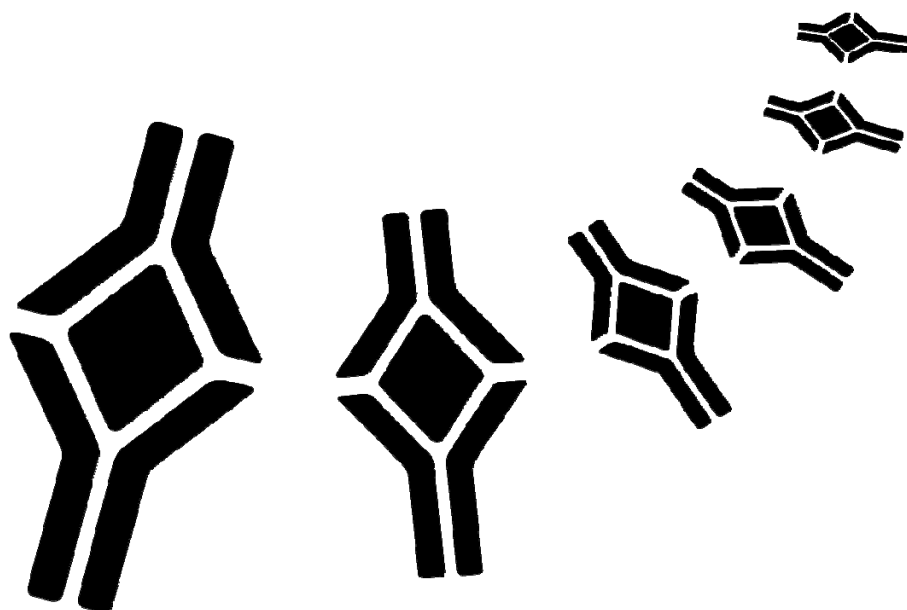


BioVendor

Research
and Diagnostic Products



Mouse VEGF-A ELISA

Product Data Sheet

Cat. No.: RBMS619R

For Research Use Only

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»» Use only the current version of Product Data Sheet enclosed with the kit!

1 INTENDED USE

The mouse VEGF-A ELISA is an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for the quantitative detection of mouse VEGF-A. **The mouse VEGF-A ELISA is for research use only. Not for diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.**

2 SUMMARY

Normal tissue function depends on a regular supply of oxygen through the blood vessels. Understanding the formation of blood vessels has become the focus of a major research effort throughout the last decade. Vasculogenesis in the embryo is the process by which new blood vessels are generated *de novo* from primitive precursor cells. Angiogenesis is the process of new blood vessel formation from pre-existing vasculatures. It plays an essential role in development, normal tissue growth, wound healing, the female reproductive cycle (placental development, ovulation, corpus luteum) and also plays a major role in various diseases (1). Special interest is focused on tumor growth, since tumors cannot grow more than a few millimeters in size without developing a new blood supply. This process is described as tumor angiogenesis which is also essential for the spread and growth of tumor cell metastasis.

One of the key molecules for angiogenesis and for the survival of the endothelium is vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF-A) (2). It is a specific endothelial cell mitogen and a strong vascular permeability factor (VPF) (3). VEGF-A is a heparin-binding glycoprotein, secreted as a homodimer of 45 kDa by many different cell types. VEGF-A also causes vasodilation through the nitric oxide synthase pathway in endothelial cells and can activate migration in monocytes. Many different splice variants of VEGF-A have been described, but VEGF₁₆₅ is the most predominant protein and anchors with its heparin binding domain to extracellular matrix and to heparin sulfate. During the past few years, several other members of the VEGF family have been cloned, including VEGF-B, -C- and -D. In terms of vascular angiogenesis, which mainly is regulated by VEGF-A, lymphangiogenesis is mainly regulated by VEGF-C and -D (4).

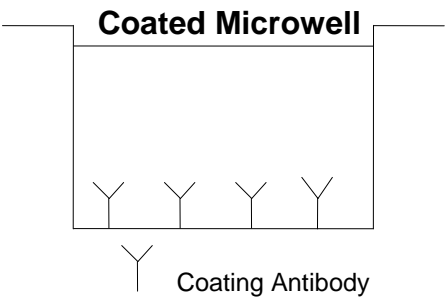
VEGF-A transcription is highly activated by hypoxia and by oncogenes (5) like H-ras and several transmembrane tyrosine kinases, such as epidermal growth factor receptor and ErbB2 (6). Together these pathways account for a marked upregulation of VEGF-A in tumors compared to normal tissues and are often of prognostic importance and relevance (7,8).

VEGF-A can be detected in both plasma and serum samples of patients, with much higher levels in serum (9). Extremely high levels can be detected in the cystic brain fluid of brain tumor patients (10,11) or in ascites fluid of patients. Platelets release VEGF-A upon aggregation and may be another major source of VEGF-A delivery to tumors (12). Several other studies have shown that association of high serum levels of VEGF-A with poor prognosis in cancer patients may be correlated with an elevated platelet count (13). Tumors can release cytokines and growth factors that stimulate the production of megakaryocytes in the marrow and elevate the platelet count. This can result in another, indirect increase of VEGF-A delivery to tumors (14).

