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# **Anti-Nucleosome**

**ORG 528**

**96 Tests**

**Immunometric Enzyme Immunoassay  
for the quantitative determination of  
autoantibodies against Nucleosomes**

Instruction for use

CE

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## **NAME AND INTENDED USE**

Anti-Nucleosome is an indirect solid phase enzyme immunoassay (ELISA) for the quantitative measurement of IgG class autoantibodies against Nucleosomes in human serum or plasma. The assay is intended for in vitro diagnostic use only as an aid in the diagnostic of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).

## **SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION OF THE TEST**

Antibodies directed against nucleosomes were first described in association with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in 1957. At those times known as "LE cell factor". In 1986 Hardin suggested, that nucleosomes possibly were important antigens in generating antinuclear antibodies in SLE-patients. But only in 1995 nucleosomes were properly described as autoantigens in systemic autoimmune diseases. Today, anti-nucleosome antibodies are recognised to be especially prevalent in systemic lupus erythematosus and drug-induced lupus.

Nucleosomes mainly consist of an octamere of histones (four homo-dimers of H2A, H2B, H3, H4) around which 146 bp of DNA are wound twice. Histone H1 interacts with the nucleosome and together with linked-DNA connects neighbouring nucleosomes. Hence the nucleosome structure is important in the compaction of DNA in the nucleus.

Anti-nucleosome-specific antibodies together with lupus anti-dsDNA and anti-histone antibodies directed towards nucleosomes belong to a broad anti-nucleosome antibody family.

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic multisystemic disease with unknown aetiology. It is characterised by organ damage of vasculitis origin. The main clinical manifestations are renal diseases (50 %), skin rashes (70 %), arthralgia (90 %), involvement of the central nervous system (CNS) (30 %), polyserositis and cytopenia.

Due to the difficulty of diagnosing "SLE", 11 criteria were set up by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), in 1982:

- Malar rashes on both cheeks
- Discoid rash erythematous raised patches
- Photosensitivity skin rash as a result of unusual reaction to sunlight
- Oral ulcers oral or nasopharyngeal ulceration, usually painless
- Arthritis nonerosive arthritis involving 2 or more peripheral joints
- Serositis documented pleuritis or pericarditis
- Renal disorder persistent proteinuria > 0.5 g/day or cellular casts
- Neurologic disorder seizures or psychosis
- Haematological disorder haemolytic anaemia or leukopenia or lymphopenia or thrombocytopenia
- Immunologic disorder positive LE cell preparation or anti-dsDNA antibodies or anti-Sm antibodies or false positive serologic test for syphilis
- Antinuclear antibody an abnormal titre of antinuclear antibody in the absence of drugs known to be associated with "drug-induced lupus" syndrome

Of the above mentioned 11 criteria, at least 4 must be diagnosed in order to classify an SLE-patient.

It could be demonstrated, that anti-nucleosome antibodies are detected in 84 - 88 % of patients with SLE. And a percentage of 16 - 30 % of patients with lupus have been reported to have anti-nucleosome antibodies without anti-dsDNA and anti-histone antibodies. It has been reported that

anti-nucleosome immunoglobulin G antibodies are a more sensitive marker of SLE than anti-dsDNA, and are almost exclusively found in lupus, scleroderma, and mixed connective tissue diseases.

Furthermore, it has been shown recently, that antinuclear autoantibodies complexed to nucleosomes can bind to heparan sulphate in the glomerular basement membrane (GBM) via the histone part of the nucleosome in SLE nephritis.

## **PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST**

Human Nucleosomes are bound to microwells. Antibodies against these antigens, if present in diluted serum or plasma, bind to the respective antigen. Washing of the microwells removes unspecific serum and plasma components. Horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated anti-human IgG immunologically detects the bound patient antibodies forming a conjugate/antibody/antigen complex. Washing of the microwells removes unbound conjugate. An enzyme substrate in the presence of bound conjugate hydrolyzes to form a blue color. The addition of an acid stops the reaction forming a yellow end-product. The intensity of this yellow color is measured photometrically at 450 nm. The amount of colour is directly proportional to the concentration of IgG antibodies present in the original sample.

