



## ANTHRAX EDEMA FACTOR

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European patent # 89 139 552

U.S. patent # 50 47 330

**Anthrax Edema Factor  
Assay kit  
#A05230.96 wells**

For research laboratory use only  
Not for human diagnostic use

This assay has been developed & validated  
by Bertin Pharma



Fabriqué en France  
Made in France

#A11230  
Version: 0117

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**96 wells**  
**Storage: -20° C**  
**Expiry date: stated on the package**

This kit contains:

> For Adenylyl cyclase EF assay:

Designation	Colour of cap	Item #	Quantity per kit	Form
Assay Buffer	Grey & red	A17230.1 ea	1	Lyophilized
Anthrax EF Standard	Blue with red septum	A06230.1 ea	2	Lyophilized
Adenylyl Cyclase Reagent	Black with red septum	A22230.100 dtn	2	Lyophilized
Sodium Periodate	Black with white septum	A14230.100 dtn	2	Powder
Rhamnose	Red with white septum	A15230.100 dtn	2	Powder

> For cAMP competitive immunoassay :

Designation	Colour of cap	Item #	Quantity per kit	Form
Mouse anti-Rabbit pre-coated 96 Strip Plate	blister with zip	A08100.1 ea	1	-
Potassium Hydroxide	gold	A23230.100 dtn	1	Solid
Acetic Anhydride	blue with white septum	A16230.100 dtn	1	Liquid
cAMP Tracer	green	A04230.100 dtn	1	Lyophilized
cAMP Antiserum	red	A03230.100 dtn	1	Lyophilized
EIA Buffer	blue	A07000.1 ea	1	Lyophilized
Wash Buffer - concentrated 400x	silver	A17000.1 ea	1	Liquid
Tween20	plastic	A12000.1 ea	1	Liquid
Ellman's reagent 50	black with red septum	A09000_50.100 dtn	2	Lyophilized
Technical booklet	-	A11230	1	-
96 Well Cover Sheet	-	-	1	-

Each kit contains sufficient reagents for 96 wells. This allows for the construction of one standard curve in duplicate and the assay of 36 samples in duplicate.

## ▶ **Precaution for use**

**Users are recommended to read all instructions for use before starting work.**

Each time a new pipette tip is used, aspirate a sample or reagent and expel it back into the same vessel. Repeat this operation two or three times before distribution in order to equilibrate the pipette tip.

- ▶ For research laboratory use only
- ▶ Not for human diagnostic use
- ▶ Do not pipet liquids by mouth
- ▶ Do not use kit components beyond the expiration date
- ▶ Do not eat, drink or smoke in area in which kit reagents are handled
- ▶ Avoid splashing

Wearing gloves, laboratory coat and glasses is recommended when assaying kit materials and samples.

## ▶ **Temperature**

Unless otherwise specified, all the experiments are done at room temperature (RT), that is around +20°C. Working at +25°C or more affects the assay and decreases its efficiency.

## ▶ Background

### ▷ Acetylcholinesterase AChE® Technology

Acetylcholinesterase (AChE®), the enzymatic label for EIA, has the fastest turnover rate of any enzymatic label. This specific AChE is extracted from the electric organ of the electric eel, *Electrophorus electricus*, and is capable of massive catalytic turnover during the generation of the electrochemical discharges. The use of AChE as enzymatic label for EIA has been patented by the French academic research Institute CEA [1, 2, 3], and Bertin Pharma, formerly known as SPI-Bio, has expertise to develop and produce EIA kits using this technology.

AChE® assays are revealed with Ellman's Reagent, which contains acetylthiocholine as a substrate. The final product of the enzymatic reaction (5-thio-2-nitrobenzoic acid) is bright yellow and can be read at 405-414 nm. AChE® offers several advantages compared to enzymes conventionally used in EIAs:

- **Kinetic superiority and high sensitivity:** AChE® shows true first-order kinetics with a turnover of 64,000 sec<sup>-1</sup>. That is nearly 3 times faster than Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) or alkaline phosphatase. AChE® allows a greater sensitivity than other labeling enzymes.
- **Low background:** non-enzymatic hydrolysis of acetylthiocholine in buffer is essentially absent. So, AChE® allows a very low background and an increased signal/noise ratio compared to other substrate of enzymes which is inherently unstable.

