Manual

VDBP ELISA

For the in vitro determination of VDBP (vitamin D binding protein) in serum, plasma and urine

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1. INTENDED USE

This Immundiagnostik AG assay is an enzyme immunoassay intended for the quantitative determination of free and not actin complex bound vitamin D binding protein (VDBP) in serum, plasma and urine. For *in vitro* diagnostic use only.

2. INTRODUCTION

Vitamin D binding protein (VDBP, also known as group-specific component / Gc protein) is a multifunctional serum protein which is formed in the liver. High estrogen levels, caused e.g. by pregnancy or hormonal birth control, stimulate its synthesis. VDBP can be found in plasma, ascites, liquor, urine and at the surface of various cell types.

In the blood, VDBP binds the bigger part of the circulating 25-OH vitamin D and brings it to the kidneys, where it is transformed into the hormone 1,25-(OH)₂ vitamin D.

In addition, VDBP binds monomeric actin at the ratio of 1:1. Actin is an intracellular protein which is available as monomer or filament. Massive tissue destruction or cell death cause the plasma level of actin to rise significantly, whereupon VDBP-actin complexes are formed which are removed quickly. Hence the VDBP level of trauma or sepsis patients decreases quickly, especially in patients with a high level of multiorgan failure.

Furthermore VDBP is a precursor of the immunomodulating protein Gc-MAF (Gc protein-derived macrophage activating factor) which increases the activity of macrophages against tumours.

Indications

- · Prognostic factor for trauma patients
- · Nephritic syndrome
- Tumours

3. MATERIAL SUPPLIED

Cat. No.	Label	Kit components	Quantity
K 2314	PLATE	Microtiter plate, pre-coated	12 x 8 wells
K 0001.C.100	WASHBUF	Wash buffer concentrate, 10 x	2 x 100 ml
K 2314	CONJ	Conjugate concentrate, peroxidase-labelled (rabbit-anti-VDBP)	1 x 200 μl

Cat. No.	Label	Kit components	Quantity
K 2314	STD	Calibrators, lyophilised (60; 20; 6,6; 2,2; 0 ng/ml)	2 x 5 vials
K 2314	STDBUF	Standard dilution buffer, ready-to-use	1 x 20 ml
K 2314	CTRL1	Control, lyophilised (see specification for range)	2 x 1 vial
K 2314 CTRL2		Control, lyophilised (see specification for range)	2 x 1 vial
K 2314	SAMPLEBUF	Sample dilution buffer, ready-to-use	2 x 100 ml
K 0002.15	SUB	Substrate (tetramethylbenzidine), ready-to-use	1 x 15 ml
K 0003.15	STOP	Stop solution, ready-to-use	1 x 15 ml

For reorders of single components, use the catalogue number followed by the label as product number.

4. MATERIAL REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

- Ultrapure water*
- Calibrated precision pipettors and 10-1000 µl single-use tips
- Foil to cover the microtiter plate
- · Horizontal microtiter plate shaker
- Multi-channel pipets or repeater pipets
- Centrifuge
- Vortex
- Standard single-use laboratory glass or plastic vials, cups, etc.
- Microtiter plate reader (required filters see chapter 7)

* Immundiagnostik AG recommends the use of ultrapure water (water type 1; ISO 3696), which is free of undissolved and colloidal ions and organic molecules (free of particles $> 0.2 \, \mu m$) with an electrical conductivity of $0.055 \, \mu \text{S/cm}$ at $25 \, ^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\geq 18.2 \, \text{M}\Omega \, \text{cm}$).

5. STORAGE AND PREPARATION OF REAGENTS

To run the assay more than once, ensure that reagents are stored at the conditions stated on the label. Prepare only the appropriate amount necessary for each run. The kit can be used up to 4 times within the expiry date stated on the label.

 Reagents with a volume less than 100 μl should be centrifuged before use to avoid loss of volume.

