

ab323686 – Rat Alpha fetoprotein SimpleStep ELISA® Kit (AFP)

For the quantitative measurement of Alpha fetoprotein in rat serum, plasma (citrate), plasma (EDTA), plasma (heparin), cell culture supernatant, and urine.
For research use only - not intended for diagnostic use.

For overview, typical data and additional information please visit: www.abcam.com/ab323686

This kit is available in a 384-well plate format. This plate utilizes smaller volumes of standards and samples per well. Directions for using this format can be found on pages 5-6.

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 Standard Preparation and Reagent preparation sections.

Materials Supplied

Item	Quantity 1 x 96 tests	Quantity 10 x 96 tests	Storage Condition
Rat Alpha fetoprotein Capture Antibody 10X	600 µL	10 x 600 µL	+4°C
Rat Alpha fetoprotein Detector Antibody 10X	600 µL	10 x 600 µL	+4°C
Rat Alpha fetoprotein Lyophilized Recombinant Protein	2 Vials	10 x 2 Vials	+4°C
Antibody Diluent CPR2	6 mL	10 x 6 mL	+4°C
Sample Diluent NS	50 mL	2 x 250 mL	+4°C
Wash Buffer PT 10X	20 mL	200 mL	+4°C
TMB Development Solution	12 mL	120 mL	+4°C
Stop Solution	12 mL	120 mL	+4°C
SimpleStep Pre-Coated 96-Well Microplate	96 wells	10 x 96 wells	+4°C
Plate Seal	1	10	+4°C

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.

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).

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.

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

Antibody Cocktail: Prepare Antibody Cocktail by diluting the capture and detector antibodies in Antibody Diluent CPR2. To make 3 mL of the Antibody Cocktail combine 300 µL 10X Capture Antibody and 300 µL 10X Detector Antibody with 2.4 mL Antibody Diluent CPR2. Mix thoroughly and gently.

Standard Preparation

Always prepare a fresh set of standards for every use. Discard working standard dilutions after use as they do not store well. The following section describes the preparation of a standard curve for duplicate measurements (recommended).

1. Reconstitute the Alpha fetoprotein standard sample by adding the volume of Sample Diluent NS indicated on the protein vial label. Hold at room temperature for 10 minutes. Mix thoroughly and gently. This is the 64,000 pg/mL **Stock Standard** Solution.
2. Label eight tubes, Standards 1–8.
3. Add 366 µL of Sample Diluent NS into tube number 1 and 150 µL of Sample Diluent NS into numbers 2-8.
4. Use the **Stock Standard** to prepare the following dilution series. Standard #8 contains no protein and is the Blank control:

Standard #	Dilution Sample	Volume to Dilute (µL)	Volume of Diluent (µL)	Starting Conc. (pg/mL)	Final Conc. (pg/mL)
1	Stock Standard	18	366	64,000	3,000
2	Standard#1	150	150	3,000	1,500
3	Standard#2	150	150	1,500	750
4	Standard#3	150	150	750	375
5	Standard#4	150	150	375	187.5
6	Standard#5	150	150	187.5	93.75
7	Standard#6	150	150	93.75	46.88
8	Blank Control	0	150	0	0

Sample Preparation

Typical Sample Dynamic Range	
Sample Type	Range
Pregnant Serum	1:204,800 - 1:12,800
Serum	1:80 - 1:5
Plasma – Citrate	1:320 - 1:20
Plasma – EDTA	1:3,200 - 1:200
Plasma – Heparin	1:80 - 1:5
Cell Culture Media	≤ 50%
Urine	≤ 50%

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 at least 1:5 for serum or 1:12,800 for pregnant serum into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store un-diluted serum at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Plasma Collect plasma using citrate, EDTA or heparin. Centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes. Dilute samples at least 1:20 for plasma (citrate), 1:200 for plasma (EDTA), or 1:5 for plasma (heparin) 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.

Cell Culture Supernatants Centrifuge cell culture media at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants. Dilute samples at least 1:2 into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store un-diluted samples at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Urine Centrifuge urine at 2,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Dilute samples at least 1:2 into Sample Diluent NS and assay. Store un-diluted urine samples at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

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.

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.

1. Prepare all reagents, working standards, and samples as directed in the previous sections.
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.
3. Add 50 µL of all sample or standard to appropriate wells.
4. Add 50 µL of the Antibody Cocktail to each well.
5. Seal the plate and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature on a plate shaker set to 400 rpm.
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. Wash Buffer PT should remain in wells for at least 10 seconds. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the last wash invert the plate and tap gently against clean paper towels to remove excess liquid.
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.

