Introduction

The serine-protease-inhibitor antithrombin III (AT III), the most important natural inhibitor of thrombin activity, has been shown to exert marked anti-inflammatory properties and proven to be efficacious in experimental models of sepsis, septic shock, and disseminated intravascular coagulation (1). It has often been recommended for the therapy of septic patients as it provides anticoagulant and anti-inflammatory actions (2). Antithrombin III (AT III) deficiency is a rare hereditary disease that predisposes to thromboembolic complications (3). AT III levels are positively correlated with plasma total cholesterol levels, plasma low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels, plasma triglycerides and D-dimer levels (4).

Principal of the Assay

The AssayMax AT III ELISA kit is designed for detection of human AT III in plasma, and serum. This assay employs a quantitative sandwich enzyme immunoassay technique, which measures AT III in 4 hours. A polyclonal antibody specific for AT III has been pre-coated onto a microplate. AT III in standards and samples is sandwiched by the immobilized antibody and biotinylated polyclonal antibody specific for AT III, which is recognized by a streptavidin-peroxidase conjugate. All unbound material is then washed away and a peroxidase enzyme substrate is added. The color development is stopped and the intensity of the color is measured.

Caution and Warning

- This kit is for research use only.
- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date.
- The Stop Solution is an acid solution.

Reagents

- **AT III Microplate**: A 96 well polystyrene microplate (12 strips of 8 wells) coated with a polyclonal antibody against human AT III.
- **Sealing Tapes**: Each kit contains 3 pre-cut, pressure-sensitive sealing tapes, which can be cut to fit the format of the individual assay.
- **AT III Standard**: Human AT III in a buffered protein base (12 µg, lyophilized).
- **Biotinylated AT III Antibody (50x)**: A 50-fold concentrated biotinylated polyclonal antibody against AT III (160 µl).
- **Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate)**: A 100-fold concentrate (90 µl).
- **EIA Diluent Concentrate (10x)**: A 10-fold concentrated buffered protein base (30 ml).
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x)**: A 20-fold concentrated buffered surfactant (30 ml).
• **Chromogen Substrate**: A ready-to-use stabilized peroxidase chromogen substrate tetramethylbenzidine (8 ml).
• **Stop Solution**: A 0.5 N hydrochloric acid to stop the chromogen substrate reaction (12 ml).

### Storage Condition

- Store kit at 2-8°C or -20°C upon arrival up to the expiration date.
- Opened EIA Diluent may be stored for up to 1 month at 2 - 8°C. Store reconstituted reagents at <-20°C.
- Opened unused strip wells may return to the foil pouch with the desiccant pack, reseal along zip-seal. May be stored for up to 1 month in a vacuum desiccator.

### Other Supplies Required

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Pipettes (1-20 µl, 20-200 µl, 200-1000 µl and multiple channel).
- Deionized or distilled reagent grade water.

### Sample Collection and Storage

- **Plasma**: Collect plasma using one-tenth volume of 0.1 M sodium citrate as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples at 2000 x g for 10 minutes and assay. Dilute samples 1:800 into EIA Diluent. Store samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. (EDTA or Heparin can also be used as anticoagulant.)
- **Serum**: Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. After clot formation, centrifuge samples at 2000 x g for 10 minutes. Remove serum and assay. Dilute samples 1:800 into EIA Diluent. Store serum at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

