

ab325629 – Mouse/Rat ACTH SimpleStep ELISA® Kit (Adrenocorticotropin Hormone), Chemiluminescent

For the quantitative measurement of ACTH in mouse and rat serum, plasma (heparin), plasma (EDTA), and plasma (citrate).
For research use only - not intended for diagnostic use.
Patent pending.

For overview, typical data and additional information please visit: www.abcam.com/ab325629

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.

Limitations: All data, except typical standard curve and sensitivity were collected using the colorimetric version of this kit (ab263880).

Materials Supplied

Item	Quantity 1 x 96 tests	Storage Condition
Mouse/Rat ACTH Capture Antibody 10X	600 µL	+4°C
Mouse/Rat ACTH Detector Antibody 10X	600 µL	+4°C
Mouse/Rat ACTH Lyophilized Peptide	2 Vials	+4°C
Antibody Diluent 4BI	6 mL	+4°C
Cell Extraction Buffer PTR 5X	10 mL	+4°C
Wash Buffer PT 10X	20 mL	+4°C
ChemiHRP Reagent A	3 mL	+4°C
ChemiHRP Reagent B	3 mL	+4°C
SimpleStep Pre-Coated Black 96-Well Microplate	96 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:

- Luminometer with the following settings: 0.5-1 second/well read time; summation mode (all wavelengths).
- 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.

1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR: Prepare 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR by diluting Cell Extraction Buffer PTR 5X to 1X with deionized water. To make 10 mL 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR combine 8 mL deionized water and 2 mL Cell Extraction Buffer PTR 5X. Mix thoroughly and gently. If required protease inhibitors can be added.

Antibody Cocktail: Prepare Antibody Cocktail by diluting the capture and detector antibodies in Antibody Diluent 4BI. 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 4BI. Mix thoroughly and gently.

Lumi HRP Development Solution: Just prior to use, prepare Lumi HRP Development Solution by mixing equal volume of the ChemiHRP Reagent A and the ChemiHRP Reagent B. To make 3 mL of the Lumi HRP Development Solution combine 1.5 mL of ChemiHRP Reagent A and 1.5 mL of ChemiHRP Reagent B. Mix thoroughly and gently by inversion or slow pipetting (Avoid shaking or vortexing). Protect the prepared solution from light until use.

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 ACTH standard sample by adding the volume of 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR indicated on the protein vial label. Hold at room temperature for 10 minutes. Mix thoroughly and gently. This is the 4,000 pg/mL **Stock Standard** Solution.
2. Label eight tubes, Standards 1–8.
3. Add 190 µL of 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR into tube number 1 and 150 µL of 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR 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	114	190	4,000	1,500
2	Standard#1	75	150	1,500	500
3	Standard#2	75	150	500	166.7
4	Standard#3	75	150	166.7	55.6
5	Standard#4	75	150	55.6	18.5
6	Standard#5	75	150	18.5	6.2
7	Standard#6	75	150	6.2	2.1
8	Blank Control	0	150	0	0

Sample Preparation

Typical Sample Dynamic Range	
Sample Type	Range
Mouse Serum	12.5 - 50%
Mouse Plasma – Citrate	3.125 - 50%
Mouse Plasma – Heparin	6.25 - 50%
Mouse Plasma - EDTA	3.125 - 50%
Rat Serum	1.56 - 25%
Rat Plasma – Citrate	0.9375 - 15%
Rat Plasma – Heparin	0.9375 - 15%
Rat Plasma - EDTA	0.9375 - 15%

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 mouse samples at least 1:2 and rat samples at least 1:4 into 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR 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 mouse samples at least 1:2 or rat samples at least 1:7 into 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR and assay. Store un-diluted plasma samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. 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, resealed 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 30 minutes at room temperature on a plate shaker set to 750 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 30 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 50 µL of prepared Lumi HRP Development Solution to each well and incubate for 1 minute in the dark on a plate shaker set to 750 rpm. Further optimization of incubation time vs signal strength can be performed if needed. Avoid introducing bubbles into the wells.
8. Measure the produced light of each well using a microplate luminometer with the following settings: 0.5-1 second/well read time in summation mode (all wavelengths). Relative light unit (RLU) readings may vary between luminometer models. It is recommended to configure instrument settings according to the manufacturer's specifications. Note: Relative light unit (RLU) values may change over the course of the 15-minute reading window.
9. Analyze the data as described below.