- Preparation of the wash buffer: The wash buffer concentrate (WASHBUF) has to be diluted with ultrapure water 1:10 before use (100 ml WASHBUF + 900 ml ultrapure water), mix well. Crystals could occur due to high salt concentration in the concentrate. Before dilution, the crystals have to be redissolved at room temperature or in a water bath at 37 °C. The WASHBUF is stable at 2–8 °C until the expiry date stated on the label. Wash buffer (1:10 diluted WASHBUF) can be stored in a closed flask at 2–8 °C for 1 month.
- The lyophilised standards (STD) and controls (CTRL) are stable at 2–8°C until the expiry date stated on the label. Before use, the STD and CTRL have to be reconstituted with 500 μl of standard dilution buffer (STDBUF) and mixed by gentle inversion to ensure complete reconstitution. Allow the vial content to dissolve for 10 minutes and then mix thoroughly. Standards and controls (reconstituted STD and CTRL) can be stored at 2–8°C for 4 weeks or at -20°C for 4 weeks.
- Preparation of the conjugate: Before use, the conjugate concentrate (CONJ) has to be diluted 1:101 in wash buffer (100 µl CONJ + 10 ml wash buffer). The CONJ is stable at 2–8 °C until expiry date stated on the label. Conjugate (1:101 diluted CONJ) is not stable and cannot be stored.
- All other test reagents are ready-to-use. Test reagents are stable until the expiry date (see label) when stored at 2-8°C.

6. STORAGE AND PREPARATION OF SAMPLES

Serum and plasma samples

Dilute all plasma and serum samples 1:40 000 with sample dilution buffer (SAMPLE-BUF). For example:

- 20 μl sample + 980 μl SAMPLEBUF, mix well = 1:50 (dilution I)
- 20 µl dilution I + 980 µl SAMPLEBUF, mix well = 1:50 (dilution II)
- 20 μ l dilution II + 300 μ l SAMPLEBUF, mix well = 1:16 (dilution III). This results in a final dilution of 1:40 000.

For analysis, pipet 100 µl of dilution III per well.

Other sample collectives should be diluted according to the expected VDBP concentration.

Serum and plasma samples can be stored for 3 months at -20 °C. Avoid more than 3 freeze thaw cycles.

Urine

Urine samples have to be diluted 1:10 with sample dilution buffer (SAMPLEBUF). For example:

100 μ l sample + 900 μ l SAMPLEBUF, mix well = 1:10

For testing in duplicates, pipette 2 x 100 µl of each prepared sample per well.

Other sample collectives should be diluted according to the expected VDBP concentration.

7. ASSAY PROCEDURE

Principle of the test

This enzyme immunoassay is a sandwich assay for the quantitative determination of VDBP in serum, plasma and urine samples. The wells of the microtiterplate are coated with polyclonal anti-VDBP antibodies. In a first incubation step, the VDBP in the samples is bound to the coated polyclonal rabbit antibodies (in excess). To remove all unbound substances, a washing step is carried out. In a second incubation step, a polyclonal peroxidase-labeled rabbit anti-VDBP antibody is added. After another washing step, to remove all unbound substances, the solid phase is incubated with the substrate, tetramethylbenzidine. An acidic stopping solution is then added. The colour converts to yellow. The intensity of the yellow colour is directly proportional to the VDBP concentration in the sample. A dose response curve of the absorbance unit (optical density, OD at 450 nm) vs. concentration is generated, using the values obtained from the standard. VDBP, present in the patient samples, is determined directly from this curve.

Test procedure

Bring all reagents and samples to room temperature (15–30 °C) and mix well.

Mark the positions of standards/controls/samples on a protocol sheet.

Take as many microtiter strips as needed from the kit. Store unused strips together with the desiccant bag in the closed aluminium packaging at 2–8 °C. Strips are stable until expiry date stated on the label.

For automated ELISA processors, the given protocol may need to be adjusted according to the specific features of the respective automated platform. For further details please contact your supplier or Immundiagnostik AG.

We recommend to carry out the tests in duplicate.

1.	Before use , wash the wells 5 times with 250 µl wash buffer . After the final washing step, remove residual wash buffer by firmly tapping the plate on absorbent paper.
2.	Add each $100\mu l$ standards/controls/diluted samples into the respective wells.
3.	Cover the strips and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature (15–30 $^{\circ}$ C) on a horizontal shaker *.
4.	Discard the content of each well and wash 5 times with 250 µl wash buffer . After the final washing step, remove residual wash buffer by firmly tapping the plate on absorbent paper.
5.	Add 100 μl conjugate (diluted CONJ) into each well.
6.	Cover the strips and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature (15–30 $^{\circ}$ C) on a horizontal shaker *.
7.	Discard the content of each well and wash 5 times with 250 µl wash buffer . After the final washing step, remove residual wash buffer by firmly tapping the plate on absorbent paper.
8.	Add 100 μl substrate (SUB) into each well.
9.	Incubate for 10–20 min** at room temperature (15–30 °C) in the dark .
10.	Add 100 µl stop solution (STOP) into each well and mix well.
11.	Determine absorption immediately with an ELISA reader at 450 nm against 620 nm (or 690 nm) as a reference. If no reference wavelength is available, read only at 450 nm. If the extinction of the highest standard exceeds the range of the photometer, absorption must be measured immediately at 405 nm against 620 nm as a reference.

