



# Human Interleukin 6 (IL-6) ELISA Kit

**Catalog No. CSB-E04638h**

(96 tests)

- This immunoassay kit allows for the in vitro quantitative determination of **human IL-6** concentrations in **cell culture supernates, serum, plasma** and other biological fluids.
- **Expiration date** six months from the date of manufacture
- **FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT FOR USE IN DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES.**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is an interleukin that acts as both a pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokine. It is secreted by T cells and macrophages to stimulate immune response to trauma, especially burns or other tissue damage leading to inflammation. In terms of host response to a foreign pathogen, IL-6 has been shown, in mice, to be required for resistance against the bacterium, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. IL-6 is also a "myokine," a cytokine produced from muscle, and is elevated in response to muscle contraction. It is significantly elevated with exercise, and precedes the appearance of other cytokines in the circulation. During exercise, it is thought to act in a hormone-like manner to mobilize extracellular substrates and/or augment substrate delivery. Additionally, osteoblasts secrete IL-6 to stimulate osteoclast formation. Smooth muscle cells in the tunica media of many blood vessels also produce IL-6 as a pro-inflammatory cytokine. IL-6's role as an anti-inflammatory cytokine is mediated through its inhibitory effects on TNF-alpha and IL-1, and activation of IL-1ra and IL-10.

## **PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY**

The microtiter plate provided in this kit has been pre-coated with an antibody specific to IL-6. Standards or samples are then added to the appropriate microtiter plate wells with a biotin-conjugated polyclonal antibody preparation specific for IL-6 and Avidin conjugated to Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) is added to each microplate well and incubated. Then a TMB (3,3',5, 5' tetramethyl-benzidine) substrate solution is added to each well. Only those wells that contain IL-6, biotin-conjugated antibody and enzyme-conjugated Avidin will exhibit a change in color. The enzyme-substrate reaction is terminated by the addition of a sulphuric acid solution and the color change is measured spectrophotometrically at a wavelength of 450 nm  $\pm$  2 nm. The concentration of IL-6 in the samples is then determined by comparing the O.D. of the samples to the standard curve.

## **DETECTION RANGE**

15.6 pg/ml-1000 pg/ml. The standard curve concentrations used for the ELISA's were 1000 pg/ml, 500 pg/ml, 250 pg/ml, 125 pg/ml, 62.5 pg/ml, 31.2 pg/ml, 15.6 pg/ml.

## **SPECIFICITY**

This assay recognizes recombinant and natural human IL-6. No significant cross-reactivity or interference was observed.

## **SENSITIVITY**

The minimum detectable dose of human IL-6 is typically less than 3.9 pg/ml.

The sensitivity of this assay, or Lower Limit of Detection (LLD) was defined as the lowest protein concentration that could be differentiated from zero.

## MATERIALS PROVIDED

Reagent	Quantity
Assay plate	1
Standard	2
Sample Diluent	1 x 20 ml
Biotin-antibody Diluent	1 x 10 ml
HRP-avidin Diluent	1 x 10 ml
Biotin-antibody	1 x 120 $\mu$ l
HRP-avidin	1 x 120 $\mu$ l
Wash Buffer	1 x 20 ml (25 x concentrate)
TMB Substrate	1 x 10 ml
Stop Solution	1 x 10 ml

## STORAGE

1. Unopened test kits should be stored at 2-8°C upon receipt and the microtiter plate should be kept in a sealed bag with desiccants to minimize exposure to damp air. The test kit may be used throughout the expiration date of the kit. Refer to the package label for the expiration date.
2. Opened test kits will remain stable until the expiring date shown, provided it is stored as prescribed above.
3. A microtiter plate reader with a bandwidth of 10 nm or less and an optical density range of 0-3 OD or greater at 450nm wavelength is acceptable for use in absorbance measurement.

## REAGENT PREPARATION

**Bring all reagents to room temperature before use.**

1. **Wash Buffer** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, warm to room temperature and mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute 30 ml of Wash Buffer Concentrate into deionized or distilled water to prepare 500 ml of Wash Buffer.
2. **Standard** Reconstitute the **Standard** with 1.0 ml of **Sample Diluent**. This reconstitution produces a stock solution of 1000 pg/ml. Allow the standard to sit for a minimum of 15 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making serial dilutions. The undiluted standard serves as the high standard (1000 pg/ml). The **Sample Diluent** serves as the zero standard (0 pg/ml).
3. **Biotin-antibody** Dilute to the working concentration specified on the vial label using **Biotin-antibody Diluent**(1:100), respectively.
4. **HRP-avidin** Dilute to the working concentration specified on the vial label using

HRP-avidin Diluent(1:100), respectively.