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.
9. Alternative to 7 – 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 µL Stop Solution to each well and recording the OD at 450 nm.

Download our ELISA guide for technical hints, results, calculation, and troubleshooting tips:

www.abcam.com/protocols/the-complete-elisa-guide

For technical support contact information, visit: www.abcam.com/contactus

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Additional information

ASSAY SPECIFICITY

The standard protein in this kit is full-length mature rat Alpha fetoprotein.

Native signal was detected in serum, plasma (citrate), plasma (EDTA), and plasma (heparin) sample types.

Spiked protein experiments were used to validate cell culture supernatant and urine.

Saliva, milk, CSF, cell extract, and tissue extract samples have not been tested with this kit.

SPECIES REACTIVITY

Other species reactivity was determined by measuring 5% serum samples of various species, interpolating the protein concentrations from the rat standard curve, and expressing the interpolated concentrations as a percentage of the protein concentration in rat serum assayed at the same dilution.

No signal was observed for the following species: Human, Monkey, Mouse, Cow

Additionally, media with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) was tested and no signal was observed.

Other species reactivity not determined.

CALCULATION

- Calculate the average absorbance value for the blank control (zero) standards. Subtract the average blank control standard absorbance value from all other absorbance values.
- 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.
Δ 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.
- 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.
- Samples generating absorbance values greater than that of the highest standard should be further diluted and reanalyzed. Similarly, samples which measure at absorbance values less than that of the lowest standard should be retested in a less dilute form.

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			
Concentration (pg/mL)	O.D. 450 nm		Mean O.D.
	1	2	
0	0.051	0.049	0.050
46.88	0.117	0.108	0.112
93.75	0.156	0.174	0.165
187.5	0.262	0.263	0.262
375	0.461	0.447	0.454
750	0.887	0.986	0.937
1,500	1.671	1.693	1.682
3,000	3.508	3.340	3.424

Table 1. Example of rat Alpha fetoprotein standard curve in Sample Diluent NS. The Alpha fetoprotein standard curve was prepared as described in the Standard Preparation section. The table shows raw data values.

TYPICAL SAMPLE VALUES

Sensitivity:

The calculated minimal detectable dose (MDD) is 13.36 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 Alpha fetoprotein were spiked into the indicated biological matrix to evaluate signal recovery in the working range of the assay.

Sample Type	Average % Recovery	Range (%)
1:50,000 Pregnant Serum	102	87 - 111
1:20 Serum	91	85 - 97
1:133 Plasma – Citrate	85	84 - 85
1:2,000 Plasma – EDTA	107	100 - 113
1:20 Plasma – Heparin	115	113 - 119
50% Cell Culture Media*	99	95 - 107
50% Urine	89	86 - 94

*Media is RPMI 1640 containing 10% fetal bovine serum.

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 Alpha fetoprotein was measured in the following biological samples in a 2-fold dilution series. Sample dilutions are made in Sample Diluent NS.

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	1:12,800 Pregnant Serum	1:5 Serum	1:20 Plasma (Citrate)	1:200 Plasma (EDTA)	1:5 Plasma (Heparin)
Undiluted	pg/mL	2,540.6	2,588.9	3,541.2	3,187.4	1,315.8
	% Expected value	100	100	100	100	100
2	pg/mL	1,325.8	1,251.9	1,895.4	1,771.6	622.4
	% Expected value	104	97	107	111	95
4	pg/mL	670.0	627.4	924.1	834.2	330.3
	% Expected value	105	97	104	105	100
8	pg/mL	346.5	322.3	537.5	417.0	157.2
	% Expected value	109	100	121	105	96
16	pg/mL	159.4	154.2	261.4	219.9	70.5
	% Expected value	100	95	118	110	86

Recombinant Alpha fetoprotein was spiked into the following biological samples and then diluted in a 2-fold dilution series. Sample dilutions are made in Sample Diluent NS.

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	50% Cell Culture Media*	50% Urine
Undiluted	pg/mL	1,487.9	1,712.3
	% Expected value	100	100
2	pg/mL	721.7	784.9
	% Expected value	97	92
4	pg/mL	369.6	406.7
	% Expected value	99	95
8	pg/mL	227.3	254.4
	% Expected value	122	119
16	pg/mL	90.6	122.0
	% Expected value	97	114

*Media is RPMI 1640 containing 10% fetal bovine serum.