## **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

1. All reagents of this kit are strictly intended for in vitro diagnostic use only.
2. Do not interchange kit components from different lots.
3. Components containing human serum were tested and found negative for HBsAg, HCV, HIV1 and HIV2 by FDA approved methods. No test can guarantee the absence of HBsAg, HCV, HIV1 or HIV2, and so all human serum based reagents in this kit must be handled as though capable of transmitting infection.
4. Avoid contact with the TMB (3,3',5,5'-Tetramethyl-benzidine). If TMB comes into contact with skin, wash thoroughly with water and soap.
5. Avoid contact with the Stop Solution which is hydrochloric acid (1 M). If it comes into contact with skin, wash thoroughly with water and seek medical attention.
6. Some kit components (i.e. Controls, Sample buffer and Buffered Wash Solution) contain Sodium Azide as preservative. Sodium Azide (NaN<sub>3</sub>) is highly toxic and reactive in pure form. At the product concentrations (0.09%), though not hazardous. Despite the classification as non-hazardous, we strongly recommend using prudent laboratory practices (see 8., 9., 10.)
7. Some kit components contain Proclin 300 as preservative. When disposing reagents containing Proclin 300, flush drains with copious amounts of water to dilute the components below active levels.
8. Wear disposable gloves while handling specimens or kit reagents and wash hands thoroughly afterwards.
9. Do not pipette by mouth.
10. Do not eat, drink, smoke or apply makeup in areas where specimens or kit reagents are handled.
11. Avoid contact between the buffered Peroxide Solution and easily oxidized materials; extreme temperature may initiate spontaneous combustion.

Observe the guidelines for performing quality control in medical laboratories by assaying controls and/or pooled sera. During handling of all kit reagents, controls and serum samples observe the existing legal regulations.

## CONTENTS OF THE KIT

Package size	96 determ.
Qty.1	Divisible microplate consisting of 12 modules of 8 wells each, coated with human Nucleosomes. Ready to use.
6 vials, 1.5 ml each	combined Calibrators with IgG class Anti-Nucleosome (A-F) in a serum/buffer matrix (PBS, BSA, NaN <sub>3</sub> <0,1% (w/w)) containing: IgG: 0; 12.5; 25; 50; 100 and 200 U/ml. Ready to use.
2 vials, 1,5 ml each	Anti-Nucleosome Controls in a serum/buffer matrix (PBS, BSA, NaN <sub>3</sub> <0,1% (w/w)) positive (1) and negative (2), for the respective concentrations see the enclosed package insert. Ready to use.
1 vial, 20 ml	Sample buffer (Tris, NaN <sub>3</sub> <0,1% (w/w)), yellow, concentrate (5x).
1 vial, 15 ml	Enzyme conjugate solution (PBS, PROCLIN 300 <0,5% (v/v)), (light red) containing polyclonal rabbit anti-human IgG; labelled with horseradish peroxidase. Ready to use.
1 vial, 15 ml	TMB substrate solution. Ready to use.
1 vial, 15 ml	Stop solution (1 M hydrochloric acid). Ready to use.
1 vial, 20 ml	Wash solution (PBS, NaN <sub>3</sub> <0,1% (w/w)), concentrate (50x).

## STORAGE AND STABILITY

1. Store the kit at 2-8 °C.
2. Keep microplate wells sealed in a dry bag with desiccants.
3. The reagents are stable until expiration of the kit.
4. Do not expose test reagents to heat, sun or strong light during storage and usage.
5. Diluted sample buffer and wash buffer are stable for at least 30 days when stored at 2-8 °C.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

### Equipment

- Microplate reader capable of endpoint measurements at 450 nm
- Multi-Channel Dispenser or repeatable pipet for 100 µl
- Vortex mixer
- Pipets for 10 µl, 100 µl and 1000 µl
- Laboratory timing device
- Data reduction software

### Preparation of reagents

- Distilled or deionized water
- Graduated cylinder for 100 and 1000 ml
- Plastic container for storage of the wash solution

## **SPECIMEN COLLECTION, STORAGE AND HANDLING**

1. Collect whole blood specimens using acceptable medical techniques to avoid hemolysis.
2. Allow blood to clot and separate the serum by centrifugation.
3. Test serum should be clear and non-hemolyzed. Contamination by hemolysis or lipemia is best avoided, but does not interfere with this assay.
4. Specimens may be refrigerated at 2-8 °C for up to five days or stored at -20 °C up to six months.
5. Avoid repetitive freezing and thawing of serum samples. This may result in variable loss of autoantibody activity.
6. Testing of heat-inactivated sera is not recommended.