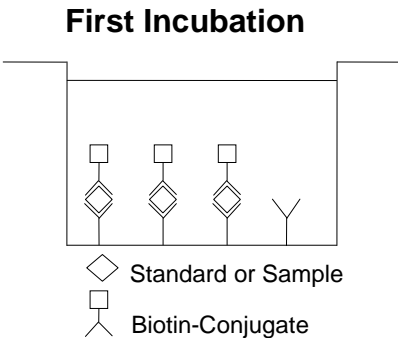
Furthermore, VEGF-A is implicated in several other pathological conditions associated with enhanced angiogenesis or enhanced vascular permeability. Examples where VEGF-A plays an important role are psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis (15), as well as the ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (16). Diabetic retinopathy is associated with high intraocular levels of VEGF-A, and inhibition of VEGF-A function may result in infertility by blockage of corpus luteum function (17). Direct demonstration of the importance of VEGF-A in tumor growth has been achieved using dominant negative VEGF receptors to block in vivo proliferation (18), as well as blocking antibodies to VEGF or to one of the VEGF receptors (19). Interference with VEGF-A function has therefore become of major interest for drug development to block angiogenesis and metastasis. More than 110 pharmaceutical companies world-wide are involved in the development of such antagonists. Their approaches include antagonists of VEGF-A or its receptors, selective tyrosine kinase inhibitors, targeting of drugs and toxins to VEGF receptors and gene therapy regulated by the same hypoxia pathway that controls VEGF-A production. Targeting the VEGF signalling may be of major therapeutic importance for many diseases (20) and serves as a basis for the design of future (anti)-angiogenic treatments.

3 PRINCIPLES OF THE TEST

An anti-mouse VEGF-A coating antibody is adsorbed onto microwells. Figure 1

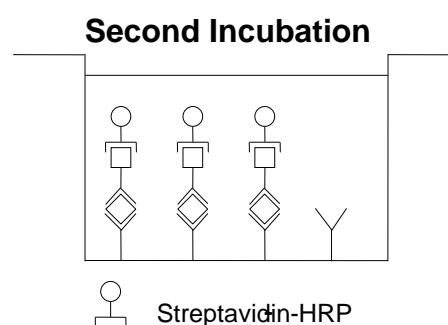


Mouse VEGF-A present in the sample or standard binds to antibodies adsorbed to the microwells. A biotin-conjugated anti-mouse VEGF-A antibody is added and binds to mouse VEGF-A captured by the first antibody. Figure 2



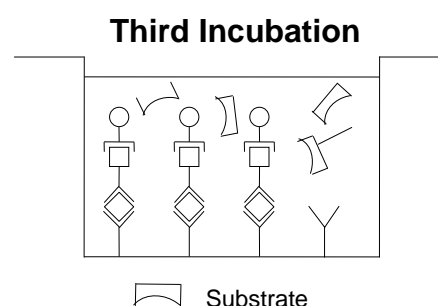
Following incubation unbound biotin-conjugated anti-mouse VEGF-A antibody is removed during a wash step. Streptavidin-HRP is added and binds to the biotin-conjugated anti-mouse VEGF-A antibody.

Figure 3



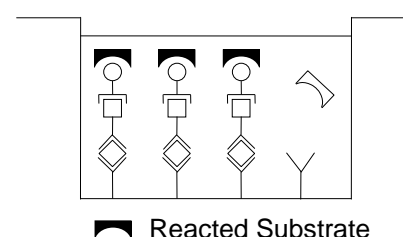
Following incubation unbound Streptavidin-HRP is removed during a wash step, and substrate solution reactive with HRP is added to the wells.

Figure 4



A coloured product is formed in proportion to the amount of mouse VEGF-A present in the sample or standard. The reaction is terminated by addition of acid and absorbance is measured at 450 nm. A standard curve is prepared from 7 mouse VEGF-A standard dilutions and mouse VEGF-A sample concentration determined.

Figure 5



4 REAGENTS PROVIDED

- 1 aluminium pouch with a **Antibody Coated Microtiter Strips** with polyclonal antibody to mouse VEGF-A
- 1 vial (100 µl) **Biotin-Conjugate** anti-mouse VEGF-A polyclonal antibody
- 1 vial (150 µl) **Streptavidin-HRP**
- 2 vials mouse VEGF-A **Standard** lyophilized, 4000 pg/ml upon reconstitution
- 1 vial (12 ml) **Sample Diluent**
- 1 vial (5 ml) **Assay Buffer Concentrate 20x** (PBS with 1% Tween 20 and 10% BSA)
- 1 bottle (50 ml) **Wash Buffer Concentrate 20x** (PBS with 1% Tween 20)
- 1 vial (15 ml) **Substrate Solution** (tetramethyl-benzidine)
- 1 vial (12 ml) **Stop Solution** (1M Phosphoric acid)
- 1 vial (0.4 ml) **Blue-Dye**
- 1 vial (0.4 ml) **Green-Dye**
- 1 vial (0.4 ml) **Red-Dye**
- 4 **Adhesive Films**

5 STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS – ELISA KIT

Store kit reagents between 2° and 8°C. Immediately after use remaining reagents should be returned to cold storage (2° to 8°C). Expiry of the kit and reagents is stated on labels.

