


User's Manual

Heartworm (Dirofilaria Immitis) Antigen ELISA

A monoclonal antibody-mediated capture ELISA to detect Heartworm antigen (Dirofilaria Immitis) in serum or plasma samples

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Gebruik alleen de juiste versie van het protocol dat meegestuurd wordt met de kit.

Please use only the valid version of the package insert provided with the kit.

Verwenden Sie nur die jeweils gültige, im Test kit enthaltene, Arbeitsanleitung.

Si prega di usare la versione valida dell'inserito del pacco a disposizione con il kit.

Por favor, se usa solo la version valida de la metodico técnico incluido aqui en el kit.

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1. Introduction

Dirofilaria Immitis (Nematode Filaridae) has been reported parasitizing a variety of wild canids, foxes and felids (9% positive animals found in Australia). Prevalence of infection may vary with geographic location, habitat, densities of mosquito vectors and definitive hosts and climatic conditions. In diseased dogs *Dirofilaria immitis* are found in heart, lungs, pulmonary arterities or thoracic vena cava. The amount of Microfilaraemia correlates with the number of adult filariae which also correlates with the age and weight of the dog. *Dirofilaria* antigen titers correlates best with weight and worms present (R=91) adjusted to female worm equivalents (four male worms equal to one female worm).

Epidemiological studies on the canine population have demonstrated that *Dirofilaria immitis* is the predominant species prevalence between (0,6% -34%) have been reported (Valladres et all 1984/Perez-Sanches et all 1989) important areas are Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Australia and Brazil. Different potential vectors have been studied, the ability is attributed to *Aedes Vexans*, *Aedes caspui* and *Aedes longitubes* (blood sucking mosquitoes).

Several studies demonstrate Human *Dirofilariosis* (\pm 250 cases are reported) in high prevalence area the majority of this infections are subclinical. A small percentage of patients with symptoms (Malaise, Thoracic aches, low fever, cough) all have pulmonaire "coin lesions". Some ELISA antigen test also detects cross-reactive *Dirofilaria* SPP (*rispens/Dipetalonema*).

The life cycle of the *Dirofilaria Immitis* is as follows: *Microfilaria* develops (inside mosquito) within 14 days (10-16) are transferred by the mosquito to the host (dog/fox etc.) by biting. This L3 stage in the definitive host moults five times and migrates to the heart area (venous part) within 6 months. Ivermectin and diethylcarbazine can be used as treatment for infected dogs/cats (0,006mg/kg) once a month.

2. Intended use of the test kit

The heartworm (*Dirofilaria Immitis*) ELISA antigen test kit detects heat stable *Dirofilaria immitis* antigens, *Dirofilaria immitis* is the major course of canine Heartworm in serum or plasma samples.

3. Principle of the test kit

The principle of the test is based on the reaction of two monoclonal antibodies with an antigenic determinant of *Dirofilaria immitis*. One monoclonal antibody, coated to the plate, catches the *Dirofilaria* antigen in the serum or plasma sample after which the other, enzyme-labeled antibody detects the bound antigen.

➤ Qualitative

The sample is added (diluted 1:2) to the wells of the coated plate.

The color reaction in the wells is directly related to the concentration of Heartworm antigen in serum/plasma samples.

4. Contents

- 12 x 8 Microtiter strips coated with monoclonal anti-Dirofilaria antibody
- 1 x Strip holder
- 1 x 18 ml ELISA buffer (green cap)
- 1 x 12 ml HRPO conjugated monoclonal antibodies (red cap)
- 1 x 0,5 ml Positive control, ready to use (yellow cap)
- 1 x 1,0 ml Negative control, ready to use (brown cap)
- 1 x 20 ml Wash-solution (200x concentrated) (black cap), dilute in de-ionized water before use!
- 1 x 8 ml Substrate A (white cap)
- 1 x 8 ml Substrate B (blue cap)
- 1 x 8 ml Stop-solution (yellow cap)
- 1 x Plastic cover seal
- 1 x User's manual

Supplies needed (not included)

- Round-bottomed microtiter plate
- Validated precision pipettes
- Pipette tips and clean containers/tubes (EVL)
- ELISA plate reader

5. Handling and storage of specimens

The kit should be stored at 4°C.

