

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**1. Sensitivity and Specificity**

178 patient sera were tested by this Brucella IgM ELISA and a reference ELISA method. 26 sera were positive and 149 were negative by both methods (98% agreement). The results are summarized below:

| | | Brucella IgM ELISA | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------|-----|-------|
| | | + | - | Total |
| Reference ELISA Kit | + | 23 | 2 | 25 |
| | - | 1 | 152 | 153 |
| | Total | 24 | 154 | 178 |

2. Precision**Intra Assay Study**

| Serum | No. of Replicates | Mean | Standard Deviation | Coefficient of Variation % |
|-------|-------------------|------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 16 | 1.49 | 0.066 | 4.43 |
| 2 | 16 | 1.01 | 0.051 | 5.50 |
| 3 | 16 | 0.19 | 0.012 | 6.31 |

Inter Assay Study

| Serum | No. of Replicates | Mean | Standard Deviation | Coefficient of Variation % |
|-------|-------------------|------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 10 | 1.41 | 0.139 | 09.85 |
| 2 | 10 | 0.97 | 0.100 | 10.30 |
| 3 | 10 | 0.20 | 0.022 | 11.00 |

REFERENCES

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- Baldi PC; Miguel SE; Fossati CA; Wallach JC. Serological follow-up of human brucellosis by measuring IgG antibodies to lipopolysaccharide and cytoplasmic proteins of Brucella species. Clin Infect Dis 1996;22(3):446-55
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2008-01-14

Warning

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BIOQUANT

Brucella IgM ELISA

Catalog No.: BQ 053M (96 tests)

INTENDED USE

The Brucella IgM ELISA test system is an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for the detection of IgM class antibodies to Brucella in human serum or plasma.

SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

Brucella is a gram negative coccobacilli capable of infecting a wide range of animal and man. Of the three species causing human infection, *B. melitensis* is the most pathogenic followed by *B. suis* and *B. abortus*. Brucellosis is transmitted through contaminated and untreated milk and milk products and by direct contact with infected animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camels, buffaloes, and, very recently, seals), animal carcasses, and abortion materials. Worldwide, millions of individual are at risk, especially in developing countries where the infection in animals has not been brought under control, heat treatment procedures of milk (e.g. pasteurization) are not routinely applied, and food habits such as consumption of raw milk. The incubation period of brucellosis is usually one to three weeks, but sometimes may be several months. The illness may be mild and self-limiting or severe. The disease is accompanied by continued, intermittent, or irregular fever, headache, weight loss and generalized aching and fatigue. Urogenital symptoms may dominate the clinical presentation in some patients.

This method uses *B. abortus* outer membrane, which is shared by the other species. Brucella IgG and IgA antibodies persist for many years after infection. A significant increase in Brucella IgG level is in patients with symptoms of brucellosis is indicative of recent exposure. IgM antibodies are present in acute brucellosis and also found in about 33% of patients with chronic brucellosis.

PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Diluted patient serum (serum diluent contains sorbent to remove Rheumatoid Factor and human IgG interference) is added to wells coated with purified antigen. IgM specific antibody, if present, binds to the antigen. All unbound materials are washed away and the enzyme conjugate is added to bind to the antibody-antigen complex, if present. Excess enzyme conjugate is washed off and substrate is added. The plate is incubated to allow the hydrolysis of the substrate by the enzyme. The intensity of the color generated is proportional to the amount of IgM specific antibody in the sample.

| MATERIALS PROVIDED | 96 tests |
|--|----------|
| 1. Microwell coated with Brucella antigen | 12x8x1 |
| 2. Sample Diluent: 1 bottle (ready to use) | 22 ml |
| 3. Calibrator: 1 Vial (ready to use) | 1.5ml |
| 4. Positive Control: 1 vial (ready to use) | 1.5ml |
| 5. Negative Control: 1 vial (ready to use) | 1.5ml |
| 6. Enzyme conjugate: 1 bottle (ready to use) | 12ml |
| 7. TMB Substrate: 1 bottle (ready to use) | 12ml |
| 8. Stop Solution: 1 bottle (ready to use) | 12ml |
| 9. Wash concentrate 20X: 1 bottle | 25ml |

MATERIALS NOT PROVIDED

- Distilled or deionized water
- Precision pipettes
- Disposable pipette tips
- ELISA reader capable of reading absorbance at 450nm
- Absorbance paper or paper towel³
- Graph paper