Expiry of the kit components can only be guaranteed if the components are stored properly, and if, in case of repeated use of one component, this reagent is not contaminated by the first handling.

6 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

Cell culture supernatant and serum were tested with this assay. Other body fluids might be suitable for use in the assay. Remove serum from the clot as soon as possible after clotting.

Pay attention to a possible “**Hook Effect**” due to high sample concentrations (see 11).

Samples containing a visible precipitate must be clarified prior to use in the assay. Do not use grossly hemolyzed or lipemic specimens.

Samples should be aliquoted and must be stored frozen at -20°C to avoid loss of bioactive mouse VEGF-A. If samples are to be run within 24 hours, they may be stored at 2° to 8°C (for sample stability refer to 13.5).

Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Prior to assay, the frozen sample should be brought to room temperature slowly and mixed gently.

7 MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- 5 ml and 10 ml graduated pipettes
- 5 µl to 1000 µl adjustable single channel micropipettes with disposable tips
- 50 µl to 300 µl adjustable multichannel micropipette with disposable tips
- Multichannel micropipette reservoir
- Beakers, flasks, cylinders necessary for preparation of reagents
- Device for delivery of wash solution (multichannel wash bottle or automatic wash system)
- Microwell strip reader capable of reading at 450 nm (620 nm as optional reference wave length)
- Glass-distilled or deionized water
- Statistical calculator with program to perform regression analysis

8 PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

- All chemicals should be considered as potentially hazardous. We therefore recommend that this product is handled only by those persons who have been trained in laboratory techniques and that it is used in accordance with the principles of good laboratory practice. Wear suitable protective clothing such as laboratory overalls, safety glasses and gloves. Care should be taken to avoid contact with skin or eyes. In the case of contact with skin or eyes wash immediately with water. See material safety data sheet(s) and/or safety statement(s) for specific advice.
- Reagents are intended for research use only and are not for use in diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or other sources.
- Do not use kit reagents beyond expiration date on label.
- Do not expose kit reagents to strong light during storage or incubation.
- Do not pipette by mouth.
- Do not eat or smoke in areas where kit reagents or samples are handled.
- Avoid contact of skin or mucous membranes with kit reagents or specimens.
- Rubber or disposable latex gloves should be worn while handling kit reagents or specimens.
- Avoid contact of substrate solution with oxidizing agents and metal.
- Avoid splashing or generation of aerosols.
- In order to avoid microbial contamination or cross-contamination of reagents or specimens which may invalidate the test use disposable pipette tips and/or pipettes.
- Use clean, dedicated reagent trays for dispensing the conjugate and substrate reagent.
- Exposure to acid inactivates the conjugate.
- Glass-distilled water or deionized water must be used for reagent preparation.
- Substrate solution must be at room temperature prior to use.
- Decontaminate and dispose specimens and all potentially contaminated materials as they could contain infectious agents. The preferred method of decontamination is autoclaving for a minimum of 1 hour at 121.5°C.
- Liquid wastes not containing acid and neutralized waste may be mixed with sodium hypochlorite in volumes such that the final mixture contains 1.0% sodium hypochlorite. Allow 30 minutes for effective decontamination. Liquid waste containing acid must be neutralized prior to the addition of sodium hypochlorite.

9 PREPARATION OF REAGENTS

Buffer concentrates should be brought to room temperature and should be diluted before starting the test procedure.

9.1 Wash Buffer

If crystals have formed in the **Wash Buffer Concentrate**, warm it gently until they have completely dissolved.

Pour entire contents (50 ml) of the Wash Buffer Concentrate into a clean 1000 ml graduated cylinder. Bring to final volume of 1000 ml with glass-distilled or deionized water. Mix gently to avoid foaming. The pH of the final solution should adjust to 7.4.

Transfer to a clean wash bottle and store at 2° to 25°C. Please note that Wash Buffer is stable for 30 days. Wash Buffer may also be prepared as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Wash Buffer Concentrate(ml)	Distilled Water(ml)
1 - 6	25	475
1 - 12	50	950

9.2 Assay Buffer (1x)

Pour the entire contents (5 ml) of the **Assay Buffer Concentrate** (20x) into a clean 100 ml graduated cylinder. Bring to final volume of 100 ml with distilled water. Mix gently to avoid foaming.

Store at 2° to 8°C. Please note that the Assay Buffer (1x) is stable for 30 days. Assay Buffer (1x) may also be prepared as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Assay Buffer Concentrate(ml)	Distilled Water(ml)
1 - 6	2.5	47.5
1 - 12	5.0	95.0

9.3 Biotin-Conjugate

Please note that the Biotin-Conjugate should be used within 30 minutes after dilution.

