

Glutathione Reductase Assay Kit

Catalog No. 703202

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	3	Materials Supplied
	4	Precautions
	4	If You Have Problems
	4	Storage and Stability
	4	Materials Needed but Not Supplied
INTRODUCTION	5	Background
	5	About This Assay
PRE-ASSAY PREPARATION	6	Reagent Preparation
	7	Sample Preparation
ASSAY PROTOCOL	8	Plate Set Up
	10	Performing the Assay
ANALYSIS	11	Calculations
	13	Performance Characteristics
RESOURCES	14	Interferences
	16	Troubleshooting
	17	References
	17	Related Products
	18	Warranty and Limitation of Remedy
	19	Plate Template
	20	Notes

GENERAL INFORMATION

Materials Supplied

Catalog Number	Item	Quantity
703210	GR Assay Buffer (10X)	1 vial
703212	GR Sample Buffer (10X)	1 vial
703214	GR Glutathione Reductase (control)	1 vial
703216	GR GSSG	1 vial
703218	GR NADPH	3 vials
400014	96-Well Plate (Colorimetric Assay)	1 plate
400012	96-Well Cover Sheet	1 cover

If any of the items listed above are damaged or missing, please contact our Customer Service department at (800) 364-9897 or (734) 975-3999. We cannot accept any returns without prior authorization.



WARNING: This product is for laboratory research use only; not for administration to humans. Not for human or veterinary diagnostic or therapeutic use.

Precautions

Please read these instructions carefully before beginning this assay.

For research use only. Not for human or diagnostic use.

If You Have Problems

Technical Service Contact Information

Phone: 888-526-5351 (USA and Canada only) or 734-975-3888

Fax: 734-971-3641

E-Mail: techserv@caymanchem.com

Hours: M-F 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM EST

In order for our staff to assist you quickly and efficiently, please be ready to supply the lot number of the kit (found on the outside of the box).

Storage and Stability

This kit will perform as specified if stored at -20°C and used before the expiration date indicated on the outside of the box.

Materials Needed But Not Supplied

1. A plate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 340 nm
2. Adjustable pipettes and a repeat pipettor
3. A source of pure water; glass distilled water or HPLC-grade water is acceptable

INTRODUCTION

Background

Glutathione (GSH) is a tripeptide widely distributed in both plants and animals.^{1,2} GSH serves as a nucleophilic co-substrate to GSH transferases in the detoxification of xenobiotics and is an essential electron donor to GSH peroxidases in the reduction of hydroperoxides.^{2,3} GSH is also involved in amino acid transport across membranes.^{4,5} Glutathione reductase (GR, EC 1.6.4.2) is a flavoprotein that catalyzes the NADPH-dependent reduction of oxidized glutathione (GSSG) to GSH.⁶ This enzyme is essential for the GSH redox cycle which maintains adequate levels of reduced cellular GSH. A high GSH/GSSG ratio is essential for protection against oxidative stress.

About This Assay

Cayman's Glutathione Reductase Assay Kit measures GR activity by measuring the rate of NADPH oxidation:



The oxidation of NADPH to NADP⁺ is accompanied by a decrease in absorbance at 340 nm and is directly proportional to the GR activity in the sample. The Cayman GR Assay Kit can be used to measure GR activity in plasma, erythrocyte lysates, tissue homogenates, and cell lysates.

Reagent Preparation

1. GR Assay Buffer (10X) - (Catalog No. 703210)

Dilute 2 ml of Assay Buffer concentrate with 18 ml of HPLC-grade water. This final Assay Buffer (50 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, containing 1 mM EDTA) should be used in the assay. When stored at 4°C, this diluted Assay Buffer is stable for at least two months. Equilibrate the diluted Assay Buffer to 25°C before using in the assay.

2. GR Sample Buffer (10X) - (Catalog No. 703212)

Dilute 2 ml of Sample Buffer concentrate with 18 ml of HPLC-grade water. This final Sample Buffer (50 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, containing 1 mM EDTA and 1 mg/ml BSA) should be used to dilute the GR control and the GR samples prior to assaying. When stored at 4°C, this diluted Sample Buffer is stable for at least one month.

3. GR Glutathione Reductase (Control) - (Catalog No. 703214)

This vial contains a solution of GR (from Baker's Yeast). To avoid repeated freezing and thawing, the GR should be aliquoted into several small vials and stored at -20°C. Prior to use, transfer 10 µl of the supplied enzyme to another vial and dilute with 990 µl of diluted Sample Buffer and keep on ice. The diluted enzyme is stable for four hours on ice. A 20 µl aliquot of this diluted enzyme per well causes a decrease of approximately 0.04 absorbance units/minute under the standard assay conditions described in **Performing the Assay** (see page 10).