STORAGE AND STABILITY

1. Store the kit at 2-8° C.
2. Keep microwells 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.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. Potential biohazardous materials:
The calibrator and controls contain human source components which have been tested and found non-reactive for hepatitis B surface antigen as well as HIV antibody with FDA licensed reagents. However, there is no test method that can offer complete assurance that HIV, Hepatitis B virus or other infectious agents are absent. These reagents should be handled at the Biosafety Level 2, as recommended in the Centers for Disease Control/National Institutes of Health manual, "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories." 1984.
2. This kit is designed for research use only.
3. Optimal results will be obtained by strict adherence to the test protocol. Precise pipetting as well as following the exact time and temperature requirements is essential.
4. Do not pipette by mouth. Do not smoke, eat, or drink in the areas in which specimens or kit reagents are handled.
5. The components in this kit are intended for use as an integral unit. The components of different lots should not be mixed.
6. Control sera and sample diluent contain preserved with sodium azide. Sodium azide may react with lead and copper plumbing to form explosive metal azide. On disposal, flush with a large volume of water.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING

1. Collect blood specimens and separate the serum.
2. Specimens may be refrigerated at 2-8 °C for up to seven days or frozen for up to six months. Avoid repetitive freezing and thawing.

REAGENT PREPARATION

Prepare 1X Wash buffer by adding the contents of the bottle (25 ml, 20X) to 475 ml of distilled or deionized water. Store at room temperature (18-26 °C).

ASSAY PROCEDURE

Bring all specimens and kit reagents to room temperature (18-26 °C) and gently mix.

1. Place the desired number of coated strips into the holder.
2. Negative control, positive control, and calibrator are ready to use. Prepare 1:21 dilution of test samples, by adding 10 µl of the sample to 200 µl of sample diluent. Mix well.
3. Dispense 100 µl of diluted sera, calibrator and controls into the appropriate wells. For the reagent blank, dispense 100µl sample diluent in 1A well position. Tap the holder to remove air bubbles from the liquid and mix well. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
4. Remove liquid from all wells. Wash wells three times with 300µl of 1X wash buffer. Blot on absorbance paper or paper towel.
5. Dispense 100 µl of enzyme conjugate to each well and incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
6. Remove enzyme conjugate from all wells. Wash wells three times with 300µl of 1X wash buffer. Blot on absorbance paper or paper towel.
7. Dispense 100 µl of TMB substrate and incubate for 10 minutes at room temperature.
8. Add 100 µl of stop solution.
9. Read O.D. at 450 nm using ELISA reader within 15 min. A dual wavelength is recommended with reference filter of 600-650 nm.

CALCULATION OF RESULTS

1. Check Calibrator Factor (CF) value on the calibrator bottle. This value might vary from lot to lot. Make sure you check the value on every kit.
2. Calculate the cut-off value: Calibrator OD x Calibrator Factor (CF).
3. Calculate the Ab (Antibody) Index of each determination by dividing the O.D. value of each sample by cut-off value.

Example of typical results:

Calibrator mean OD = 0.8
 Calibrator Factor (CF) = 0.5
 Cut-off Value = 0.8 x 0.5= 0.400
 Positive control O.D. = 1.2
 Ab Index = 1.2 / 0.4 = 3
 Patient sample O.D. = 1.6
 Ab Index = 1.6 / 0.4 = 4.0

QUALITY CONTROL

The test run may be considered valid provided the following criteria are met:

1. The O.D. of the Calibrator should be greater than 0.250.
2. The Ab index for Negative control should be less than 0.9.
3. The Ab Index for Positive control should be greater than 1.2.

INTERPRETATION

The following is intended as a guide to interpretation of Brucella IgM test results; each laboratory is encouraged to establish its own criteria for test interpretation based on sample populations encountered.

Antibody Index Interpretation

<0.9 No detectable antibody to Brucella IgM by ELISA.
 0.9-1.1 Borderline positive. Follow-up testing is recommend if clinically indicated.
 >1.1 Detectable antibody to Brucella IgM by ELISA.

LIMITATIONS OF THE TEST

1. To enhance sensitivity and specificity of this IgM test provided sample diluent has been formulated to block IgG and Rheumatoid Factor (RF) interferences. Turbidity could be seen after diluting serum with sample diluent. This turbidity is due to the blocking of serum IgG and shows no interference with test results. It can be removed by centrifugation.
2. In specimens with high RF and high autoimmune antibodies, the possibility of eliminating the interferences cannot be ruled out entirely.
3. The test results obtained using this kit serve only as an aid to diagnosis and should be interpreted in relation to the patient's history, physical findings and other diagnostic procedures.
4. Lipemic or hemolyzed samples may cause erroneous results.