## **PROCEDURAL NOTES**

1. Do not use kit components beyond their expiration dates.
2. Do not interchange kit components from different lots.
3. All materials must be at room temperature (20-28 °C).
4. Have all reagents and samples ready before start of the assay. Once started, the test must be performed without interruption to get the most reliable and consistent results.
5. Perform the assay steps only in the order indicated.
6. Always use fresh sample dilutions.
7. Pipette all reagents and samples into the bottom of the wells.
8. To avoid carryover contamination change the tip between samples and different kit controls.
9. It is important to wash microwells thoroughly and remove the last droplets of wash buffer to achieve best results.
10. All incubation steps must be accurately timed.
11. Control sera or pools should routinely be assayed as unknowns to check performance of the reagents and the assay.
12. Do not re-use microplate wells.

For all controls, the respective concentrations are provided on the labels of each vial. Using these concentrations a calibration curve may be calculated to read off the patient results semi-quantitatively.

## PREPARATION OF REAGENTS

### Preparation of sample buffer

Dilute the contents of each vial of the sample buffer concentrate (5x) with distilled or deionized water to a final volume of 100 ml prior to use. Store refrigerated: stable at 2-8 °C for at least 30 days after preparation or until the expiration date printed on the label.

### Preparation of wash solution

Dilute the contents of each vial of the buffered wash solution concentrate (50x) with distilled or deionized water to a final volume of 1000 ml prior to use. Store refrigerated: stable at 2-8 °C for at least 30 days after preparation or until the expiration date printed on the label.

### Sample preparation

Dilute all patient samples 1:100 with sample buffer before assay. Therefore combine 10 µl of sample with 990 µl of sample buffer in a polystyrene tube. Mix well. Controls are ready to use and need not be diluted.

## TEST PROCEDURE

1. Prepare a sufficient number of microplate modules to accommodate controls and prediluted patient samples.
2. Pipet 100 µl of calibrators, controls and prediluted patient samples in duplicate into the wells.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	SA	SE	P1	P5		
B	SA	SE	P1	P5		
C	SB	SF	P2	P..		
D	SB	SF	P2	P..		
E	SC	C1	P3			
F	SC	C1	P3			
G	SD	C2	P4			
H	SD	C2	P4			

SA-SF: standards A to F  
P1, P2...C: patient sample 1, 2 ...  
C1: positive control  
C2: negative control

3. Incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature (20-28 °C).
4. Discard the contents of the microwells and wash 3 times with 300 µl of wash solution.
5. Dispense 100 µl of enzyme conjugate into each well.
6. Incubate for 15 minutes at room temperature.
7. Discard the contents of the microwells and wash 3 times with 300 µl of wash solution.
8. Dispense 100 µl of TMB substrate solution into each well.
9. Incubate for 15 minutes at room temperature.
10. Add 100 µl of stop solution to each well of the modules and incubate for 5 minutes at room temperature.
11. Read the optical density at 450 nm and calculate the results. Bi-chromatic measurement with a reference at 600-690 nm is recommended.

The developed colour is stable for at least 30 minutes. Read optical densities during this time.

## Automation

The ORGENTEC Anti-Nucleosome ELISA is suitable for use on open automated ELISA processors. The test procedure detailed above is appropriate for use with or without automation.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

### Quality Control

This test is only valid if the optical density at 450 nm for Positive Control (1) and Negative Control (2) as well as for the Calibrator A and F complies with the respective range indicated on the Quality Control Certificate enclosed to each test kit ! If any of these criteria is not fulfilled, the results are invalid and the test should be repeated.

