INTENDED USE

The **Rat Anti-HIV p24 IgG** ELISA Kit detects and quantifies IgG antibodies directed to viral protein **24** of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in rat serum or plasma of vaccinated, immunized, and/or infected hosts. This immunoassay is suitable for:

- Determining immune status relative to non-immune controls
- Assessing efficacy of vaccines including dosage, adjuvancy, route of immunization, and timing
- Qualifying and/or standardizing vaccine batches and protocols

The kit has no live or killed virus or viral antigens. For research use only (RUO); not for diagnosis, cure, or prevention of the disease.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Human immunodeficiency virus (**HIV**) is a lentivirus (retrovirus family) that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (**AIDS**), a condition in humans in which progressive failure of the immune system allows life-threatening opportunistic infections and cancers to thrive.

HIV is roughly spherical with a diameter of about 120 nm, and composed of two copies of positive-sense, single-stranded RNA that codes for the virus's nine genes (gag, pol, env, tat, rev, nef, vif, vpr, vpu and sometimes a tenth tev, which is a fusion of tat env and rev) enclosed by a conical capsid composed of 2,000 copies of the viral protein p24. The single-stranded RNA is tightly bound to nucleocapsid proteins, p7, and enzymes needed for the development of the virion such as reverse transcriptase, proteases, ribonuclease, and integrase. A matrix composed of the viral protein p17 surrounds the capsid ensuring the integrity of the virion particle. This is, in turn, surrounded by the viral envelope that is composed of two layers of phospholipids taken from the membrane of a human cell when a newly formed virus particle buds from the cell. Embedded in the viral envelope are proteins from the host cell and about 70 copies of a complex HIV protein that protrudes through the surface of the virus particle. This protein, known as Env, consists of a cap made of three molecules called glycoprotein (gp) 120, and a stem consisting of three gp41 molecules that anchor the structure into the viral envelope. This glycoprotein complex enables the virus to attach to and fuse with target cells to initiate the infectious cycle. Both these surface proteins, especially gp120, have been considered as targets for future vaccine development.

PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The **Rat Anti-HIV p24 IgG** ELISA kit is based on the binding of rat anti-HIV p24 in samples to HIV p24 immobilized on the microwells, and anti-HIV p24 IgG antibody is detected by anti- rat IgG-specific antibody conjugated to HRP (horseradish peroxidase) enzyme. After a washing step, chromogenic substrate (TMB) is added and color is developed by the enzymatic reaction of HRP on the substrate, which is directly proportional to the amount of anti-HIV p24 IgG present in the sample. Stopping Solution is added to terminate the reaction, and absorbance at 450nm is then measured using an ELISA microwell reader. The activity of rat antibody in samples is determined relative to anti-HIV p24 Calibrators.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Specificity
Purified recombinant HIV p24 (E. coli expression) is used to coat the microwells. Stabilizing postcoat contains BSA; thus, no other antibody specificity is detectable in the assay. The anti- rat IgG HRP conjugate specifically detects IgG, and will not react with IgM, IgA, or IgE class antibodies.

Assay Sensitivity
The HIV p24 coated plates, the anti- rat IgG HRP concentration, and the Low NSB Sample Diluent are optimized to differentiate anti-HIV p24 IgG from background (non-antibody) signal with rat serum samples diluted 1:100.

KIT CONTENTS

The microtiter well plate and all other reagents, if unopened, are stable at 2-8°C until the expiration date printed on the box label. Stabilities of the working solutions are indicated under Reagent Preparation.

To Be Reconstituted: Store as indicated.

Component	Preparation Instructions
Wash Solution Concentrate (100x) Cat. No. WB-100, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume 10ml + 990ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as **Wash Solution** and store at ambient temperature until kit is used entirely.
Sample Diluent Concentrate (20x) Cat. No. SD-20T, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume, 10ml + 190ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as **Working Sample/Conjugate Diluent** and store at 2-8°C until the kit lot expires or is used up.
Anti-Rat IgG - HRP Conjugate Concentrate (100x) Part No. H-RtG.2a11, 0.15ml	Peroxidase conjugated anti- rat IgG in buffer with protein, detergents, and antimicrobial as stabilizers. Dilute fresh as needed; 10ul of concentrate to 1ml of **Working Sample/Conjugate Diluent** is sufficient for 1 8-well strip. Use within the working day and discard. Return 100X to 2-8°C storage.

Ready For Use: Store as indicated on labels.