### Reagent Preparation

- Freshly dilute all reagents and bring all reagents to room temperature before use. If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved.
- **EIA Diluent Concentrate (10×)**: Dilute the EIA Diluent Concentrate 1:10 with reagent grade water. Store for up to 1 month at 2 - 8°C.
- **AT III Standard**: Reconstitute the 12 µg of human AT III Standard with 3.0 ml of EIA Diluent to generate a stock solution of 4 µg/ml. Allow the standard to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making dilutions. Prepare triplicate standard points by serially diluting the Standard solution (4 µg/ml) 1:4 with EIA Diluent to produce 1, 0.25, 0.0625, 0.0156 and 0.0039 µg/ml. EIA Diluent serves as the zero standard (0 µg/ml). Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Point</th>
<th>Dilution</th>
<th>[AT III] (µg/ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>1 part Standard (4 µg/ml)</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>1 part P1 + 3 part EIA Diluent</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>1 part P2 + 3 part EIA Diluent</td>
<td>0.250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4</td>
<td>1 part P3 + 3 part EIA Diluent</td>
<td>0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5</td>
<td>1 part P4 + 3 part EIA Diluent</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6</td>
<td>1 part P5 + 3 part EIA Diluent</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P7</td>
<td>EIA Diluent</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Biotinylated AT III Antibody (50x):** Spin down the antibody briefly and dilute the desired amount of the antibody 1:50 with EIA Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

• **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x):** Dilute the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:20 with reagent grade water.

• **Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (100x):** Spin down the SP Conjugate briefly and dilute the desired amount of the conjugate 1:100 with EIA Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

### Assay Procedure

- Prepare all reagents, working standards and samples as instructed. Bring all reagents to room temperature before use. The assay is performed at room temperature (20-30°C).
- Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame and return them immediately to the foil pouch with desiccant inside. Reseal the pouch securely to minimize exposure to water vapor and store in a vacuum desiccator.
- Add 50 µl of Standard or sample per well, and cover wells and incubate for two hours. Start the timer after the last sample addition.
- Wash five times with 200 µl of Wash Buffer. Invert the plate and decant the contents, and blot it on absorbent paper towel to complete remove liquid at each step.
- Add 50 µl of Biotinylated AT III Antibody to each well and incubate for one hour.
- Wash five times with 200 µl of Wash Buffer.
- Add 50 µl of Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate per well and incubate for 30 minutes. Turn on the microplate reader and set up the program in advance.
- Wash five times with 200 µl of Wash Buffer.
- Add 50 µl of Chromogen Substrate per well and incubate for about 10 minutes or till the optimal blue color density develops. Gently tap plate to ensure thorough mixing and break the bubbles in the well with pipette tip.
- Add 50 µl of Stop Solution to each well. The color will change from blue to yellow.
- Read the absorbance on a microplate reader at a wavelength of 450 nm immediately.

### Data Analysis

- Calculate the mean value of the triplicate readings for each standard and sample.
- To generate a Standard Curve, plot the graph using the standard concentrations on the x-axis and the corresponding mean 450 nm absorbance on the y-axis and draw a best-fit curve through the points on the graph. Plotting the log-log graph may linearize the data and the best-fit line can be determined by regression analysis of the linear portion of the curve.
- Determine the unknown sample concentration from the Standard Curve and multiply the value by the dilution factor.
**Standard Curve**

- The curve is provided for illustration only. A standard curve should be generated each time the assay is performed.

![Human ATIII Standard Curve](image)

**Performance Characteristics**

- The minimum detectable dose of AT III is typically 40 ng/ml.
- Intra-assay and inter-assay coefficients of variation were 4.2\% and 7.1\% respectively.

**Linearity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Dilution</th>
<th>Plasma Average Percentage of Expected Value</th>
<th>Serum Average Percentage of Expected Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:400</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:800</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>101%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:1600</td>
<td>102%</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recovery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Added Value</th>
<th>Recovery %</th>
<th>Average Recovery %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.1 – 1 (\mu)g/ml</td>
<td>88-112 %</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Cross-Reactivity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>% Cross Reactivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beagle</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monkey</td>
<td>&gt; 20 (suggest 1:20 dilution for plasma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>&lt; 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reference Value**

- The normal blood levels of antithrombin III is averaged 290 µg/ml.

**References**

3. Takahashi J. et.al. (2003) *Ann Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*

**Related Products**

- EA3301-1 AssayMax Human ATIII ELISA Kit (Urine and Cell Culture Supernatants samples)
- EMA3301-1 AssayMax Mouse ATIII ELISA Kit (Plasma, Serum and Cell Culture Supernatants samples)
- ERA3301-1 AssayMax Rat ATIII ELISA Kit