Make a 1:100 dilution of the concentrated **Biotin-Conjugate** solution with Assay Buffer (1x) in a clean plastic tube as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Biotin-Conjugate(ml)	Assay Buffer (1x) (ml)
1 - 6	0.03	2.97
1 - 12	0.06	5.94

9.4 Streptavidin-HRP

Please note that the Streptavidin-HRP should be used within 30 minutes after dilution.

Make a 1:200 dilution of the concentrated **Streptavidin-HRP** solution with Assay Buffer (1x) in a clean plastic tube as needed according to the following table:

Number of Strips	Streptavidin-HRP (ml)	Assay Buffer (1x) (ml)
1 - 6	0.03	5.97
1 - 12	0.06	11.94

9.5 Mouse VEGF-A Standard

Reconstitute **mouse VEGF-A standard** by addition of distilled water for **exactly 10 minutes**.

Refer to the Quality Control Sheet for current volume of Distilled water needed for reconstitution of standard. Swirl or mix gently to insure complete and homogeneous solubilisation (concentration of reconstituted standard = 4000 pg/ml).

The standard has to be used immediately after reconstitution and cannot be stored.

Standard dilutions can be prepared directly on the microwell plate (see 10.c) or alternatively in tubes (see 9.5.1).

9.5.1 External Standard Dilution

Label 7 tubes, one for each standard point.

S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7

Then prepare 1:2 serial dilutions for the standard curve as follows:

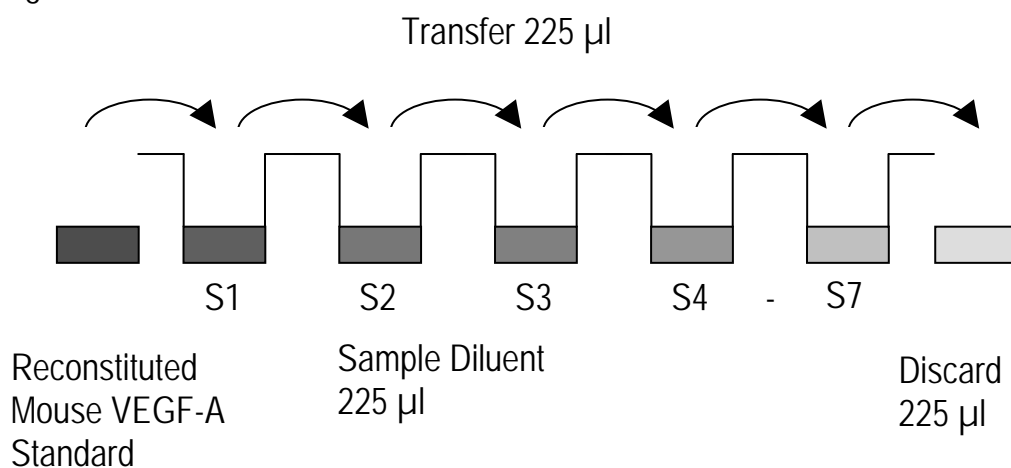
Pipette 225 µl of Sample Diluent into each tube.

Pipette 225 µl of reconstituted standard (concentration = 4000 pg/ml) into the first tube, labelled S1, and mix (concentration of standard 1 = 2000 pg/ml). Pipette 225 µl of this dilution into the second tube, labelled S2, and mix thoroughly before the next transfer.

Repeat serial dilutions 5 more times thus creating the points of the standard curve (see Figure 6).

Sample Diluent serves as blank.

Figure 6



9.6 Addition of Colour-giving Reagents: Blue-Dye, Green-Dye, Red-Dye

This procedure is optional, does not in any way interfere with the test results, and is designed to help the customer with the performance of the test, but can also be omitted, just following the instruction booklet.

Alternatively, the dye solutions from the stocks provided (*Blue-Dye*, *Green-Dye*, *Red-Dye*) can be added to the reagents according to the following guidelines:

1. Diluent:

Before standard and sample dilution add the *Blue-Dye* at a dilution of 1:250 (see table below) to the appropriate diluent (1x) according to the test protocol. After addition of *Blue-Dye*, proceed according to the instruction booklet.

5 ml Sample Diluent	20 µl <i>Blue-Dye</i>
12 ml Sample Diluent	48 µl <i>Blue-Dye</i>
50 ml Sample Diluent	200 µl <i>Blue-Dye</i>

2. Biotin-Conjugate:

Before dilution of the concentrated Biotin-Conjugate, add the *Green-Dye* at a dilution of 1:100 (see table below) to the Assay Buffer (1x) used for the final conjugate dilution. Proceed after addition of *Green-Dye* according to the instruction booklet: Preparation of Biotin-Conjugate.