^{*} We recommend shaking the strips at 550 rpm with an orbit of 2 mm.

8. RESULTS

The following algorithms can be used alternatively to calculate the results. We recommend using the 4 parameter algorithm.

^{**} The intensity of the colour change is temperature sensitive. We recommend observing the colour change and stopping the reaction upon good differentiation.

1. 4 parameter algorithm

It is recommended to use a linear ordinate for the optical density and a logarithmic abscissa for the concentration. When using a logarithmic abscissa, the zero standard must be specified with a value less than 1 (e. q. 0.001).

2. Point-to-point calculation

We recommend a linear ordinate for the optical density and a linear abscissa for the concentration.

3. Spline algorithm

We recommend a linear ordinate for the optical density and a linear abscissa for the concentration.

The plausibility of the duplicate values should be examined before the automatic evaluation of the results. If this option is not available with the programme used, the duplicate values should be evaluated manually.

Serum/plasma samples

The obtained VDBP levels of plasma and serum samples have to be multplied with the dilution factor of 40 000.

Urine samples

The obtained VDBP levels of urine samples have to be multiplied with the dilution factor of 10.

In case **another dilution factor** has been used, multiply the obtained result with the dilution factor used.

9. LIMITATIONS

Samples with concentrations above the measurement range can be further diluted and re-assayed. Please consider this greater dilution when calculating the results.

Samples with concentrations lower than the measurement range cannot be clearly quantified.

The upper limit of the measurement range can be calculated as:

highest concentration of the standard curve \times sample dilution factor to be used

The lower limit of the measurement range can be calculated as:

Analytical sensitivity \times sample dilution factor to be used

Analytical sensitivity see chapter "Performance Characteristics".

10. QUALITY CONTROL

Immundiagnostik AG recommends the use of external controls for internal quality control, if possible.

Control samples should be analysed with each run. Results, generated from the analysis of control samples, should be evaluated for acceptability using appropriate statistical methods. The results for the patient samples may not be valid if within the same assay one or more values of the quality control sample are outside the acceptable limits.

Reference range

Plasma / serum samples

200-550 mg/l

L. Thomas, 1982

You can find further reference ranges in the following publications in the references section: Bouillon (1977), Haughton (1992), Jorgensen (2004), Heijboer (2012).

We recommend each laboratory to establish its own reference range.

Urine samples

Doorenbos et al. analysed the urinary loss of VDBP in 24h urine samples. In the healthy control group, they reported a value of $64 \mu g/24 h$ (23–111 $\mu g/24 h$).

Mirkovic et al. normalised the measured VDBP levels for albuminuria. Normalbuminuria was reported as 0,44 mg/mg albumin (0,22–0,77 mg/mg albumin).

We recommend each laboratory to establish its own reference range.

Additional reference ranges

For some patient groups, other reference ranges of serum / plasma samples have been reported.

Pregnant women

Samples of pregnant women were measured to have a 30–80% higher reference range than the control groups (see publications cited for the serum reference range).

Liver diseases

According to Haughton et al., the reference range of patients with liver diseases is 35 % lower than the one of healthy controls.

11. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Accuracy - Precision

Repeatability (Intra-Assay); n=16

The repeatability was assessed with 2 serum samples under constant parameters (same operator, measurement system, day and kit lot).

Sample	Mean value [mg/l]	CV [%]
1	242.4	5.0
2	429.0	3.3

Reproducibility (Inter-Assay); n=17

The reproducibility was assessed with a serum and a control sample under varying parameters (different operators, measurement systems, days and kit lots).

Sample	Mean value [mg/l]	CV [%]
1	128.3	13.9
2	383.2	3.3

Accuracy - Trueness

The trueness states the closeness of the agreement between the result of a measurement and the true value of the measurand. Therefore, VDBP spikes with known concentrations were added to 4 serum samples. The results below were obtained without consideration of the sample dilution factor.