- > **Wide dynamic range:** AChE<sup>®</sup> is a stable enzyme and its activity remains constant for many hours as, unlike other enzymes, its substrate is not suicidal. This permits simultaneous assays of high diluted and very concentrated samples.
- > **Versatility:** AChE<sup>®</sup> is a completely stable enzyme, unlike peroxidase which is suicidal. Thus, if a plate is accidentally dropped after dispatch of the AChE<sup>®</sup> substrate (Ellman's Reagent) or if it needs to be revealed again, one only needs to wash the plate, add fresh Ellman's Reagent and proceed with a new development. Otherwise, the plate can be stored at +4°C with Wash Buffer in wells while waiting for technical advice from the Bioreagent Department.

## ▷ Anthrax

Anthrax is an infectious disease due to *Bacillus anthracis*, a gram-positive, spore-forming bacterium [4].

Among bioterrorist agents, anthrax is considered as one of the most potent and dangerous [5] bio-agent and has been classified in the A list of the Centers of Disease Control [6].

The pathogenic power of this bacteria is due to an exotoxin, which is secreted into the host's system when three nontoxic proteins link together to form a toxin complex. The three parts of the pathogen complex are protective antigen (PA), lethal factor (LF) and edema factor (EF).

At molecular level, the PA binds to cell receptors where it is cleaved into PA20 and PA63 [7]. PA63 can competitively bind EF or LF or both.

The PA-LF complex forms the lethal toxin (LTx) and the PA-EF complex forms the edema toxin (ETx). Once ETx is endocytosed, EF is released in cytosole. EF is a calmoduline and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  dependent adenylyl cyclase which catalyses the conversion of cytosolic adenosine triphosphate into cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) leading to edema [8].

## ▶ Principle of the assay

The principle of the test uses the natural capacity of EF to convert ATP into cAMP.

Standard or sample containing EF are incubated with calmoduline and ATP, which is converted to cAMP. After oxidation and derivatization, cAMP is monitored by competitive immunoassay [9].

The latter is based on the competition between unlabeled cAMP and tracer (cAMP linked to AChE) for a limited amount of cAMP antiserum binding sites.

The complex rabbit antiserum-cAMP (unlabeled cAMP or tracer) binds to the mouse monoclonal anti-rabbit antibody coated on the well.

The plate is then washed and Ellman's Reagent (enzymatic substrate for the AChE and chromogen) is added to the wells. AChE tracer acts on Ellman's Reagent to form a yellow compound.

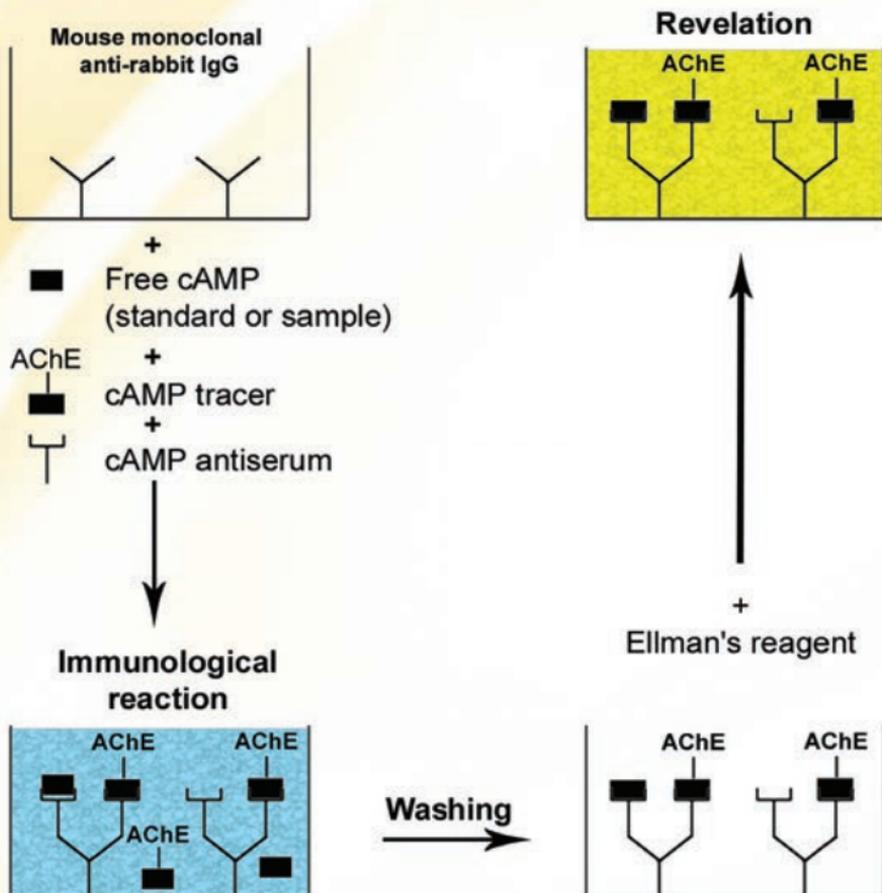
The intensity of the colour, which is determined by spectrophotometer, is proportional to the amount of tracer bound to the well, and inversely proportional to the amount of unlabeled cAMP present in the well during the immunological incubation.