3 ml Assay Buffer (1x)	30 µl <i>Green-Dye</i>
6 ml Assay Buffer (1x)	60 µl <i>Green-Dye</i>

3. Streptavidin-HRP:

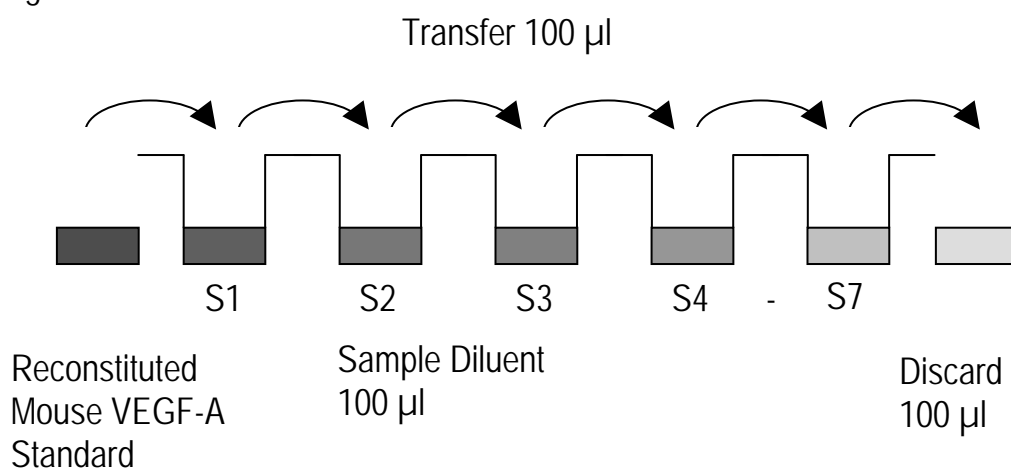
Before dilution of the concentrated Streptavidin-HRP, add the *Red-Dye* at a dilution of 1:250 (see table below) to the Assay Buffer (1x) used for the final Streptavidin-HRP dilution. Proceed after addition of *Red-Dye* according to the instruction booklet: Preparation of Streptavidin-HRP.

6 ml Assay Buffer (1x)	24 µl <i>Red-Dye</i>
12 ml Assay Buffer (1x)	48 µl <i>Red-Dye</i>

10 TEST PROTOCOL

- Determine the number of microwell strips required to test the desired number of samples plus appropriate number of wells needed for running blanks and standards. Each sample, standard, blank and optional control sample should be assayed in duplicate. Remove extra microwell strips from holder and store in foil bag with the desiccant provided at 2°-8°C sealed tightly.
- Wash the microwell strips twice with approximately 400 µl **Wash Buffer** per well with thorough aspiration of microwell contents between washes. Allow the Wash Buffer to sit in the wells for about **10 – 15 seconds** before aspiration. Take care not to scratch the surface of the microwells. After the last wash step, empty wells and tap microwell strips on absorbent pad or paper towel to remove excess Wash Buffer. Use the microwell strips immediately after washing. Alternatively microwell strips can be placed upside down on a wet absorbent paper for not longer than 15 minutes. **Do not allow wells to dry.**
- Standard dilution on the microwell plate** (Alternatively the standard dilution can be prepared in tubes - see 9.5.1): Add 100 µl of Sample Diluent in duplicate to all **standard wells**. Pipette 100 µl of prepared **standard** (see Preparation of Standard 0, concentration = 4000 pg/ml) in duplicate into well A1 and A2 (see Table 1). Mix the contents of wells A1 and A2 by repeated aspiration and ejection (concentration of standard 1, S1=2000 pg/ml), and transfer 100 µl to wells B1 and B2, respectively (see Figure 7). Take care not to scratch the inner surface of the microwells. Continue this procedure 5 times, creating two rows of mouse VEGF-A standard dilutions ranging from 2000.0 to 31.3 pg/ml. Discard 100 µl of the contents from the last microwells (G1, G2) used.

Figure 7



In case of an **external standard dilution** (see 9.5.1), pipette 100 µl of these standard dilutions (S1 - S7) in the standard wells according to Table 1.

Table 1

Table depicting an example of the arrangement of blanks, standards and samples in the microwell strips:

	1	2	3	4
A	Standard 1 (2000.0 pg/ml)	Standard 1 (2000.0 pg/ml)	Sample 1	Sample 1
B	Standard 2 (1000.0 pg/ml)	Standard 2 (1000.0 pg/ml)	Sample 2	Sample 2
C	Standard 3 (500.0 pg/ml)	Standard 3 (500.0 pg/ml)	Sample 3	Sample 3
D	Standard 4 (250.0 pg/ml)	Standard 4 (250.0 pg/ml)	Sample 4	Sample 4
E	Standard 5 (125.0 pg/ml)	Standard 5 (125.0 pg/ml)	Sample 5	Sample 5
F	Standard 6 (62.5 pg/ml)	Standard 6 (62.5 pg/ml)	Sample 6	Sample 6
G	Standard 7 (31.3 pg/ml)	Standard 7 (31.3 pg/ml)	Sample 7	Sample 7
H	Blank	Blank	Sample 8	Sample 8