### Calculation of results

For Anti-Nucleosome IgG a 4-Parameter-Fit with lin-log coordinates for optical density and concentration is the data reduction method of choice.

### Recommended Lin-Log Plot

First calculate the averaged optical densities for each calibrator well. Use lin-log graph paper and plot the averaged optical density of each calibrator versus the concentration. Draw the best fitting curve approximating the path of all calibrator points. The calibrator points may also be connected with straight line segments. The concentration of unknowns may then be estimated from the calibration curve by interpolation.

### Calculation example

The figures below show typical results for Anti-Nucleosome ELISA. These data are intended for illustration only and should not be used to calculate results from another run.

Calibrators									
No	Position	OD 1	OD 2	Mean	Conc. 1	Conc. 2	Mean	decl.Conc.	CV %
ST1	A 1/A 2	0,023	0,021	0,022	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	9
ST2	B 1/B 2	0,174	0,174	0,174	13	13	13	12	0
ST3	C 1/C 2	0,336	0,335	0,336	25	25	25	25	0
ST4	D 1/D 2	0,643	0,658	0,651	49	50	50	50	2
ST5	E 1/E 2	1,172	1,173	1,173	101	101	101	100	0
ST6	F 1/F 2	1,809	1,788	1,799	201	197	199	200	1

### Interpretation of results

In a normal range study with serum samples from healthy blood donors the following ranges have been established with the Anti-Nucleosomes test:

Anti-Nucleosome IgG  
[U/ml]  
Cut-Off: 20

Positive results should be verified concerning the entire clinical status of the patient. Also every decision for therapy should be taken individually. It is recommended that each laboratory establishes its own normal and pathological ranges. The values below should be regarded as guidelines only.

## PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

### Parallelism

In dilution experiments sera with high antibody concentrations were diluted with sample buffer and assayed in the Anti-Nucleosomes kit. The assay shows linearity over the full measuring range.

### Precision (Reproducibility)

Statistics were calculated for each of three samples from the results of 24 determinations in a single run for Intra-Assay precision. Run-to-run precision was calculated from the results of 5 different runs with 6 determinations each:

Intra-Assay			Inter-Assay		
Sample No	Mean (U/ml)	CV (%)	Sample No	Mean (U/ml)	CV (%)
1	26	4.5	1	29	12.4
2	61	3.1	2	68	7.3
3	114	6.4	3	138	5.2

### Sensitivity

The lower detection limit for Anti-Nucleosomes has been determined at 1.0 U/ml.

### Specificity

The solid phase is coated with human nucleosomes. Therefore the Anti-Nucleosome ELISA recognizes only autoantibodies directed against nucleosomes.

### Calibration

Since no international reference preparation for anti-nucleosome autoantibodies is available, the assay system is calibrated in relative arbitrary units.

## LIMITATIONS OF PROCEDURE

The Anti-Nucleosome ELISA is a diagnostic aid. A definite clinical diagnosis should not be based on the results of a single test, but should be made by the physician after all clinical and laboratory findings have been evaluated.

## INTERFERING SUBSTANCES

No interference has been observed with haemolytic (up to 1000 mg/dL), lipemic (up to 3 g/dL triglycerides) or bilirubin (up to 40 mg/dL) containing sera. Nor have any interfering effects been observed with the use of anticoagulants. However for practical reasons it is recommended that grossly hemolyzed or lipemic samples should be avoided.

## REFERENCES

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## INCUBATION SCHEME

- 1** Pipet **100  $\mu$ l** calibrator, control or patient sample  
→ Incubate for **30 minutes** at room temperature  
→ Discard the contents of the wells and wash 3 times with **300  $\mu$ l** wash solution
- 2** Pipet **100  $\mu$ l** enzyme conjugate  
→ Incubate for **15 minutes** at room temperature  
→ Discard the contents of the wells and wash 3 times with **300  $\mu$ l** wash solution
- 3** Pipet **100  $\mu$ l** substrate solution  
→ Incubate for **15 minutes** at room temperature
- 4** Add **100  $\mu$ l** stop solution  
→ Leave untouched for **5 minutes**  
→ Read at **450 nm**