The principle of the assay is summarized below:

### Adenylyl cyclase EF assay:



### cAMP competitive immunoassay:



## ► **Materials and equipment required**

In addition to standard laboratory equipment, the following material is required:

- Precision micropipettes (5 to 1000  $\mu\text{L}$ )
- Spectrophotometer plate reader (405 or 414 nm filter)
- Microtitration washer (or washbottles)
- Magnetic stirring bar
- Heating and shaking tubes incubator or water bath
- Shaker, orbital or not
- Multichannel pipette 100  $\mu\text{L}$  and disposable tips
- UltraPure water
- Polypropylene micro tubes (44 at least)
- Plasma free of Edema Factor, obtained from healthy subject



Water used to prepare all EIA reagents and buffers must be UltraPure (deionized & free from organic contaminant traces).

Otherwise, organic contamination can significantly affect the enzymatic activity of the tracer Acetylcholinesterase (AChE).

Do not use distilled water, HPLC-grade water or sterile water.

UltraPure water may be purchased from Bertin Pharma : item #A07001.1L

## ▶ **Sample collection & preparation**

This assay has been validated to measure the EF in human plasma samples. Blood was collected in citrate primary tubes.

### ▷ **General precautions**

- ▶ All samples must be free of organic solvents prior to the assay.
- ▶ Samples should be assayed immediately after collection or should be stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### ▷ **Sample preparation**

- ▶ No pre-analytical phase is required.

## ▶ Reagent preparation

All reagents need to be brought to room temperature, around +20°C, prior to the assay.

### ▷ Adenylyl Cyclase EF Assay

#### > Assay Buffer

Reconstitute the vial #A17230 with 10 mL of UltraPure water.

*Stability at +4°C: 1 week*

#### > Anthrax EF Standards

Reconstitute the EF Standard vial #A06230 with 500 µL of UltraPure water. The concentration of this solution **S1** is 1000 pg/mL. Then take 8 polypropylene micro tubes and prepare the standards by serial dilutions as follow.

*Use just after reconstitution*

Standard	Volume of Standard	Volume of Assay Buffer	Standard concentration pg/mL
S2	200 µL of S1	200 µL	500 pg/mL
S3	200 µL of S2	200 µL	250 pg/mL
S4	200 µL of S3	200 µL	125 pg/mL
S5	200 µL of S4	200 µL	62.5 pg/mL
S6	200 µL of S5	200 µL	31.2 pg/mL
S7	200 µL of S6	200 µL	15.6 pg/mL
S8	200 µL of S7	200 µL	7.8 pg/mL
S9 (B0)	-	200 µL	0 pg/mL

- > Adenylyl Cyclase Reagent  
Reconstitute one vial #A22230 with 1.5 mL of UltraPure water.  
*Use just after reconstitution*
- > Sodium Periodate  
Reconstitute one vial #A14230 with 4.5 mL of UltraPure water.  
*Use just after reconstitution*
- > Rhamnose  
Reconstitute one vial #A15230 with 2.5 mL of UltraPure water.  
*Use just after reconstitution*
- > Blank Matrix  
Choose and dilute at 1/10 a plasma free of Edema Factor in Assay Buffer.

## ▷ **cAMP competitive immunoassay**

### > Potassium Hydroxide

**30 minutes before use**, reconstitute the vial #A23230 with 5 mL of UltraPure water.

*Stability at room temperature: 1 month*



This step is exothermic, the water must be added carefully

### > EIA Buffer

Reconstitute the vial #A07000 with 50 mL of UltraPure water.

*Stability at +4°C: 1 month*

### > cAMP Tracer

Reconstitute the vial #A04230 with 5 mL of EIA Buffer.

*Stability at +4°C: 1 week*

### > cAMP Antiserum

Reconstitute the vial #A03230 with 5 mL of EIA Buffer.

*Stability at +4°C: 1 week*

### > Wash Buffer

Dilute 1 mL of concentrated Wash Buffer #A17000 with 400 mL UltraPure water. Add 200 µL of Tween20 #A12000. Use a magnetic stirring bar to mix the content.