- d. Add 100 µl of **Sample Diluent** in duplicate to the **blank wells**.
- e. Add 75 µl of **Sample Diluent** to the **sample wells**.
- f. Add 25 µl of each **sample** in duplicate to the **sample wells**.
- g. Prepare **Biotin-Conjugate** (see Preparation of Biotin-Conjugate 9.3).
- h. Add 50 µl of **Biotin-Conjugate** to all wells.
- i. Cover with an adhesive film and incubate at room temperature (18 to 25°C) for 2 hours, if available on a microplate shaker set at 100 rpm.
- j. Prepare **Streptavidin-HRP** (refer to Preparation of Streptavidin-HRP 9.4).
- k. Remove adhesive film and empty wells. **Wash** microwell strips 3 times according to point b. of the test protocol. Proceed immediately to the next step.
- l. Add 100 µl of diluted **Streptavidin-HRP** to all wells, including the blank wells.
- m. Cover with an adhesive film and incubate at room temperature (18° to 25°C) for 1 hour, if available on a microplate shaker set at 100 rpm.
- n. Remove adhesive film and empty wells. **Wash** microwell strips 3 times according to point b. of the test protocol. Proceed immediately to the next step.
- o. Pipette 100 µl of **TMB Substrate Solution** to all wells.
- p. Incubate the microwell strips at room temperature (18° to 25°C) for about 10 min. Avoid direct exposure to intense light.

The colour development on the plate should be monitored and the substrate reaction stopped (see next point of this protocol) before positive wells are no longer properly recordable. Determination of the ideal time period for colour development has to be done individually for each assay.

It is recommended to add the stop solution when the highest standard has developed a dark blue colour. Alternatively the colour development can be monitored by the ELISA

reader at 620 nm. The substrate reaction should be stopped as soon as Standard 1 has reached an OD of 0.60 – 0.65.

- q. Stop the enzyme reaction by quickly pipetting 100 µl of **Stop Solution** into each well. It is important that the Stop Solution is spread quickly and uniformly throughout the microwells to completely inactivate the enzyme. Results must be read immediately after the Stop Solution is added or within one hour if the microwell strips are stored at 2 - 8°C in the dark.
- r. Read absorbance of each microwell on a spectro-photometer using 450 nm as the primary wave length (optionally 620 nm as the reference wave length; 610 nm to 650 nm is acceptable). Blank the plate reader according to the manufacturer's instructions by using the blank wells. Determine the absorbance of both the samples and the standards.

Note: In case of incubation without shaking the obtained O.D. values may be lower than indicated below. Nevertheless the results are still valid.

11 CALCULATION OF RESULTS

- Calculate the average absorbance values for each set of duplicate standards and samples. Duplicates should be within 20 per cent of the mean value.
- Create a standard curve by plotting the mean absorbance for each standard concentration on the ordinate against the mouse VEGF-A concentration on the abscissa. Draw a best fit curve through the points of the graph (a 5-parameter curve fit is recommended).
- To determine the concentration of circulating mouse VEGF-A for each sample, first find the mean absorbance value on the ordinate and extend a horizontal line to the standard curve. At the point of intersection, extend a vertical line to the abscissa and read the corresponding mouse VEGF-A concentration.
- **If instructions in this protocol have been followed samples have been diluted 1:4 (25 µl sample + 75 µl Sample Diluent), the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor (x 4).**
- Calculation of samples with a concentration exceeding standard 1 may result in incorrect, low mouse VEGF-A levels (Hook Effect). Such samples require further external predilution according to expected mouse VEGF-A values with Sample Diluent in order to precisely quantitate the actual mouse VEGF-A level.
- It is suggested that each testing facility establishes a control sample of known mouse VEGF-A concentration and runs this additional control with each assay. If the values obtained are not within the expected range of the control, the assay results may be invalid.
- A representative standard curve is shown in Figure 8. This curve cannot be used to derive test results. Each laboratory must prepare a standard curve for each group of microwell strips assayed.

Figure 8

Representative standard curve for mouse VEGF-A ELISA. Mouse VEGF-A was diluted in serial 2-fold steps in Sample Diluent. Do not use this standard curve to derive test results. A standard curve must be run for each group of microwell strips assayed.

