control subtracted absorbance values against the standard curve. Multiply the resulting value by the appropriate sample dilution factor, if used, to obtain the concentration of target protein in the sample.
- 14.4 Samples generating absorbance values greater than that of the highest standard should be further diluted and reanalyzed. Similarly, samples which measure at an absorbance values less than that of the lowest standard should be retested in a less dilute form.

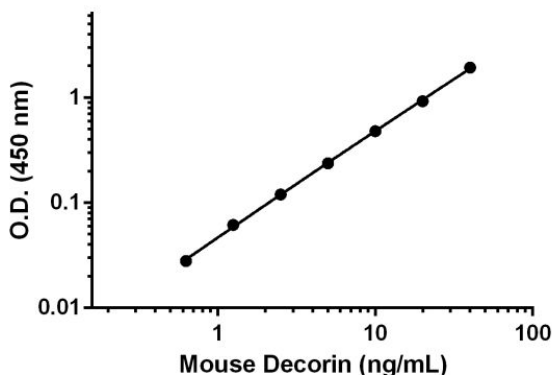
15. TYPICAL DATA

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	0.073	0.064	0.068
0.63	0.154	0.166	0.160
1.25	0.246	0.240	0.243
2.5	0.421	0.388	0.406
5	0.713	0.698	0.706
10	1.392	1.326	1.359
20	2.572	2.565	2.569
40	3.607	3.483	3.545

Figure 1. Example of mouse Decorin standard curve in Sample Diluent NS with enhancer. The Decorin standard curve was prepared as described in Section 10. Raw data values are shown in the table. Background-subtracted data values (mean $\pm$ SD) are graphed.



Standard Curve Measurements			
Conc. (ng/mL)	O.D. 450 nm		Mean O.D.
	1	2	
0	0.056	0.060	0.058
0.63	0.086	0.085	0.086
1.25	0.120	0.119	0.119
2.5	0.178	0.177	0.178
5	0.297	0.294	0.296
10	0.552	0.522	0.537
20	0.969	0.991	0.980
40	1.978	2.001	1.991

Figure 2. Example of mouse Decorin standard curve in Sample Diluent 15BS with enhancer. The Decorin standard curve was prepared as described in Section 10. Raw data values are shown in the table. Background-subtracted data values (mean $\pm$ SD) are graphed.

16. TYPICAL SAMPLE VALUES

SENSITIVITY –

The calculated minimal detectable dose (MDD) is determined by calculating the mean of zero standard replicates and adding 2 standard deviations then extrapolating the corresponding concentration. The MDD is dependent on the Sample Diluent buffer used:

Sample Diluent Buffer	n=	Minimal Detectable Dose
Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer	10	130 pg/mL
Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer	17	217 pg/mL

RECOVERY –

Three concentrations of Decorin 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 (%)
25% Mouse Serum	102	97-106
25% Mouse Plasma - citrate	86	84-90
25% Mouse Plasma - EDTA	90	89-91
25% Mouse Plasma - heparin	106	97-110
25% Mouse Urine	79	71-86
50% Cell Culture Media	98	97-98

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.

Recombinant Decorin was spiked into the following biological samples and diluted in a 2-fold dilution series in Sample Diluent NS + Enhancer or Sample Diluent 15BS + Enhancer according to sample prep section.

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	50% Mouse Serum	50% Mouse Plasma (Citrate)	25% Mouse Plasma (EDTA)	50% Mouse Plasma (Heparin)	50% Media
Undiluted	ng/mL	14.49	12.04	5.35	15.26	4.79
	% Expected value	100	100	100	100	100
2	ng/mL	6.72	5.43	2.36	7.15	2.61
	% Expected value	93	90	88	94	109
4	ng/mL	3.24	2.67	1.26	3.31	1.25
	% Expected value	89	89	94	87	104
8	ng/mL	1.50	1.21	0.80	NL	0.544
	% Expected value	83	80	120	NL	91
16	ng/mL	0.73	0.72	0.330	NL	NL
	% Expected value	80	96	99	NL	NL

NL – Non-Linear

PRECISION –

Mean coefficient of variations of interpolated values of Decorin in 3 concentrations of mouse serum spiked with Decorin within the working range of the assay.

	Intra-Assay	Inter-Assay
n=	5	3
CV (%)	2.52	6.0

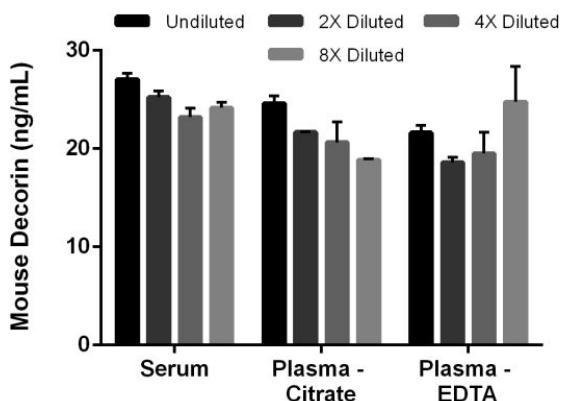


Figure 3. Interpolated concentrations of spiked Decorin in mouse serum, and plasma samples. The concentrations of Decorin were measured in duplicates, interpolated from the Decorin standard curves and corrected for sample dilution. Undiluted samples are as follows: serum 25%, plasma (citrate) 50%, and plasma (EDTA) 25%.

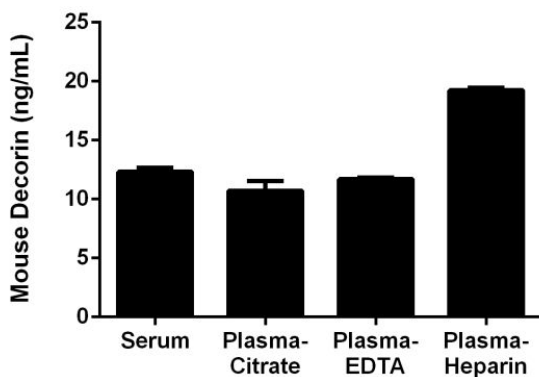


Figure 4. Interpolated concentrations of Decorin in mouse serum, and plasma samples. The concentrations of Decorin were measured in duplicates, interpolated from the Decorin standard curves and corrected for sample dilution. The interpolated dilution factor corrected values are plotted (mean $\pm$ SD, $n=2$). The mean Decorin concentration was determined to be 12.3 ng/mL in serum, 10.7 ng/mL in plasma (citrate), 11.7 ng/mL in plasma (EDTA), and 19.2 ng/mL in plasma (heparin).

17. ASSAY SPECIFICITY

This kit recognizes both native and recombinant mouse Decorin protein in serum, plasma, urine, and cell culture supernatant samples only.

Cell and tissue extract samples have not been tested with this kit.

18. SPECIES REACTIVITY

This kit recognizes mouse Decorin protein.

Other species reactivity was determined by measuring 25% 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
- Guinea Pig
- Rabbit
- Dog
- Goat
- Pig
- Cow

Please contact our Technical Support team for more information.

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

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