

Revised 3 Nov. 2010 rm (Vers. 4.1)

Please use only the valid version of the package insert provided with the kit.

This kit is intended for Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

References:

1. Rohwedder, A. (2000): "Virale Gastroenteritiden, Erreger und Diagnostik", Mikrobiologie, 10. Jg. P.121-126.
2. Palombo, E. A. and Bishop, R. F. (1996): "Annual Incidence, Serotype Distribution and Genetic Diversity of Human Astrovirus Isolates from Hospitalized Children in Melbourne, Australia"; Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 34, No. 7, p. 1750-1753.
3. Cukor, G. and Blacklow, N. R. (1984): "Human Viral Gastroenteritis", Microbiological Reviews, June, Vol. 48 No. 2, p. 157-179.
4. Gaggero, A.; O'Ryan, M. et al. (1998): "Prevalence of Astrovirus Infection among Chilean Children with Acute Gastroenteritis", Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 36 No. 12, p. 3691-3693.

1 INTENDED USE

Astrovirus Ag ELISA is for the detection of Astrovirus in faecal samples. This kit is intended for Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

2 PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Astrovirus AG ELISA is a one-step enzyme immunoassay on the basis of polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies against Astrovirus antigens.

Diluted stool specimens and horseradish peroxidase (HRP) labelled monoclonal anti-Astrovirus-antibodies are dispensed simultaneously into the wells of a microtitration plate coated with polyclonal anti-Astrovirus-antibodies.

After an incubation time of 60 min at room temperature (RT) unbound components are removed by a washing step.

HRP converts the subsequently added colorless substrate solution of 3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) within a 10 min reaction time at room temperature protected from light into a blue product. The enzyme reaction is terminated by sulphuric acid dispensed into the wells turning the solution from blue to yellow.

The optical density (OD) of the solution read at 450/≥620 nm is directly proportional to the specifically bound amount of Astrovirus.

3 PREPARATION AND STORAGE OF SAMPLES

3.1 Collection and storage

Stool samples should be stored at 2 °C – 8 °C immediately after collection and processed within 72 hours.

Longer storage is possible at -20°C. Repeated freezing and thawing of samples should be avoided.

Stool samples already diluted with the sample diluent [DIL] can be stored over night at 2 °C - 8 °C and tested on the following day.

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3.2 Preparation

Quickly thaw frozen samples. Warm samples to room temperature and mix well.

The Astrovirus ELISA (EIA-4456) can be performed with 1:6 or 1:11 diluted specimens. In case of additional testing of the same sample in the Clostridium difficile Toxin A+B ELISA (EIA-4448) the 1:6 dilution is recommended.

Preparation of a 1:11 sample dilution:

Pipette **1000 µl** of sample diluent into a clean tube.

Using a disposable stirring rod transfer about **100 mg** (diameter about 2-3 mm) of faeces if solid or pipette **100 µl** if liquid into the tube and suspend thoroughly.

If necessary, sediment floating particles by a centrifugation step with a micro centrifuge for one min. at maximum speed.

Preparation of a 1:6 sample dilution:

Pipette **1000 µl** of sample diluent into a clean tube.

Using a disposable stirring rod transfer about **200 mg** (diameter about 4-6 mm) of faeces if solid or pipette **200 µl** if liquid into the tube and suspend thoroughly.

If necessary, sediment floating particles by a centrifugation step with a micro centrifuge for one min at maximum speed.

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4 TEST COMPONENTS FOR 96 WELLS

1. WELLS	– Mikrotitration plate, 12 single breakable 8-well strips (in all 96 wells) coated with polyclonal anti-Astrovirus-antibodies (rabbit)	– 1 – vakuum sealed with desiccant
2. WASHBUF CONC 10X	– Wash buffer, 10-fold – for 1000 ml solution	– 100 ml – concentrate – white cap
3. DIL	– Sample diluent	– 100 ml – ready to use – coloured red – black cap
4. CONTROL +	– Positive control – Astrovirus ELISA reactive sample	– 1.5 ml – ready to use – red cap
5. CONTROL -	– Negative control – Astrovirus negative sample	– 1.5 ml – ready to use – coloured blue – green cap
6. CONJ HRP	– HRP-conjugate; – HRP-labelled, monoclonal anti-Astrovirus-antibodies (mouse)	– 12 ml – ready to use – brown cap
7. SUBSTR TMB	– Substrate – 3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine and hydrogen peroxide	– 15 ml – ready to use – blue cap
8. STOP	– Stop solution – 0.25 M Sulphuric acid	– 15 ml – ready to use – yellow cap