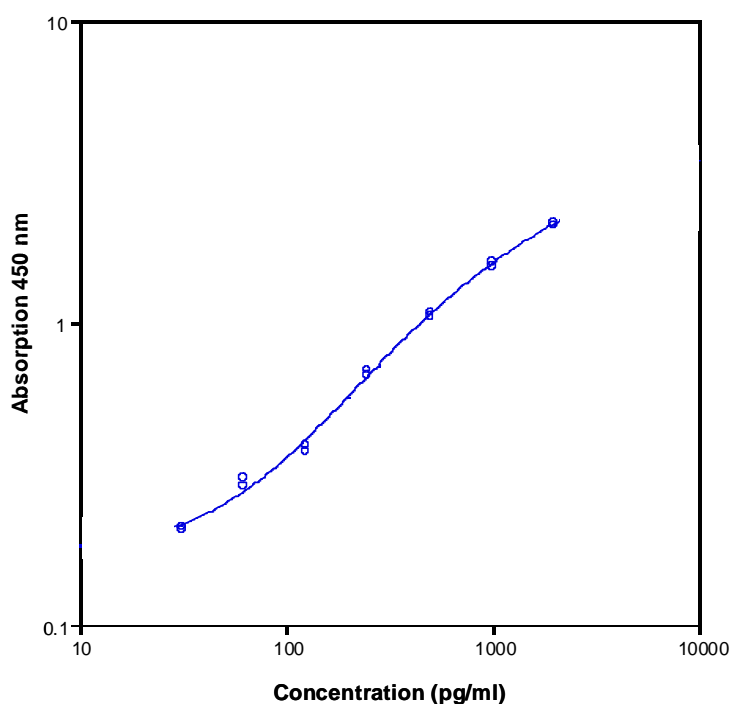


Table 2

Typical data using the mouse VEGF-A ELISA

Measuring wavelength: 450 nm

Reference wavelength: 620 nm

Standard	Mouse VEGF-A Concentration (pg/ml)	O.D. at 450 nm	Mean O.D. at 450 nm	C.V.(%)
1	2000.0	2.103	2.130	1.3
	2000.0	2.157		
2	1000.0	1.541	1.565	1.5
	1000.0	1.589		
3	500.0	1.045	1.067	2.0
	500.0	1.088		
4	250.0	0.670	0.684	2.0
	250.0	0.698		
5	125.0	0.391	0.383	2.1
	125.0	0.375		
6	62.5	0.289	0.298	2.9
	62.5	0.306		
7	31.3	0.206	0.209	1.2
	31.3	0.211		
Blank	0	0.122	0.123	
	0	0.124		

The OD values of the standard curve may vary according to the conditions of assay performance (e.g. operator, pipetting technique, washing technique or temperature effects). Furthermore shelf life of the kit may affect enzymatic activity and thus colour intensity. Values measured are still valid.

12 LIMITATIONS

- Since exact conditions may vary from assay to assay, a standard curve must be established for every run.
- Bacterial or fungal contamination of either screen samples or reagents or cross-contamination between reagents may cause erroneous results.
- Disposable pipette tips, flasks or glassware are preferred, reusable glassware must be washed and thoroughly rinsed of all detergents before use.
- Improper or insufficient washing at any stage of the procedure will result in either false positive or false negative results. Empty wells completely before dispensing fresh wash solution, fill with Wash Buffer as indicated for each wash cycle and do not allow wells to sit uncovered or dry for extended periods.

13 PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

13.1 Sensitivity

The limit of detection of mouse VEGF-A defined as the analyte concentration resulting in an absorbance significantly higher than that of the dilution medium (mean plus 2 standard deviations) was determined to be 4.5 pg/ml (mean of 6 independent assays).

13.2 Reproducibility

13.2.1 Intra-assay

Reproducibility within the assay was evaluated in 3 independent experiments. Each assay was carried out with 6 replicates of 8 serum samples containing different concentrations of mouse VEGF-A. 2 standard curves were run on each plate. The calculated overall intra-assay coefficient of variation was < 5%.

13.2.2 Inter-assay

Assay to assay reproducibility within one laboratory was evaluated in 3 independent experiments. Each assay was carried out with 6 replicates of 8 serum samples containing different concentrations of mouse VEGF-A. 2 standard curves were run on each plate. The calculated overall inter-assay coefficient of variation was < 10%.

13.3 Spiking Recovery

The spiking recovery was evaluated by spiking 4 levels of mouse VEGF-A into serum samples. Recoveries were determined in 3 independent experiments with 8 serum samples. The amount of endogenous mouse VEGF-A in unspiked serum was subtracted from the spike values.

The overall mean recovery was 119%.

13.4 Dilution Linearity

3 serum samples with different levels of mouse VEGF-A were analysed at serial 2 fold dilutions with 4 replicates each.

The overall mean recovery was 108%.

Recoveries were shown to depend on the serum used.

13.5 Sample Stability

13.5.1 Freeze-Thaw Stability

Aliquots of serum samples (spiked or unspiked) were stored at -20°C and thawed 5 times, and the mouse VEGF-A levels determined.

There was a significant decrease of mouse VEGF-A immunoreactivity detected. Therefore samples should be stored in aliquots at -20°C and thawed only once.

13.5.2 Storage Stability

Aliquots of serum samples (spiked or unspiked) were stored at -20°C, 2-8°C, room temperature (RT) and at 37°C, and the mouse VEGF-A level determined after 24 h. There was no significant loss of mouse VEGF-A immunoreactivity detected during storage at -20°C and 2-8°C. A significant loss of mouse VEGF-A immunoreactivity was detected during storage at RT and 37°C after 24 h.

13.6 Specificity

The interference of circulating factors of the immune system was evaluated by spiking these proteins at physiologically relevant concentrations into a mouse VEGF-A positive serum.

There was no crossreactivity detected.

13.7 Expected Values

A panel of 8 sera samples from randomly selected apparently healthy mice was tested for mouse VEGF-A.

The detected mouse VEGF-A levels ranged between 410 and 695 pg/ml with a mean level of 555 pg/ml. The levels measured may vary with the sample collection used.

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15 REAGENT PREPARATION SUMMARY

15.1 Wash Buffer

Add **Wash Buffer Concentrate** 20x (50 ml) to 950 ml distilled water.