Component	Part	Amt	Contents
HIV p24 Microwell Strip Plate	HIV011	8-well strips (12)	Coated with recombinant HIV p24 , and post-coated with stabilizers.
Anti-HIV p24 Calibrators			
1 U/ml 2.5 U/ml 5 U/ml 10 U/ml	HIV-012B HIV-012C HIV-012D HIV-012E	0.65 ml 0.65 ml 0.65 ml 0.65 ml	Four (4) vials, each containing anti-HIV p24 in arbitrary activity Units; diluted in buffer with protein, detergents, and antimicrobial as stabilizers.
Anti-HIV p24 Positive Control	HIV-012PC	0.65ml	Anti-HIV p24 antibody; diluted in buffer with protein, detergents, and antimicrobial as stabilizers. [Value range on label]
Low NSB Sample Diluent	TBTm **Not** for conjugate dilution	30 ml	Buffer with protein, detergents, and antimicrobial as stabilizers. Use as is for sample dilution
TMB Substrate	80091	12 ml	Chromogenic substrate for HRP containing TMB and peroxide.
Stop Solution	80101	12 ml	Dilute sulfuric acid.

Materials Required But Not Provided:

- Pipettors and pipettes that deliver 100ul and 1-10ml. A multi-channel pipettor is recommended.
- Disposable glass or plastic 5-15ml tubes for diluting samples and Anti-Rat IgG HRP Concentrate.
- Graduated cylinder to dilute Wash Concentrate; 0.2 to 1L.
- Stock bottle to store diluted Wash Solution; 200ml to 1L.
- Distilled or deionized water to dilute reagent concentrates.
- Microwell plate reader at 450 nm wavelength.

ASSAY DESIGN AND SET-UP

Sample Collection and Handling
Serum and other biological fluids may be used as samples with proper dilution to avoid solution matrix interference. For **serum**, collect blood by venipuncture, allow clotting, and separate the serum by centrifugation at room temperature. If samples will not be assayed immediately, store refrigerated for up to a few weeks, or frozen for long-term storage.

Antibody Stability & Dilution
Initial dilution of serum into **Working Sample Diluent** (WSD) is recommended to stabilize antibody activity. This enhances reproducible sampling and stabilizes the antibody activity for years, stored refrigerated or frozen. Further dilution into **Low NSB Sample Diluent** (LNSD), which provides the lowest assay background, should be at least 5 times the initial dilution and performed the same week as the assay; LNSD samples are stable frozen for several months.

Example: Initial (1:5): **10**ul serum + **40**ul WSD [or 0.1ml + 0.4ml]
Further (1:100): **10**ul initial (1:5) + **190**ul LNSD (1:100)

ASSAY DESIGN

Review Interpretation of Results (p. 5-7) before proceeding:

- Select the proper sample dilutions accounting for expected potency of positives and minimizing non-specific binding (NSB) and other matrix effects; for example, net signal for non-immune samples should be lower than the **1 U/ml Calibrator**. This is usually 1:100 or greater dilution for rat serum with normal levels of IgG and IgM.
- Run the **Anti-HIV p24 Positive Control**; value range is on the vial label.
- Run a Sample Diluent **Blank**. This signal is an indicator of proper assay performance, especially of washing efficacy, and is used for net OD calculations, if required. Blank OD should be <0.3.
- Run a set of **Calibrators**, which validate that the assay was performed to specifications: **10 U/ml** should give a high signal (>1.5 OD); **1 U/ml** should give a low signal which can be used to discriminate at the Positive/Negative threshold (see Interpretation of Results, p. 5).
- Run a range of sample dilutions for expected higher positives that allows calculation of antibody **Titer** (when specific titer is at least 4-fold higher than non-immune)**. See Method C.**
- Run samples in duplicates if used for quantitation; non-immunes that are significantly lower than immunes may be run in singlicate. The Calibrators that are used for quantitation, e.g., for between-assay normalization, should be run in duplicates. When determining titer from a dilution curve, singlicates can be run if more than two dilution points are used for titer calculations.

PLATE SET-UP

Bring all reagents to room temperature (18-30°C) equilibration (at least 30 minutes).

- Determine the number of wells for the assay run. Duplicates are recommended, including 8 Calibrator wells and 2 wells for each sample control to be assayed.
- Remove the appropriate number of microwell strips from the pouch and return unused strips to the pouch. Reseal the pouch and store refrigerated.
- Add 200-300ul Working Wash Solution to each well and let stand for about 1-5 minutes. Aspirate or dump the liquid and pat dry on a paper towel before sample addition.

Assay Procedure

ALL STEPS ARE PERFORMED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE (25-28°C). After each reagent addition, gently tap the plate to mix the well contents prior to beginning incubation.

1. 1st Incubation [100ul – 60 min; 4 washes]

- Add **100 ul of blank, calibrators, samples, and controls** each to pre-determined wells.
- Tap the plate gently to mix reagents and incubate for **60 minutes at room temp** (25-28°C).
- **Wash wells 4 times** and pat dry on fresh paper towels. As an alternative, an automatic plate washer may be used. Improper washes may lead to falsely elevated signals and poor reproducibility.