Sample [ng/ml]	Spike [ng/ml]	Expected [ng/ml]	Obtained [ng/ml]	Recovery [%]
	5	7.25	8.00	110.27
2.25	10	12.25	13.17	107.45
	20	22.25	25.55	114.83
	2.5	9.41	9.07	96.45
6.91	7.5	14.41	13.58	94.28
	15	21.91	23.39	106.76

Sample [ng/ml]	Spike [ng/ml]	Expected [ng/ml]	Obtained [ng/ml]	Recovery [%]
	5	7.21	7.78	107.96
2.21	10	12.21	12.72	104.22
	20	22.21	22.87	102.99
	2.5	9.24	8.79	95.16
6.74	7.5	14.24	13.11	92.13
	15	21.74	22.53	103.66

Linearity

The linearity states the ability of a method to provide results proportional to the concentration of analyte in the test sample within a given range. This was assessed according to CLSI guideline EP6-A with a serial dilution of 2 different serum samples.

For VDBP in serum, plasma and urine, the method has been demonstrated to be linear from 2.38 to 46.20 ng/ml based on the standard curve without considering possibly used sample dilution factors, showing a non-linear behaviour of less than $\pm 20\%$ in this interval.

Sample	Dilution	Expected [ng/ml]	Obtained [ng/ml]	Recovery [%]
	1:5000	46.20	46.20	100.00
	1:10000	23.10	23.30	100.87
Α	1:20000	11.55	10.50	90.91
	1:40000	5.78	5.83	100.87
	1:80000	2.89	2.80	96.97
	1:10000	38.00	38.00	100.00
	1:20000	19.00	20.25	106.58
В	1:40000	9.50	8.75	92.11
	1:80000	4.75	4.30	90.53
	1:160000	2.38	2.49	104.74

Analytical sensitivity

The following values have been estimated based on the concentrations of the standard without considering possibly used sample dilution factors.

Limit of blank, LoB	0.154 ng/ml
Limit of detection, LoD	0.944 ng/ml
Limit of quantitation, LoQ	0.944 ng/ml

The evaluation was performed according to the CLSI guideline EP17-A2. The specified accuracy goal for the LoQ was $20\,\%$ CV.

Analytical specificity

The specificity of the antibody was tested by measuring the cross-reactivity against a range of compounds with structural similarity to VDBP. There was no cross-reactivity observed.

Substance tested	Concentration added	Concentration obtained [ng/ml]	Conclusion
h-albumin	10 μg/ml	< 0.154	< LoB
CRP	10 μg/ml	< 0.154	< LoB
RBP	10 μg/ml	< 0.154	< LoB

12. PRECAUTIONS

- All reagents in the kit package are for in vitro diagnostic use only.
- Human materials used in kit components were tested and found to be negative for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. However, for safety reasons, all kit components should be treated as potentially infectious.
- Kit reagents contain sodium azide or ProClin as bactericides. Sodium azide and ProClin are toxic. Substrates for the enzymatic colour reactions are toxic and carcinogenic. Avoid contact with skin or mucous membranes.
- The stop solution consists of diluted sulphuric acid, a strong acid. Although diluted, it still must be handled with care. It can cause burns and should be handled with gloves, eye protection, and appropriate protective clothing. Any spill should be wiped up immediately with copious quantities of water. Do not breath vapour and avoid inhalation.

13. TECHNICAL HINTS

• Do not interchange different lot numbers of any kit component within the same assay. Furthermore we recommend not assembling wells of different microtiter plates for analysis, even if they are of the same batch.

- Control samples should be analysed with each run.
- Reagents should not be used beyond the expiration date stated on kit label.
- Substrate solution should remain colourless until use.
- To ensure accurate results, proper adhesion of plate sealers during incubation steps is necessary.
- · Avoid foaming when mixing reagents.
- Do not mix plugs and caps from different reagents.
- The assay should always be performed according to the enclosed manual.

14. GENERAL NOTES ON THE TEST AND TEST PROCEDURE

- This assay was produced and distributed according to the IVD guidelines of 98/79/EC.
- The guidelines for medical laboratories should be followed.
- Incubation time, incubation temperature and pipetting volumes of the components are defined by the producer. Any variation of the test procedure, which is not coordinated with the producer, may influence the results of the test. Immundiagnostik AG can therefore not be held responsible for any damage resulting from incorrect use.
- Warranty claims and complaints regarding deficiencies must be logged within 14 days after receipt of the product. The product should be send to Immundiagnostik AG along with a written complaint.

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Used symbols:



Temperature limitation



Catalogue Number



In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device



To be used with



Manufacturer



Contains sufficient for <n> tests



Lot number



Use by



Attention



Consult instructions for use



Consult specification data sheet