Number of Strips	Wash Buffer Concentrate (ml)	Distilled Water (ml)
1 - 6	25	475
1 - 12	50	950

15.2 Assay Buffer (1x)

Add **Assay Buffer Concentrate** 20x (5 ml) to 95 ml distilled water.

Number of Strips	Assay Buffer Concentrate (ml)	Distilled Water (ml)
1 - 6	2.5	47.5
1 - 12	5.0	95.0

15.3 Biotin-Conjugate

Make a 1:100 dilution of **Biotin-Conjugate** in Assay Buffer (1x):

Number of Strips	Biotin-Conjugate (ml)	Assay Buffer (1x) (ml)
1 - 6	0.03	2.97
1 - 12	0.06	5.94

15.4 Streptavidin-HRP

Make a 1:200 dilution of **Streptavidin-HRP** in Assay Buffer (1x):

Number of Strips	Streptavidin-HRP (ml)	Assay Buffer (1x) (ml)
1 - 6	0.03	5.97
1 - 12	0.06	11.94

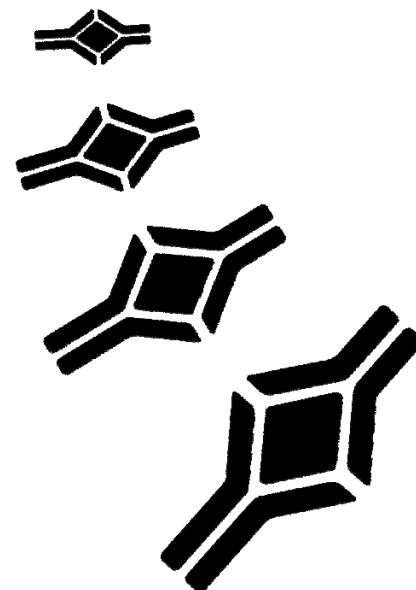
15.5 Mouse VEGF-A Standard

Reconstitute lyophilized **mouse VEGF-A standard** with distilled water for exactly **10 minutes**. (Reconstitution volume is stated in the Quality Control Sheet.)

16 TEST PROTOCOL SUMMARY

1. Determine the number of microwell strips required.
2. Wash microwell strips twice with Wash Buffer.
3. Standard dilution on the microwell plate: Add 100 µl Sample Diluent, in duplicate, to all standard wells. Pipette 100 µl prepared standard into the first wells and create standard dilutions by transferring 100 µl from well to well. Discard 100 µl from the last wells. Alternatively external standard dilution in tubes (see 9.5.1): Pipette 100 µl of these standard dilutions in the microwell strips.
4. Add 100 µl Sample Diluent, in duplicate, to the blank wells.
5. Add 75 µl Sample Diluent to sample wells.
6. Add 25 µl sample in duplicate, to designated sample wells.
7. Prepare Biotin-Conjugate.
8. Add 50 µl Biotin-Conjugate to all wells.
9. Cover microwell strips and incubate 2 hours at room temperature (18° to 25°C).
10. Prepare Streptavidin-HRP.
11. Empty and wash microwell strips 3 times with Wash Buffer.
12. Add 100 µl diluted Streptavidin-HRP to all wells.
13. Cover microwell strips and incubate 1 hour at room temperature (18° to 25°C).
14. Empty and wash microwell strips 3 times with Wash Buffer.
15. Add 100 µl of TMB Substrate Solution to all wells.
16. Incubate the microwell strips for about 10 minutes at room temperature (18° to 25°C).
17. Add 100 µl Stop Solution to all wells.
18. Blank microwell reader and measure colour intensity at 450 nm.

Note: If instructions in this protocol have been followed samples have been diluted 1:4 (25 µl sample + 75 µl Sample Diluent), the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor (x 4).



HEADQUARTERS: BioVendor Laboratorní medicina, a.s.	CTPark Modrice Evropska 873	664 42 Modrice CZECH REPUBLIC	Phone: +420-549-124-185 Fax: +420-549-211-460	E-mail: info@biovendor.com Web: www.biovendor.com
EUROPEAN UNION: BioVendor GmbH	Im Neuenheimer Feld 583	D-69120 Heidelberg GERMANY	Phone: +49-6221-433-9100 Fax: +49-6221-433-9111	E-mail: infoEU@biovendor.com
USA, CANADA AND MEXICO: BioVendor LLC	1463 Sand Hill Road Suite 227	Candler, NC 28715 USA	Phone: +1-828-670-7807 +1-800-404-7807 Fax: +1-828-670-7809	E-mail: infoUSA@biovendor.com
CHINA - Hong Kong Office: BioVendor Laboratories Ltd	Room 4008 Hong Kong Plaza, No.188	Connaught Road West Hong Kong, CHINA	Phone: +852-2803-0523 Fax: +852-2803-0525	E-mail: infoHK@biovendor.com
CHINA – Mainland Office: BioVendor Laboratories Ltd	Room 2405 YiYa Tower TianYu Garden, No.150	Lihe Zhong Road Guang Zhou, CHINA	Phone: +86-20-8706-3029 Fax: +86-20-8706-3016	E-mail: infoCN@biovendor.com