2. 2nd Incubation [100ul – 30 min; 5 washes]

- Add **100 ul of diluted Anti-Rat IgG HRP** to each well.
- Incubate for **30 minutes at room temp**.
- **Wash wells 5** times as in step 1.

3. Substrate Incubation [100ul – 15 min]

- Add **100 ul TMB Substrate** to each well. The liquid in the wells will begin to turn blue.
- Incubate for **15 minutes in the dark**, e.g., place in a drawer or closet.

Note: If your microplate reader does not register optical density (OD) above 2.0, incubate for less time, or read OD at 405-410 nm (results are valid).

4. Stop Step [Stop: 100ul]

- Add **100 ul of Stop Solution** to each well.
- Tap gently to mix. The enzyme reaction will stop; liquid in the wells will turn yellow.

5. Absorbance Reading

- Use any commercially available microplate reader capable of reading at 450nm wavelength. Use a program suitable for obtaining OD readings, and data calculations if available.
- Read absorbance of the entire plate at 450nm using a single wavelength within 30 minutes after Stop Solution addition. If available, program to subtract OD at 630nm to normalize well background.

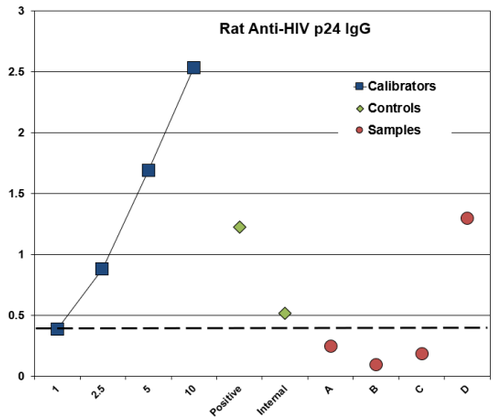
INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

A. Antibody Activity Threshold Index

Compare Samples to **1 U/ml Calibrator** or **Internal Control**

= Positive/Negative Cut-off.

Example:



Results

The **sensitivity** of the assay to detect anti-HIV p24 IgG from either natural exposure or vaccination is controlled so that the **1 U/ml Calibrator** represents a threshold OD for most true positives in rat serum diluted to 1:100 or greater. Visual inspection of the data in the above graph shows the following:

Calibrators – dilution curve of antiserum from anti-HIV p24 immunization, shows the OD range of the assay; high value indicates optimal sensitivity of the assay.

1 U/ml: a 'Cut-off' line has been drawn to indicate a threshold distinguishing between **Positive/Negative**. This is not a clear-cut threshold, rather a low OD area that could represent either low positives or high background negatives.

Positive Control – an anti-HIV p24 serum; value range is on the vial label. This Control can be used to assess reproducibility and to normalize between-assay variation.

Internal Control – a true positive from an immune rat that represents the investigator's experience in distinguishing low positive from negative samples (not in kit). This should be run in each assay to supplement the 1 U/ml Calibrator for Positive/Negative discrimination purposes.

Samples A,B,C,D – 3 samples (1:100) (A, B, C) are negative: below the threshold; 1 sample (D) is positive: clearly above the threshold.

The 1 U/ml Calibrator can be used to calculate a **Threshold Index** that numerically discriminates Positive/Negative:

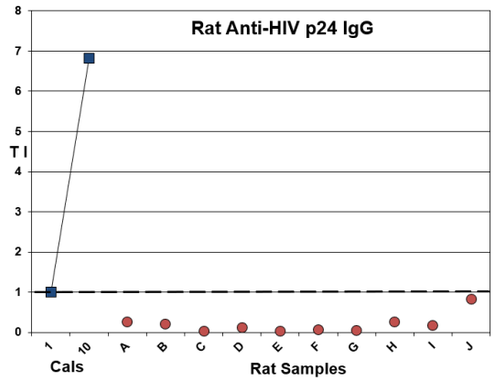
- Divide each Sample net OD by the 1 U/ml Calibrator net OD. Values above 1.0 are a measure of **Positive** Antibody Activity; below 1.0 are **Negative** for antibody.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS (cont.)

Example:

Rat Serum IgG

A panel of sera from non-immunized laboratory rats was tested for anti-HIV p24 IgG (1:100 dilution in Low NSB Sample Diluent). **Threshold Index** was calculated using the **1** U/ml **Cal**.



Results

Anti- HIV p24 IgG: all sera were negative (below the **1.0** Threshold Index) except for one (J) which was borderline.

Notes:

1. **Positives** may be due to prior encounter with the virus or non-HIV proteins with common epitopes..

2. The **sensitivity** of the assay may be adjusted by changing the sample dilutions: a) increase dilution (e.g., 1:200) to lower the signals of borderline positives to negative; b) decrease dilution (e.g., 1:50) to convert borderline samples to positive. With the latter, the values of negatives may increase, so an alternative threshold should be considered using known negatives to develop a **Positive Index (**see below) or use an **Internal Control** (Page 5).