***Precaution: The Stop Solution provided with this kit is an acid solution. Wear eye, hand, face, and clothing protection when using this material.***

## **OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED**

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm, with the correction wavelength set at 540 nm or 570 nm.
- Pipettes and pipette tips.
- Deionized or distilled water.
- Squirt bottle, manifold dispenser, or automated microplate washer.

## **SAMPLE COLLECTION AND STORAGE**

- **Cell Culture Supernates** Remove particulates by centrifugation and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Serum** Use a serum separator tube (SST) and allow samples to clot for 30 minutes before centrifugation for 15 minutes at 1000 x g. Remove serum and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Plasma** Collect plasma using citrate, EDTA, or heparin as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge for 15 minutes at 1000 x g within 30 minutes of collection. Assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

***Note: Grossly hemolyzed samples are not suitable for use in this assay.***

## **ASSAY PROCEDURE**

***Bring all reagents and samples to room temperature before use. It is recommended that all samples, standards, and controls be assayed in duplicate.***

1. Add 100 $\mu\text{l}$  of Standard, Blank, or Sample per well. Cover with the adhesive strip. Incubate for 2 hours at 37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
2. Remove the liquid of each well, don't wash.
3. Add 100 $\mu\text{l}$  of **Biotin-antibody** working solution to each well. Incubate for 1 hour at 37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . **Biotin-antibody** working solution may appear cloudy. Warm to room temperature and mix gently until solution appears uniform.
4. Aspirate each well and wash, repeating the process three times for a total of three washes. Wash by filling each well with Wash Buffer (350 $\mu\text{l}$ ) using a squirt bottle, multi-channel pipette, manifold dispenser or autowasher. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential to good performance. After the last wash, remove any remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or decanting. Invert the plate and blot it against clean paper towels.

5. Add 100µl of **HRP-avidin** working solution to each well. Cover the microtiter plate with a new adhesive strip. Incubate for 1 hours at 37° C.
6. Repeat the aspiration and wash three times as step 4.
7. Add 90µl of **TMB Substrate** to each well. Incubate for 30 minutes at 37°C. Keeping the plate away from drafts and other temperature fluctuations in the dark.
8. Add 50µl of **Stop Solution** to each well. If color change does not appear uniform, gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing.
9. Determine the optical density of each well within 30 minutes, using a microplate reader set to 450 nm.

## CALCULATION OF RESULTS

Average the duplicate readings for each standard, control, and sample and subtract the average zero standard optical density. Create a standard curve by reducing the data using computer software capable of generating a four parameter logistic (4-PL) curve-fit. As an alternative, construct a standard curve by plotting the mean absorbance for each standard on the y-axis against the concentration on the x-axis and draw a best fit curve through the points on the graph. The data may be linearized by plotting the log of the IL-6 concentrations versus the log of the O.D. and the best fit line can be determined by regression analysis. This procedure will produce an adequate but less precise fit of the data. If samples have been diluted, the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date on the kit label.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or sources.
- It is important that the Calibrator Diluent selected for the standard curve be consistent with the samples being assayed.
- If samples generate values higher than the highest standard, dilute the samples with the appropriate Calibrator Diluent and repeat the assay.
- Any variation in Standard Diluent, operator, pipetting technique, washing technique, incubation time or temperature, and kit age can cause variation in binding.
- This assay is designed to eliminate interference by soluble receptors, binding proteins, and other factors present in biological samples. Until all factors have been tested in the Quantikine Immunoassay, the possibility of interference cannot be excluded.

## TECHNICAL HINTS

- When mixing or reconstituting protein solutions, always avoid foaming.
- To avoid cross-contamination, change pipette tips between additions of each standard level, between sample additions, and between reagent additions. Also, use separate reservoirs for each reagent.

- When using an automated plate washer, adding a 30 second soak period following the addition of wash buffer, and/or rotating the plate 180 degrees between wash steps may improve assay precision.
- To ensure accurate results, proper adhesion of plate sealers during incubation steps is necessary.
- Substrate Solution should remain colorless until added to the plate. Keep Substrate Solution protected from light. Substrate Solution should change from colorless to gradations of blue.
- Stop Solution should be added to the plate in the same order as the Substrate Solution. The color developed in the wells will turn from blue to yellow upon addition of the Stop Solution. Wells that are green in color indicate that the Stop Solution has not mixed thoroughly with the Substrate Solution.