4. GR GSSG - (Catalog No. 703216)

This vial contains a 9.5 mM solution of GSSG and should be stored at -20°C when not being used. The reagent is ready to use as supplied.

5. GR NADPH - (Catalog No. 703218)

The vials contain a lyophilized powder of NADPH. Each reconstituted vial will be enough reagent for 40 wells. Reconstitute the number of vials that you will need by adding 2 ml of HPLC-grade water to each vial and vortex well. The reconstituted reagent should be kept at 25°C while assaying and then stored at 4°C. If stored at 4°C, the reconstituted reagent is stable for two days. *NOTE: Do not freeze the reconstituted reagent.*

Sample Preparation

Tissue Homogenate

1. Prior to dissection, perfuse or rinse tissue with a PBS (phosphate buffered saline) solution, pH 7.4, to remove any red blood cells and clots.
2. Homogenize the tissue in 5-10 ml of cold buffer (*i.e.*, 50 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA) per gram tissue.
3. Centrifuge at 10,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C.
4. Remove the supernatant for assay and store on ice. If not assaying on the same day, freeze the sample at -80°C. The sample will be stable for at least one month.

Cell Lysate

1. Collect cells by centrifugation (*i.e.*, 1,000-2,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C). For adherent cells, do not harvest using proteolytic enzymes; rather use a rubber policeman.
2. Homogenize cell pellet in cold buffer (*i.e.*, 50 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA).
3. Centrifuge at 10,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C.
4. Remove the supernatant for assay and store on ice. If not assaying on the same day, freeze the sample at -80°C. The sample will be stable for at least one month.

Plasma and Erythrocyte Lysate

1. Collect blood using an anticoagulant such as heparin, citrate, or EDTA.
2. Centrifuge the blood at 700-1,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Pipette off the top yellow plasma layer without disturbing the white buffy layer. Store plasma on ice until assaying or freeze at -80°C. The plasma sample will be stable for at least one month.
3. Remove the white buffy layer (leukocytes) and discard.
4. Lyse the erythrocytes (red blood cells) in four times its volume of ice-cold HPLC-grade water.
5. Centrifuge at 10,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C.
6. Collect the supernatant (erythrocyte lysate) for assaying and store on ice. If not assaying the same day, freeze at -80°C. The sample will be stable for at least one month.

Plate Set Up

There is no specific pattern for using the wells on the plate. However, it is necessary to have three wells designated as non-enzymatic or background wells. The absorbance rate of these wells must be subtracted from the absorbance rate measured in the GR sample and control wells. We suggest that there be at least three wells designated as positive controls and that you record the contents of each well on the template sheet provided on page 19.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	BW	BW	BW	7	7	7	15	15	15	23	23	23
B	+	+	+	8	8	8	16	16	16	24	24	24
C	1	1	1	9	9	9	17	17	17	25	25	25
D	2	2	2	10	10	10	18	18	18	26	26	26
E	3	3	3	11	11	11	19	19	19	27	27	27
F	4	4	4	12	12	12	20	20	20	28	28	28
G	5	5	5	13	13	13	21	21	21	29	29	29
H	6	6	6	14	14	14	22	22	22	30	30	30

BW - Background Wells
 + - Positive Control Wells
 1-30 - Sample Wells

Figure 2. Sample plate format

Pipetting Hints

- It is recommend that a repeating pipettor be used to deliver Assay Buffer (dilute), GSSG, and NADPH to the wells. This saves time and helps to maintain more precise incubation times.
- Use different tips to pipette the GSSG, enzyme, and NADPH.
- Before pipetting each reagent, equilibrate the pipette tip in that reagent (*i.e.*, slowly fill the tip and gently expel the contents, repeat several times).
- Do not expose the pipette tip to the reagent(s) already in the well.

General Information

- The final volume of the assay is 190 μ l in all the wells.
- It is not necessary to use all the wells on the plate at one time.
- The assay temperature is 25°C.
- Use the Assay Buffer (dilute) in the assay.
- Monitor the decrease in absorbance at 340 nm using a plate reader.