3. When the **Positive Index** is above **5.0**, using a dilution curve to calculate titer is a more accurate quantitation method (see Method C).

B. Positive Index

Experimental sample values may be expressed relative to the values of Control or Non-immune samples, by calculation of a **Positive Index**. One typical method is as follows:

1. Calculate the net OD mean + 2 SD of the Control/Non-immune samples = **Positive Index**.

2. Divide each sample net OD by the Positive Index. Values above 1.0 are a measure of **Positive** Antibody Activity; below 1.0 are **Negative** for antibody.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS (cont.)

A sample value would be **Positive** if significantly above the value of the pre-immune serum sample or a suitably determined non-immune panel or pool of samples tested at the same sample dilution.

This calculation also **quantifies** the positive Antibody Activity level, assigning a higher value to samples with higher Antibody Activity, and vice versa.

Method C. Titers from Sample Dilution Curves

The titer of elevated antibody activity calculated from a dilution curve of each sample is recommended as the most accurate quantitative method. Best precision can be obtained using the following guidelines:

1. Use an OD value Index in the mid-range of the assay (2.0 – 0.5 OD); this provides the best sensitivity and reproducibility for comparing experimental groups and replicates. An arbitrary 1.0 OD is commonly used.
2. Prepare serial dilutions of each sample to provide a series that will produce signals higher and lower than the selected index. With accurate diluting, duplicates may not be required if at least 4 dilutions are run per sample.
3. A 5-fold dilution scheme is useful to efficiently cover a wide range which produces ODs both above and below 1.0 OD. The dilution scheme can be tightened to 3-fold or 2-fold for more precise comparative data.
4. The Positive and Sensitivity Control values can be used to normalize inter-assay values.

Calculations

1. On a log scale of inverse of Sample Dilution as the x-axis, plot the OD values of the two dilutions of each positive sample having ODs above and below the OD value of the Index (arbitrary or selected Calibrator).
2. From a point-to-point line drawn between the two sample ODs, read the dilution value (x-axis) corresponding to the OD of the selected Index

= IgG Antibody Activity Units

Calibrator Curve Quantitation
To quantitate antibody activity from a calibrator curve (such as provided with the kit), the dilution curve of the samples must be parallel to the calibrator curve to avoid different values being obtained from different regions of the curve. In cases of non-parallelism, antibody activity is best expressed as a titer relative to the titer of a reference positive as shown above.

Assay Sensitivity
The HIV p24 coating level, HRP conjugate concentration, and Low NSB Sample Diluent are optimized to differentiate anti- HIV p24 IgG from background (non-antibody) signal with rat serum samples diluted 1:100.

PRECAUTIONS AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Calibrators, Sample Diluent, and Antibody HRP contain bromonitrodioxane (BND: 0.05%, w/v). Stop Solution contains dilute sulfuric acid. Follow good laboratory practices and avoid ingestion or contact of any reagent with skin, eyes, or mucous membranes. All reagents may be disposed of down a drain with copious amounts of water. MSDS for TMB, sulfuric acid, and BND can be requested or obtained from the ADI website.

Instruction Manual No. M-HIV-040

Rat Anti-HIV p24 IgG ELISA Kit

Cat. #HIV-040, 96 tests

For Quantitation of Anti-Rat Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) p24 IgG in serum or plasma

For research use only, not for diagnostic or therapeutic use.

ALPHA DIAGNOSTIC INTERNATIONAL

4638 N Loop 1604 W • San Antonio • Texas 78249 • USA

Phone (210) 561-9515 • Fax (210) 561-9544

Toll Free (800) 786-5777

Email: service@4adi.com
Website: www.4adi.com

ELISA Kit Components	Amount	Part
HIV p24 Coated Microwell Strip Plate	8-well strips (12)	HIV011
Anti-HIV p24 Positive Control	0.65 ml	HIV-012PC
Anti-HIV p24 Calibrator 1 U/ml	0.65 ml	HIV-012B
Anti-HIV p24 Calibrator 2.5 U/ml	0.65 ml	HIV-012C
Anti-HIV p24 Calibrator 5 U/ml	0.65 ml	HIV-012D
Anti-HIV p24 Calibrator 10 U/ml	0.65 ml	HIV-012E
Anti-Rat IgG HRP (100X)	15 ml	H-RtG.2a11
Sample Diluent (20X)	10 ml	SD20T
Low NSB Sample Diluent	30 ml	TBTm
Wash Solution Concentrate (100X)	10 ml	WB-100
TMB Substrate	12 ml	80091
Stop Solution	12 ml	80101
Product Manual	1 ea	M-HIV-010