An open packet should be used within 10 days.

Samples may be used fresh or may be kept frozen below -20°C before use.

After first use ready-to-use controls and/or reconstituted controls should be aliquoted immediately and stored at -20°C.

Avoid repeated freezing and thawing as this increases non-specific reactivity.

6. Wash protocol

In ELISA's, un-complexed components must be removed efficiently between each incubation step. This is accomplished by appropriate washing. It should be stressed that each washing step must be carried out with care to guarantee reproducible inter- and intra-assay results. It is essential to follow the washing procedures outlined below. Washing may be done manually or with automatic equipment. Automatic washing equipment usually gives better result.

Manual washing

1. Empty each well by turning the microtiter plate upside down, followed by a firm vertical downward movement to remove the buffer.
2. Fill all the wells with 250 µl wash solution.
3. This washing cycle (step 1 and 2) should be carried out at least 5 times.
4. Turn the plate upside down and empty the wells with a firm vertical movement.
5. Place the inverted plate on absorbent paper towels and tap the plate firmly to remove any residual wash solution in the wells.
6. Take care that none of the wells dry out before the next reagent is added.

Washing with automatic equipment

When automatic plate washing equipment is used, check that all wells are aspirated completely and that the wash solution is correctly added, reaching the rim of each well during each rinsing cycle. The washer should be programmed to execute at least 5 washing cycles.

7. Preparations

- Before using the reagents needed, take them out of the kit and place them on the table for ± 15 min. at room temperature ($\pm 21^{\circ}\text{C}$) without exposing them to direct sunlight or (other) heat sources.
- Buffer, controls, standards and conjugates need to be shaken gently before use, in order to dissolve/ mix any components that may have precipitated. Gently tap the vials onto the table, so any fluid still retained in the cap falls back into the solution.
- If fluids need to be mixed into the test well, gently shake by tapping the wells with the fingers or re-suspend with the last pipette tip used for that particular well. Avoid contamination through spattering and prevent any fluid to enter inside the pipette itself.
- Place the reagents back at $4-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ immediately after use.

8. Test protocol qualitative

Before starting this test read “preparations”

1. Open the packet of strips and take out the strips to be used. Cover the remaining strips with a part of the provided seal and store them at +4°C. and use them within 10 days.

Wash microtiter strip(s) 5x with washing solution, according to washing protocol.

The washing solutions provided must be diluted 200x in aquabidest (5 mega Ohm) water !

Use validated precision pipettes and use a clean pipette tip **before** pipetting the buffer, control, samples, conjugate and substrate.

2. Add **the positive control** (yellow cap) **undiluted** in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).
Example: Add 120µl positive control to **well 1A**.
3. Add the **negative control** (brown cap) **undiluted** in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).
Example: Add 120µl negative control to **well 1 B**.
4. Dilute **each sample 1:2 in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate.
Example: Add 70µl ELISA buffer to **well 1C**, Add 70µl sample to **well 1C** and mix well.
5. Take 2 wells as **substrate controls** add only **120µl ELISA buffer** (green cap) to these wells.
6. Transfer 100µl of all dilutions to the monoclonal antibody coated microtiter strips, including the substrate controls.
7. Seal and incubate for 60 min at 37°C.
8. Wash the strips 5x according to the wash protocol ^{see sub 6}.
9. Add **100µl HRPO conjugated monoclonal antibodies** to all wells.
10. Seal and incubate for 60 min at 37°C.
11. Wash the strips according to the wash protocol ^{see sub 6}.
12. Mix equal parts of substrate A (white cap) and substrate B (blue cap) with gentle shaking.
Prepare immediately before use! Only prepare amount needed. Substrate can only be used for 1-2 hours after being mixed.
13. Add **100µl substrate solution** to each well.
14. Incubate 10-13 min. in the dark (e.g. cover the wells with a sheet of paper) at room temperature (21°C.). Make sure the negative does not become too dark.
15. Add **50µl stop solution** to each well; mix well.
16. Read the absorbency values immediately (within 10 min!) at 450 nm using 620nm as reference on the ELISA reader. **Use the substrate controls as blank.**

NB: if you pipet directly into the coated ELISA plate with only a small number of samples (<6), make sure the first dilution is done in round bottom microtiter plate second step can be done directly in the coated Elisa plate.