Precision

Mean coefficient of variations of interpolated values of Alpha fetoprotein from a single concentration of serum within the working range of the assay.

	Intra-assay	Inter-assay
N=	8	3
CV (%)	8.4	6.4

Download our ELISA guide for technical hints, results, calculation, and troubleshooting tips:

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For technical support contact information, visit: www.abcam.com/contactus

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DIRECTIONS FOR 384-WELL PLATE FORMAT:

Materials Supplied for 384-well Format

Item	Quantity	Storage Condition
Rat Alpha fetoprotein Capture Antibody 10X	600 μ L	+4°C
Rat Alpha fetoprotein Detector Antibody 10X	600 μ L	+4°C
Rat Alpha fetoprotein Lyophilized Recombinant Protein	2 Vials	+4°C
Antibody Diluent CPR2	6 mL	+4°C
Sample Diluent NS	50 mL	+4°C
Wash Buffer PT 10X	20 mL	+4°C
TMB Development Solution	2 x 12 mL	+4°C
Stop Solution	2 x 12 mL	+4°C
SimpleStep Pre-Coated 384-Well Microplate	384 wells	+4°C
Plate Seal	1	+4°C

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 in a 384-well plate.

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).

Optional: Automated liquid handler.

Reagent Preparation

Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature (18-25°C) prior to use. The kit contains enough reagents for one full plate. The sample volumes below are sufficient for running all 384 wells; adjust volumes as needed for the number of samples and dilution scheme for 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.

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

Antibody Cocktail: Prepare Antibody Cocktail by diluting the capture and detector antibodies in Antibody Diluent CPR2. To make 6 mL of the Antibody Cocktail combine 600 μ L 10X Capture Antibody and 600 μ L 10X Detector Antibody with 4.8 mL Antibody Diluent CPR2. Mix thoroughly and gently.

Standard Preparation

Always prepare a fresh set of standards for every use. Discard working standard dilutions after use as they do not store well. The following section describes the preparation of a standard curve for duplicate measurements (recommended).

1. Reconstitute the Alpha fetoprotein standard sample by adding the volume of Sample Diluent NS indicated on the protein vial label. Hold at room temperature for 10 minutes. Mix thoroughly and gently. This is the 64,000 pg/mL **Stock Standard** Solution.
2. Label eight tubes, Standards 1–8.
3. Add 366 μ L of Sample Diluent NS into tube number 1 and 75 μ L of Sample Diluent NS into numbers 2-8.
4. Use the **Stock Standard** to prepare the following dilution series. Standard #8 contains no protein and is the Blank control:

Standard #	Dilution Sample	Volume to Dilute (μ L)	Volume of Diluent (μ L)	Starting Conc. (pg/mL)	Final Conc. (pg/mL)
1	Stock Standard	18	366	64,000	3,000
2	Standard#1	75	75	3,000	1,500
3	Standard#2	75	75	1,500	750
4	Standard#3	75	75	750	375
5	Standard#4	75	75	375	187.5
6	Standard#5	75	75	187.5	93.75
7	Standard#6	75	75	93.75	46.88
8	Blank Control	0	75	0	0

Plate Preparation

The 384-well plate included with this kit are supplied ready to use. It is not necessary to rinse the plate prior to adding reagents.

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.

Assay Procedure for 384-well Plate Format

Equilibrate all materials and prepared reagents to room temperature prior to use.
We recommend that you assay all standards, controls and samples in duplicate.

1. Prepare all reagents, working standards, and samples as directed in the previous sections.
2. Add 12.5 μL of all sample or standard to appropriate wells.
3. Add 12.5 μL of the Antibody Cocktail to each well.
4. Seal the plate and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature on a plate shaker set to 700 rpm.
5. Wash each well with 3 x 100 μL 1X Wash Buffer PT. Wash by aspirating or decanting from wells then dispensing 100 μL 1X Wash Buffer PT into each well. Wash Buffer PT should remain in wells for at least 10 seconds. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the last wash invert the plate and tap gently against clean paper towels to remove excess liquid.
6. Add 25 μL of TMB Development Solution to each well and incubate for 10 minutes in the dark on a plate shaker set to 700 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.

7. Add 25 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. Proper mixing of the Stop Solution is required for proper measurement.
8. Alternative to 6 – 7: 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 25 μL Stop Solution to each well and recording the OD at 450 nm.

Download our ELISA guide for technical hints, results, calculation, and troubleshooting tips:

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