5 MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- micropipettes
- multi-channel pipette or multi-pipette
- reagent container for multi-channel pipette
- 8-channel wash comb with vacuum pump and waste bottle or microplate washer
- microplate reader with optical filters of 450 nm for measurement and ≥ 620 nm for reference
- distilled or de-ionized water
- glassware
- tubes (2 ml) for sample preparation

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6 PREPARATION AND STORAGE OF REAGENTS

6.1 Kit size and expiry

One kit is designed for 96 determinations.

The expiry date of each component is reported on its respective label, of the complete kit on the outer box label.

Upon receipt, all test components have to be kept at 2-8°C, preferably in the original kit box.

After opening all kit components are stable for at least 2 months, provided proper storage.

This ready to use wash buffer solution is stable for at least 30 days when stored at 2-8°C.

6.2 Reagent preparation

Allow all components to reach room temperature prior to use in the assay.

The microtitration plate is vacuum-sealed in a foil with desiccant. The plate consists of a frame and strips with breakable wells. Allow the sealed plate to reach room temperature before opening. Unused wells should be stored refrigerated and protected from moisture in the original cover carefully resealed.

Prepare a sufficient amount of wash solution by diluting the 10fold concentrated wash buffer 1 + 9 with distilled or de-ionized water.

For Example: 10 ml *Wash Buffer* concentrate + 90 ml distilled water.

7 ASSAY PROCEDURE

- Dilute samples with *Sample Diluent* (3) **1:11 or 1:6**, e.g.
100 mg or 100 µl stool + 1.0 ml (1:11) sample diluent (3) or
200 mg or 200 µl stool + 1.0 ml (1:6) sample diluent (3)
- Avoid any time shift during dispensing of reagents and samples.
- Make sure that the soak time of the wash buffer in the wells is at least 5 seconds per wash cycle and that the remaining fluid is completely drained in every single wash cycle!
- Avoid light exposure of the TMB substrate solution!

7.1 Working steps

1. Warm all reagents to room temperature (RT) before use. Mix gently without causing foam.
2. Dispense **2 drops (or 75 µl) HRP Conjugate** and
3. **2 drops (or 75 µl) Positive Control**
Negative Control
50 µl diluted sample, mix gently.
4. Cover plate and incubate for **60 min** at RT.
5. Decant, then wash each well **5x** with **300 µl** wash solution (diluted from 2) and tap dry onto absorbent paper.
6. Dispense **2 drops (or 75 µl) TMB Substrate Solution** per well.
7. Incubate for **10 min** at RT protected from light.

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8. Dispense **2 drops (or 75 µl) Stop Solution**, mix gently.
9. Read OD at **450 nm** (reference filter ≥ 620 nm) with a microplate reader within 30 min after reaction stop.

8 COMMON ADVICES AND PRECAUTIONS

This kit is intended for Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

Follow the working instructions carefully. The kit should be performed by trained technical staff only.

The expiration dates stated on the respective labels are to be observed. The same relates to the stability stated for reconstituted reagents.

Do not use or mix reagents from different lots except for sample diluent, wash buffer, TMB/substrate solution and stop solution.

Do not use reagents from other manufacturers.

Avoid time shift during dispensing of reagents.

All reagents should be kept at 2-8°C before use.

Some of the reagents contain small amounts of Thimerosal (< 0.1 % w/v) and Kathon (1.0 % v/v) as preservative. They must not be swallowed or allowed to come into contact with skin or mucous membranes.

Handle all components and all samples as if potentially hazardous.

Since the kit contains potentially hazardous materials, the following precautions should generally be observed:

- Do not smoke, eat or drink while handling kit material,
- Always use protective gloves,
- Never pipette material by mouth,
- Note safety precautions of the single test components.