NEUROMICS

Sample ELISA Capture Protocol

Solutions Required

- **Wash Buffer** - 0.05% Tween® 20 in PBS, pH 7.4
- **Diluent** - 5% Tween 20 in PBS
- **Substrate Solution** - 1:1 mixture of Color Reagent A (H202) and Color Reagent B (Tetramethylbenzidine) (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY998)
- **Stop Solution** - 1 M H_2SO_4

Plate Preparation

1. Transfer 100 µL/well of the capture antibody (diluted to the appropriate concentration in PBS, use immediately) to an ELISA plate. Seal plate and incubate overnight at room temperature.
2. Aspirate each well and wash with Wash buffer, repeating the process two times for a total of 3 washes. Wash by filling each well with Wash Buffer (400 µL) using a squirt bottle, multi-channel pipette, manifold dispenser or autowasher. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential to good performance. After the last wash, remove any remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or by inverting the plate and blotting it against clean paper toweling.
3. Block plates by adding 300 µL of PBS containing 5% Tween 20, 5% sucrose and 0.05% NaN_3 to each well. Incubate at room temperature for a minimum of 1 hour.
4. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2. The plates are now ready for sample addition. Alternatively, the blocking buffer can be aspirated after step 3 and the plates can be dried under a vacuum. When sealed with desiccant, the plates can be stored at 4° - 8° C for at least 2 months.

Assay Procedure

1. Dilutions of unknowns and standards should be carried out in polypropylene tubes. Add 100 µL of sample or standards in an appropriate diluent, per well. Mix by gently tapping the plate frame for 1 minute. Cover with an adhesive strip and incubate 2 hours at room temperature.
2. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2 of Plate Preparation.
3. Dilute the biotinylated detection antibody with **2% heat-inactivated normal goat serum** in the above diluent and mix gently for 1 hour. Add 100 µL to each well. Cover with a new adhesive strip and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature.
4. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2 of Plate Preparation.
5. Add 100 µL streptavidin HRP (R&D Systems, Catalog # DY998, dilute according to the directions on the vial label) to each well. Cover the plate and incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
6. Repeat the aspiration/wash as in step 2.
7. Add 100 µL of Substrate Solution to each well. Incubate for 20 - 30 minutes at room temperature. Avoid placing the plate in direct light.
8. Add 50 µL of Stop Solution to each well. Gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing.
9. Determine the optical density of each well within 30 minutes, using a microplate reader set to 450 nm. If wavelength correction is available, set to 540 nm or 570 nm. If wavelength correction is not available, subtract readings at 540 nm or 570 nm from the readings at 450 nm. This subtraction will correct for optical imperfections in the plate. Readings made directly at 450 nm without correction may be higher and less accurate.

Calculation of Results

To calculate assay results, average the duplicate readings and subtract the zero standard optical density from the sample optical density. Create a standard curve using data reduction software capable of generating a four parameter (4P-L) curve fit. Alternatively, plot the optical density for the standards versus the concentration of the standards and draw the best curve. The data can be linearized by using log-log paper and regression analysis may be applied to the log transformation. To determine the mouse IGFBP-5 concentrations for each sample, first find the absorbance value on the y-axis and extend a horizontal line to the standard curve. At the point of intersection, extend a vertical line to the x-axis and read the corresponding mouse IGFBP-5 concentration. If samples have been diluted, the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor. A standard curve should be generated for each set of samples assayed.

Limitations

It is important that the diluents selected for reconstitution and for dilution of the standard reflect the environment of the samples being measured. The diluent suggested in the above protocol may be suitable for most cell culture supernate samples. Validate diluents for specific sample types prior to use.
A basic understanding of immunoassay development is required for the successful use of these reagents in immunoassays. The protocol provided is for demonstration purposes only. The type of enzyme and substrate and the concentrations of capture/detection antibodies used can be varied to create an immunoassay with a different sensitivity and dynamic range.

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