9. Precautions

- Handle all biological material as though capable of transmitting infectious diseases.
- Do not pipette by mouth.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or prepare foods, or apply cosmetics within the designated working area.
- TMB substrate (buffer B) is toxic by inhalation, through contact with skin or when swallowed; observe care when handling substrate.
- Do not use components past the expiry date and do not mix components from different serial lots.
- Optimal, results will be obtained by strict adherence to this protocol. Careful pipetting and washing throughout this procedure are necessary to maintain precision and accuracy.
- Each well is ultimately used as an optical cuvette. Therefore, do not touch the under-surface of the microtiter plate and protect it from damage and dirt.

10. Validation of the test

Qualitative:

- The results are valid if the following criteria are met:
 - The mean value (MV) of the measured OD value for the Positive Control (PC), undiluted, must be ≥ 0.800 .
 - The MV of the measured OD value for the Negative Control (NC), undiluted, must be ≤ 0.400 .

In case of invalid assays the test should be repeated after a thorough review of the instructions for use.

Calculation

Calculate the mean values (MV) of the measured OD for the Negative Control (NC) and the Positive Control (PC).

The ratio (S/P) of sample OD to mean OD of the positive control is calculated according to the following equation:

$$S/P = \frac{OD_{\text{sample}} - MV_{OD_{NC}}}{MV_{OD_{PC}} - MV_{OD_{NC}}}$$



11. Interpretation of the test results

Qualitative: Positive – Negative

- A sample with the S/P ratio <0.11 is negative.
 - Specific antigen to Heartworm could not be detected.
- A sample with the S/P ratio ≥0.11 is positive.
 - Specific antigen to Heartworm were detected.

12. Symbols used with EVL ASSAYS

Symbol	English	Deutsch	Français	Español	Italiano
	Consult instructionsforuse	Gebrauchsanweisung beachten	Consulter les instructions d'utilisation	Consulte las instrucciones de uso	Consultare le istruzioni per l'uso
	European Conformity	CE-Konformitätskennzeichnung	Conformité aux normes européennes	Conformidad europea	Conformità europea
	In vitro diagnostic device	In-vitro-Diagnostikum	Usage Diagnostic in vitro	Para uso Diagnóstico in vitro	Per uso Diagnostica in vitro
	Forresearchuseonly	Nur für Forschungszwecke	Seulement dans le cadre de recherches	Sólo para uso en investigación	Solo a scopo di ricerca
	Catalogue number	Katalog-Nr.	Numéro de catalogue	Número de catálogo	Numero di Catalogo
	Lot. No. / Batch code	Chargen-Nr.	Numéro de lot	Número de lote	Numero di lotto
	Containsufficient for <n> tests/	Ausreichendfür "n" Ansätze	Contenu suffisant pour "n" tests	Contenido suficiente para <n> ensayos	Contenuto sufficiente per "n" saggi
	Storage Temperature	Lagerungstemperatur	Température de conservation	Temperatura de conservación	Temperatura di conservazione
	Expiration Date	Mindesthaltbarkeitsdatum	Date limite d'utilisation	Fecha de caducidad	Data di scadenza
	Legal Manufacturer	Hersteller	Fabricant	Fabricante	Fabbricante
Distributed by	Distributor	Vertreiber	Distributeur	Distribuidor	Distributore
Content	Content	Inhalt	Conditionnement	Contenido	Contenuto
Volume/No.	Volume / No.	Volumen/Anzahl	Volume/Quantité	Volumen/Número	Volume/Quantità

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