*Stability at +4°C: 1 week*

> Ellman's Reagent

**5 minutes before use** (development of the plate), reconstitute one vial of Ellman's Reagent #A09000\_50 with 50 mL of UltraPure water. The tube content should be thoroughly mixed.

*Stability at +4°C and in the dark: 24 hours*

## ▶ Adenylyl Cyclase EF Assay procedure

For this part of the assay, use reagents just after reconstitution (see reagent preparation section).

### ▷ Standard

- ▶ Dispense 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of each standard S1 to S9 in a polypropylene micro tube. Start with the lowest concentration standard and equilibrate the tip in the next higher standard before pipetting.
- ▶ Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of blank matrix into each standards and QC tube.

### ▷ Sample tubes

- ▶ Dispense 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of each sample in a polypropylene tube (sample 1 to sample 34).  
Highly concentrated samples must be diluted with the Assay Buffer in order to be included into the standard concentration range.
- ▶ Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of Assay Buffer into each sample tube.

### ▷ Adenylyl Cyclase Reagent

- ▶ Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of Adenylyl Cyclase Reagent in each tube (standards, samples).
- ▶ Incubate 30 minutes at  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$  under gentle shaking at 500 rpm.

### ▷ Oxidation Step

- ▷ Add 45  $\mu\text{L}$  of Sodium Periodate to each tube. Gently mix and incubate at  $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$  during 5 minutes.

### ▷ Neutralization Step

- ▷ Add 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of Rhamnose in each tube. Gently mix and incubate at  $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$  during 20 minutes.

### ▷ Acetylation step

#### **This step must be performed tube by tube**

All the samples and standards must be acetylated as described below:

- ▷ Add 33  $\mu\text{L}$  of reconstituted potassium hydroxide and immediately after add 8  $\mu\text{L}$  of Acetic Anhydride #A16230.
- ▷ Vortex for 15 seconds.
- ▷ Add 8  $\mu\text{L}$  of potassium hydroxide
- ▷ Vortex for 15 seconds.



Flakes or small particles may appear, please centrifuge 30 seconds at 1 500 rpm before pipetting.

Tubes can stay at room temperature. **You must run the cAMP competitive immunoassay immediately after this step.**

Adenylyl Cyclase EF Assay protocol (volumes are in $\mu\text{L}$ )		
	Standard (S1-S9)	Sample
Standard	5	-
Sample	-	5
EF assay buffer	-	50
Blank matrix	50	-
Adenylyl cyclase reagent	50	
Incubate for 30' at +30°C under gentle shaking at 500 rpm		
Sodium periodate	45	
Incubate for 5' at +37°C		
Rhamnose	20	
Incubate for 20' at +37°C		
Potassium hydroxide	Tube by tube	33
Acetic anhydride		8
		Vortex 15"
Potassium hydroxide		8
		Vortex 15"

## ▶ **cAMP competitive immunoassay procedure**

### ▶ **Plate preparation**

Prepare the Wash Buffer as indicated in the reagent preparation section. Open the plate packet and select the sufficient strips for your assay. Place the unused strips back in the packet, store at +4°C for one month maximum.

Rinse each well five times with the Wash Buffer 300 µL/well.

Just before distributing reagents and samples, remove the buffer from the wells by inverting the plate and shaking out the last drops on a paper towel.

### ▶ **Plate set-up**

A plate set-up is suggested hereafter.

The contents of each well may be recorded on the template sheet provided at the end of this technical booklet.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	Bk	B0	S4	S8								
B	Bk	B0	S4	S8								
C	Bk	S1	S5									
D	NSB	S1	S5									
E	NSB	S2	S6									
F	NSB	S2	S6									
G	B0	S3	S7									
H	B0	S3	S7									

Bk: Blank

NSB : Non Specific Binding

B0: Maximum binding = S9

S1-S8 : Standards 1-8

### ▷ Pipetting the reagents

All samples and reagents must reach room temperature prior to performing the assay.

Use different tips to pipette the buffer, standards, samples, tracer, antiserum and other reagents.

Before pipetting, equilibrate the pipette tip in each reagent. Do not touch the liquid already in the well when expelling with the pipette tip.