Performing the Assay

1. **Background or Non-enzymatic Wells** - add 120 μl of Assay Buffer and 20 μl of GSSG to three wells.
2. **Positive Control Wells (Baker's yeast GR)** - add 100 μl of Assay Buffer, 20 μl of GSSG, and 20 μl of diluted GR (control) to three wells.
3. **Sample Wells** - add 100 μl of Assay Buffer, 20 μl of GSSG, and 20 μl of sample to three wells. To obtain reproducible results, the amount of GR added to the well should cause an absorbance decrease between 0.008 and 0.1/min. When necessary, samples should be diluted with Sample Buffer or concentrated with an Amicon centrifuge concentrator with a molecular weight cut-off of 10,000 to bring the enzymatic activity to this level. *NOTE: The amount of sample added to the well should always be 20 μl . To determine if an additional sample control should be performed, see the Interferences section (page 14).*
4. Initiate the reactions by adding 50 μl of NADPH to all the wells you are using. Make sure to note the precise time you started and add the NADPH as quickly as possible.
5. Carefully shake the 96 well plate for a few seconds to mix.
6. Read the absorbance once every minute at 340 nm using a plate reader to obtain at least 5 time points. *NOTE: The initial absorbance of the sample wells should not be above 1.2 or below 0.5.*

ANALYSIS

Calculations

1. Determine the change in absorbance (ΔA_{340}) per minute by:
 - a. Plotting the absorbance values as a function of time to obtain the slope (rate) of the linear portion of the curve (a graph is shown on page 12 using Baker's yeast GR)

OR

- b. Select two points on the linear portion of the curve and determine the change in absorbance during that time using the following equation:

$$\Delta A_{340}/\text{min.} = \frac{A_{340}(\text{Time 2}) - A_{340}(\text{Time 1})}{\text{Time 2 (min.)} - \text{Time 1 (min.)}}$$

2. Determine the rate of $\Delta A_{340}/\text{min.}$ for the background or non-enzymatic wells and subtract this rate from that of the sample wells.
3. Use the following formula to calculate the GR activity. The reaction rate at 340 nm can be determined using the NADPH extinction coefficient of $0.00373 \mu\text{M}^{-1}$. One unit is defined as the amount of enzyme that will cause the oxidation of 1.0 nmol of NADPH to NADP^+ per minute at 25°C .

$$\text{GR Activity} = \frac{\Delta A_{340}/\text{min.}}{0.00373 \mu\text{M}^{-1}} \times \frac{0.19 \text{ ml}}{0.02 \text{ ml}} \times \text{Sample dilution} = \text{nmol/min/ml}$$

*The actual extinction coefficient for NADPH at 340 nm is $0.00622 \mu\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$. This value has been adjusted for the pathlength of the solution in the well (0.6 cm).

Performance Characteristics

Precision:

When a series of twenty GR samples were assayed on the same day, the intra-assay coefficient of variation was 3.7%. When a series of twenty GR samples were assayed on five different days under the same experimental conditions, the inter-assay coefficient of variation was 9.3%.

Assay Range:

Samples containing GR activity between 20-255 nmol/min/ml can be assayed without further dilution or concentration. This GR activity is equivalent to an absorbance decrease of 0.008 to 0.1 per minute.

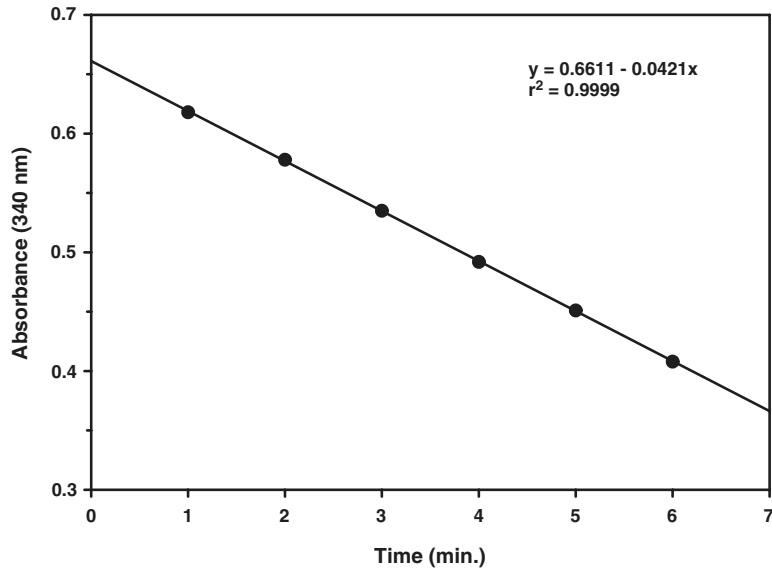


Figure 1. Activity of Baker's yeast GR

Interferences

- Samples that have a high intrinsic absorbance at 340 nm may exceed the absorbance maximum of the plate reader. Therefore, samples with an initial absorbance >1.2 should be diluted with Sample Buffer until the absorbance is lowered. For example, hemoglobin absorbs significantly at 340 nm, and thus erythrocyte lysates must be diluted before assaying.
- Samples containing high levels of GSSG or NADPH consuming enzymes will cause the GR levels to be overestimated. A blank without GSSG should be performed to assess nonspecific oxidation of NADPH. GSSG can be removed from the sample by either dialysis or passing through a gel filtration column.

The following reagents were tested for interference in the assay.