Mode:	Luminescence
Instrument settings:	Endpoint
Detection Mode:	All wavelengths
Read Time:	0.5-1 sec
Read:	Top

Note For microplate readers with Pre-Read Optimization option, the Read Height as well as Microplate Optimization is recommended before the first read.

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

<https://www.abcam.com/en-us/technical-resources/guides/elisa-guide>

Technical Support

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(Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone), Chemiluminescent**

Additional information

ASSAY SPECIFICITY

This kit is designed for the quantification of mouse and rat ACTH.

This kit recognizes native mouse and rat ACTH in serum and plasma samples. As ACTH is a product of POMC, this kit is expected to cross-react in any samples that contain the unprocessed precursor.

The standard in this kit is rat ACTH (1-39), which corresponds to aa 124-162 of Uniprot P01194. Mouse and rat ACTH share 100% homology.

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

Cell culture supernatant, urine, saliva, milk, CSF, and cell and tissue extract samples have not been tested with this kit.

SPECIES REACTIVITY

Human ACTH protein was tested and found to react.

Other species reactivity not determined.

CALCULATION

- Preconfigured protocols are available when using SoftMax Pro software from Molecular Devices.
- Calculate the average chemiluminescence value for the blank control (zero) standards. Subtract the average blank control standard chemiluminescence value from all other chemiluminescence values.
- Create a standard curve by plotting the average blank control subtracted chemiluminescence 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 chemiluminescence 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 chemiluminescence 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 chemiluminescence values greater than that of the highest standard should be further diluted and reanalyzed. Similarly, samples which measure at chemiluminescence 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)	RLU		Mean RLU
	1	2	
0	3,045	3,125	3,085
2.1	7,980	7,866	7,923
6.2	16,644	14,547	15,596
18.5	44,334	43,208	43,771
55.6	140,110	141,560	140,835
166.7	429,620	458,070	443,845
500	1,317,200	1,245,200	1,281,200
1,500	4,498,400	4,544,700	4,521,550

Table 1. Example of mouse and rat ACTH standard curve in 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR.. The ACTH 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 1.35 pg/mL. The MDD was determined by calculating the mean of zero standard replicates (n=16) and adding 2 standard deviations then extrapolating the corresponding concentration.

RECOVERY

Three concentrations of ACTH peptide 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 (%)
50% Mouse Serum	87	82 - 92
50% Mouse Plasma - Citrate	101	89 - 107
50% Mouse Plasma - Heparin	116	113 - 120
50% Mouse Plasma - EDTA	105	100 - 110
3.125% Rat Serum	112	106 - 119
1.875% Rat Plasma - Citrate	113	112 - 115
1.875% Rat Plasma - Heparin	116	116 - 119
1.875% Rat Plasma - EDTA	99	84 - 109

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 ACTH was measured in the following biological samples in a 2-fold dilution series. Sample dilutions are made in 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR.

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	50% Mouse Serum	50% Mouse Plasma (Citrate)	50% Mouse Plasma (Heparin)	50% Mouse Plasma (EDTA)
Undiluted	pg/mL	60.73	192.30	111.81	145.79
	% Expected value	100	100	100	100
2	pg/mL	32.64	110.83	59.00	81.84
	% Expected value	107	115	106	112
4	pg/mL	14.63	53.61	31.40	42.13
	% Expected value	96	112	112	116
8	pg/mL	NL	30.07	15.69	21.64
	% Expected value	NL	116	112	119
16	pg/mL	NL	13.41	NL	10.62
	% Expected value	NL	112	NL	117

NL – Non-Linear

Native ACTH was measured in the following biological samples in a 2-fold dilution series. Sample dilutions are made in 1X Cell Extraction Buffer PTR.

Dilution Factor	Interpolated value	25% Rat Serum	15% Rat Plasma (Citrate)	15% Rat Plasma (Heparin)	15% Rat Plasma (EDTA)
Undiluted	pg/mL	259.15	396.11	273.50	208.03
	% Expected value	100	100	100	100
2	pg/mL	144.46	217.99	148.14	114.54
	% Expected value	111	110	108	110
4	pg/mL	76.00	115.33	77.13	55.37
	% Expected value	117	116	113	106
8	pg/mL	38.86	59.65	39.54	29.03
	% Expected value	120	120	116	112
16	pg/mL	19.38	28.77	18.54	15.03
	% Expected value	120	116	108	116

Precision

Mean coefficient of variations of interpolated values of ACTH of mouse plasma (EDTA) within the working range of the assay.

	Intra-Assay	Inter-Assay
n =	8	3
CV (%)	4.2	6.6

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

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