Respect the order mentioned below when distributing the reagents into plate's wells:

- > EIA buffer  
Dispense 100  $\mu\text{L}$  to Non Specific Binding (NSB) wells.
- > cAMP Tracer  
Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  to each well, **except** Blank (Bk) wells.
- > Standards S1-S9  
Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of each acetylated standard tubes (S1 to S8) in duplicate to appropriate wells. Start with the lowest concentration standard (S8) and equilibrate the tip in the next higher standard before pipetting. Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of acetylated tube S9 (B0) into the 4 B0 wells.
- > Samples  
Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of each samples, in duplicate, to appropriate wells.
- > cAMP Antiserum  
Dispense 50  $\mu\text{L}$  to each well, **except** Blank (Bk) wells and Non Specific Binding (NSB) wells.

### **Incubating the plate**

Cover the plate with the cover sheet and incubate the plate for 2h30 at room temperature.

## ▷ Developing and reading the plate

- > Reconstitute Ellman's reagent as mentioned in the Reagent preparation section.
- > Empty the plate by turning over. Rinse each well five times with 300  $\mu\text{L}$  of Wash Buffer. At the end of the last washing step, empty the plate and blot the plate on a paper towel to discard any trace of liquid.
- > Add 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of Ellman's reagent to each 96 well. Cover the plate with an aluminium sheet and incubate in the dark at room temperature. Optimal development is obtained using an orbital shaker.
- > Wipe carefully the bottom of the plate with a paper towel, and make sure that no liquid has splashed outside the wells.
- > Read the plate at the wavelength of 405 or 414nm (yellow colour).

**After addition of Ellman's reagent, the absorbance has to be checked periodically, every 30 minutes, until the maximum absorbance (B0 wells) has reached a minimum of 0.3 A.U., blank subtracted.**

<b>cAMP competitive Immunoassay Protocole (volumes are in <math>\mu\text{L}</math>)</b>				
Volume \ Wells	Blank	NSB	S1-S9 (B0)	Sample
EIA Buffer	-	100	-	-
Tracer	-	50	50	50
Standard	-	-	50	-
Sample	-	-	-	50
Antiserum	-	-	50	50
Cover the plate, incubate 2h30 at RT				
Wash 5 times - Discard liquid				
Ellman's reagent	200			
Incubate the plate on orbital shaker in the dark at RT				
Read the plate between 405 and 414 nm				

## ▶ Data analysis

Make sure that your plate reader has subtracted the absorbance readings of the blank well (absorbance of Ellman's reagent alone) from the absorbance readings of the rest of the plate. If not, do it now.

- Calculate the average absorbance for each NSB, B0, standards and samples.
- Calculate the B/B0 (%) for each standard and sample: (average absorbance of standards or sample - average absorbance of Bk) divided by (average absorbance of B0 - average absorbance of Bk) & multiplied by 100.
- Using a semi-log graph paper for each standard point, plot the B/B0 (%) on y axis versus the concentration (pg/mL) on x axis. Draw a best-fit line through the points.
- To determine the concentration of your samples, find the B/B0 (%) value on the y axis. Read the corresponding value on the x axis which is the concentration of your unknown sample. Samples with a concentration greater than 1000 pg/mL should be re-assayed after dilution in assay buffer.
- Most plate readers are supplied with a curve-fitting software capable of graphing this type of data: 4-parameter logistic fit (4PL). If you have this type of software, we recommend using it. Refer to it for further information.

▶ **Acceptable range**

- ▶ B0 absorbance > 300 mA.U.
- ▶ IC50: 42.7 to 71.2 pg/mL.

