Diphtheria is a localized infection of mucous membranes or skin caused by toxigenic strains of Corynebacterium diphtheriae. It is characterized by the presence of a pseudomembrane at the site of infection. Diphtheria toxin, produced by C. diphtheriae, can cause myocarditis, polyneuritis, and other systemic toxic effects. Diphtheria toxin is an exotoxin secreted by Corynebacterium diphtheriae, the pathogen bacterium that causes diphtheria. Diphtheria toxin is a single polypeptide chain of 535 amino acids (~63 kda) consisting of two subunits linked by disulfide bridges. An ADP-ribosylating polypeptide produced by Corynebacterium diphtheriae that causes the signs and symptoms of diphtheria. It can be broken into two unequal domains: the smaller (24 kda), catalytic A domain, and the larger B domain (39 kda) that is needed for entry into cells. Binding to the cell surface of the less stable of these two subunits allows the more stable part of the protein to penetrate the host cell. It catalyzes the ADP-ribosylation of eukaryotic elongation factor-2 (eEF2), inactivating this protein. It does so by ADP-ribosylating the unusual aminoacid diphtheramide. In this way, it acts as a RNA translational inhibitor. The exotoxin A of Pseudomonas aeruginosa uses a similar mechanism of action. Diphtheria toxin is extraordinarily potent.[1] The lethal dose for humans is about 0.1 μg of toxin per kg of bodyweight. A massive release of toxin into the body will likely cause lethal necrosis of the heart and liver. Diphtheria toxin is formaldehyde-inactivated toxin of Corynebacterium diphtheriae. It is generally used in mixtures with TETANUS TOXOID and PERTUSSIS VACCINE; (DTP); or with tetanus toxoid alone (DT). It contains 5- to 10-fold less diphtheria toxoid, for other use. Diphtheria toxoid is used for the prevention of diphtheria; DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN is for treatment.

Mutant forms of diphtheria toxin (DT), cross-reactive material CRM197 (CRM197) is a non-toxic DT mutant containing a lesion in the A chain blocking ADP-ribosylation. CRM results from a single base change in the structural gene resulting in the substitution of glutamic acid for glycine. While CRM shows no enzymatic activity, it is immunologically indistinguishable from diphtheria toxin. In its applications, CRM 197 is similar to diphtheria toxoid. CRM has the advantage of being a well defined protein in contrast to formaldehyde treated toxoid (toxoid) which is non-specifically cross linked and subject to rearrangement. CRM functions as a carrier for polysaccharides and happens making them immunogenic.

Source of Antigen

CRM197 is supplied in 10 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, and 5% lactose (~95%, 58 kda) as lyophilized powder or in solution. Reconstituted with distilled water. Store powder at -20°C and it is stable for at least 1 year. Store reconstituted solution at -20°C or below in suitable size aliquots.

Stability: 6-12 months at -20°C or below.

Recommended Usage

Purified protein can be used for ELISA, Western, antibody titration or as control protein for adjuvant.


This product is for in vitro research use only.

Related material available from ADI

Catalog# ProdDescription
940-100-DHG Human Anti-Diphtheria Toxin/Toxoid IgG ELISA kit, 96 tests, Quantitative
940-110-DHM Human Anti-Diphtheria Toxin/Toxoid IgM ELISA kit, 96 tests, Quantitative
940-120-DHM cat# change to: 940-110-DHM; Human Anti-Diphtheria Toxin/Toxoid IgM ELISA kit
DTOX15-N-500 Purified Diphtheria Toxoid protein (antigen grade)
CRM197-N-100 Purified CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) protein (antigen grade)
940-140-DSG Guinea Pig Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgG ELISA kit, 2x96 tests, Quantitative
940-145-DGM Guinea Pig Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgM ELISA kit, 2x96 tests, Quantitative
940-200-DHG Human Anti-CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) IgG ELISA kit, 5x96 tests, Quantitative
940-210-DHM Human Anti-CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) IgM ELISA kit, 5x96 tests, Quantitative
940-220-DMG Mouse Anti-CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) IgG ELISA kit, 2x96 tests, Quantitative
940-225-DMG Mouse Anti-CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) IgM ELISA kit, 2x96 tests, Quantitative
DTOX13-M Monoclonal Anti-Diphtheria Toxin/Anatoxin IgG #1, unlabeled
DTOX14-M Monoclonal Anti-Diphtheria Toxin/Anatoxin IgG #2, unlabeled
DTOX15-M Monoclonal Anti-Diphtheria Toxin subunit A, IgG, unlabeled
940-230-DRG Rabbit Anti-CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) IgG ELISA kit, 2x96 tests, Quantitative
940-235-DRM Rabbit Anti-CRM197 (Diphtheria Toxin mutant) IgM ELISA kit, 2x96 tests, Quantitative
DTOX11-S Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgG, unlabeled
DTOX12-S Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgG, unlabeled
DTOX12-B Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgG-Biotin conjugate
DTOX12-F Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgG-FTC conjugate
DTOX12-HP Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin IgG-HP conjugate
DTOX16-S Anti-Diphtheria Toxoid/Toxin antiserum
CRM197 121211A

Alpha Diagnostic Intl Inc., 6203 Woodlake Center Dr, San Antonio, TX 78244, USA; Email: service@4adi.com
Phone: (800) 786-5777; (210) 561-9515; Fax: (210) 561-9544; Web Site: www.4adi.com