Reagent		Will Interfere (Yes or No)
Buffers	Tris (pH 8.0)	No
	HEPES (pH 7.0)	No
	Phosphate (pH 7.5)	No
Detergents	Triton X-100 ($\leq 1\%$)	No
	Tween 20 ($\leq 1\%$)	No
	CHAPS ($\leq 1\%$)	No
Protease Inhibitors/ Chelators	Antipain (≤ 0.1 mg/ml)	No
	PMSF (≤ 200 μ M)	No
	Leupeptin (10 μ g/ml)	No
	Trypsin (10 μ g/ml)	No
	Chymostatin (10 μ g/ml)	No
	EGTA (≤ 1 mM)	No
	EDTA (≤ 1 mM)	No
Solvents	Ethanol (10 μ l)	No
	Methanol (10 μ l)	No
	Dimethylsulfoxide (10 μ l)	No
Others	Glycerol ($\leq 10\%$)	No
	BSA (≤ 1 mg/ml)	No

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Causes	Recommended Solutions
Erratic values; dispersion of duplicates/triplicates	A. Poor pipetting/technique B. Bubble in the well(s)	A. Carefully tap the side of the plate with your finger to remove bubbles B. Be careful not to splash the contents of the wells
The initial absorbance in the wells is less than 0.1	NADPH was not added to the wells	Make sure to add all components to the wells
No decrease in absorbance was observed in the sample wells	A. Enzyme activity was too low B. GSSG was not added to the wells	A. Concentrate your sample using an Amicon centrifuge concentrator with a 10,000 MW cut-off and re-assay. B. Make sure to add all components to the wells
Reaction rate was too fast. The initial absorbance of the sample well is below 0.5	Too much enzyme added to well(s)	Dilute your samples with Sample Buffer and re-assay
The initial absorbance in the sample wells is above 1.2	There may be something in the sample that is interfering (see Interference Section on page 14)	Dilute your sample with Sample Buffer and re-assay

References

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3. Baillie, T.A. and Slatter, J.G. Glutathione: A vehicle for the transport of chemically reactive metabolites *in vivo*. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **24**, 264-270 (1991).
4. Inoue, M., Saito, Y., Hirata, E., *et al.* Regulation of redox states of plasma proteins by metabolism and transport of glutathione and related compounds. *Journal of Protein Chemistry* **6**, 207-225 (1987).
5. Inoue, M. Interorgan metabolism and membrane transport of glutathione and related compounds, Chapter 6, *in* Renal Biochemistry. Kinne, R.K.H., editor. Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., London, 225-269 (1985).
6. Carlberg, I. and Mannervik, B. Glutathione reductase. *Methods Enzymol.* **113**, 484-490 (1985).

Related Products

Aconitase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 705502
Antioxidant Assay Kit - Cat. No. 709001
Catalase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 707002
Glutathione Assay Kit - Cat. No. 703002
Glutathione Peroxidase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 703102
Glutathione S-Transferase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 703302
Hydrogen Peroxide (urinary) Assay Kit - Cat. No. 706011
4-hydroxy Hexenal - Cat. No. 32060
4-hydroxy Nonenal - Cat. No. 32100
8-Isoprostane EIA Kit - Cat. No. 516351
Lipid Hydroperoxide Assay Kit - Cat. No. 705002
Protein Carbonyl Assay Kit - Cat. No. 10005020
Superoxide Dismutase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 706002
TBARS Assay Kit - Cat. No. 10009055
Thioredoxin Reductase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 10007892
Xanthine Oxidase Assay Kit - Cat. No. 10010895

Warranty and Limitation of Remedy

Cayman Chemical Company makes **no warranty or guarantee** of any kind, whether written or oral, expressed or implied, including without limitation, any warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, suitability and merchantability, which extends beyond the description of the chemicals hereof. Cayman **warrants only** to the original customer that the material will meet our specifications at the time of delivery. Cayman will carry out its delivery obligations with due care and skill. Thus, in no event will Cayman have **any obligation or liability**, whether in tort (including negligence) or in contract, for any direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages, even if Cayman is informed about their possible existence. This limitation of liability does not apply in the case of intentional acts or negligence of Cayman, its directors or its employees.

Buyer's **exclusive remedy** and Cayman's sole liability hereunder shall be limited to a refund of the purchase price, or at Cayman's option, the replacement, at no cost to Buyer, of all material that does not meet our specifications.

Said refund or replacement is conditioned on Buyer giving written notice to Cayman within thirty (30) days after arrival of the material at its destination. Failure of Buyer to give said notice within thirty (30) days shall constitute a waiver by Buyer of all claims hereunder with respect to said material.

For further details, please refer to our Warranty and Limitation of Remedy located on our website and in our catalog.

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NOTES

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