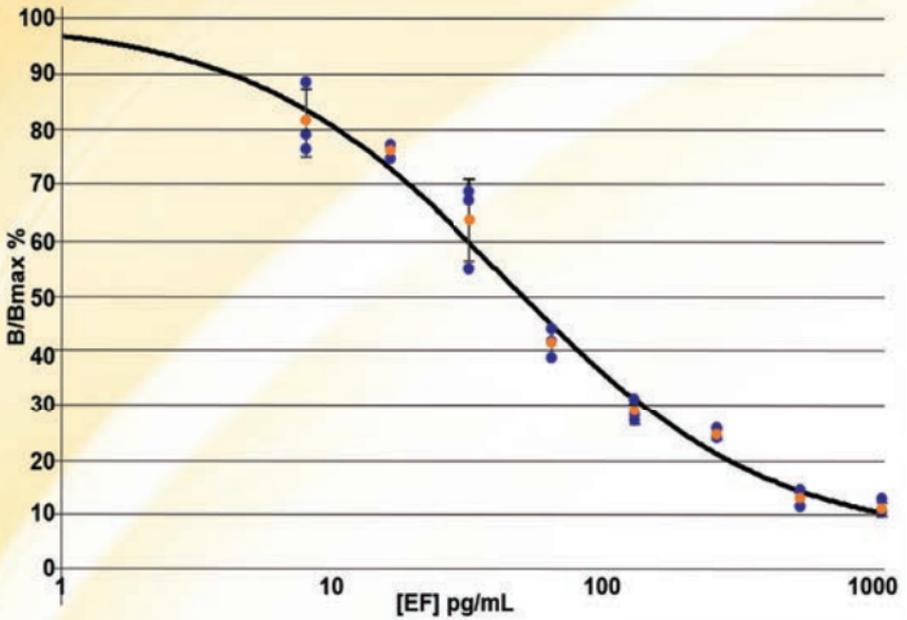
## ► Typical results

The following data are for demonstration purpose only. Your data may be different and still correct. These data were obtained using all reagents as supplied in this kit under the following conditions: 1 hour developing at room temperature.

A 4PL curve fitting was used to determine the concentrations.

Standards	[EF] pg/mL	mAU	B/BO (%)
NSB	N/A	6	-
S9 (B0)	0	452.5	100
S8	7.8	367	81
S7	15.6	342	76
S6	31.2	287	63
S5	62.5	188	42
S4	125	128	28
S3	250	111	24
S2	500	57	13
S1	1000	49	11

## Typical Anthrax Edema factor standard curve



## ► Assay validation and characteristics

IC 50 is the concentration of EF corresponding to 50% of the maximum binding. It is around 57 pg/mL.

For additional information regarding the validation of immunoassay for protein biomarkers in biological samples, please refer to bibliography [10, 11].

### > Intra-assay variations

Intra-assay variation		
QC	Mean of observed concentrations (pg/mL)	Intra-assay (CV%)
QC n° 1	143	33,46
QC n° 2	47	25,68

For the intra-assay validation, the number of replicates (n) is equal to 10 for each levels of QC. The 2 validation levels were analyzed along with the calibration curve for a unique experiment.

### > Inter-assay variations

Inter-assay variation		
QC	Mean of observed concentrations (pg/mL)	Inter-assay (CV%)
QC n° 1	103	35,75
QC n° 2	46	16,06

For the inter-assay validation, the number of replicates (n) is equal to 3 for each levels of QC.

The 2 validation levels were analyzed along with the calibration curve for a total of 5 independent runs.

The intra-assay and the inter-assay variations were studied on human plasma spiked with EF at each levels of QC.

## ► Troubleshooting

- > **Absorbance values are too low:**
  - organic contamination of water,
  - one reagent has not been dispensed,
  - incorrect preparation/dilution,
  - assay performed before reagents reached room temperature,
  - reading time not long enough.
  
- > **High signal and background in all wells:**
  - inefficient washing,
  - overdeveloping (incubation time should be reduced),
  - high ambient temperature.
  
- > **High dispersion of duplicates:**
  - poor pipetting technique,
  - irregular plate washing.
  
- > **If a plate is accidentally dropped after dispatch of the AChE<sup>®</sup> substrate (Ellman's Reagent) or if it needs to be revealed again:**
  - one only needs to wash the plate, add fresh Ellman's Reagent and proceed with a new development.
  - otherwise, the plate can be stored at +4°C with Wash Buffer in wells while waiting for technical advice from the Bioreagent Department.

These are a few examples of troubleshooting that may occur.

If you need further explanation, Bertin Pharma will be happy to assist you. Feel free to contact our technical support staff by phone (+33 (0)139 306 036), fax (+33 (0)139 306 299) or E-mail ([bioreagent@bertinpharma.com](mailto:bioreagent@bertinpharma.com)), and be sure to indicate the batch number of the kit (see outside the box).

Bertin Pharma proposes EIA Training kit #B05005 and EIA workshop upon request. For further information, please contact our Marketing Department by phone (+33 (0)139 306 260) or E-mail ([marketing@bertinpharma.com](mailto:marketing@bertinpharma.com)).

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1	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
11	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
12	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>									







Bertin Pharma, over the last decades, has been developing and marketing over 100 biomarker assays, pre-analytical products, kits, antibodies and biochemicals thanks to its innovative work in research and development. Our core areas are orientated to inflammation, oxidative injury, endocrinology, diabetes, obesity, hypertension, neurodegenerative diseases, HIV, prion diseases, pharmacokinetics and metabolism.

Bertin Pharma is active worldwide either with direct sales or through our qualified and trained international distribution network from the United States to Japan.

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