



# Rat Connective Tissue Growth Factor (CTGF)ELISA Kit

Catalog No. CSB-E07876r

(96T)

- This immunoassay kit allows for the in vitro quantitative determination of **rat CTGF** concentrations in **serum, plasma, Cell Culture Supernates and Tissue Homogenates**.
- **Expiration date** six months from the date of manufacture
- **FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT FOR USE IN DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

CTGF (connective tissue growth factor) is a cysteine-rich, matrix-associated, heparin-binding protein. In vitro, CTGF mirrors some of the effects of TGF beta on skin fibroblasts, such as stimulation of extracellular matrix production, chemotaxis, proliferation and integrin expression. CTGF can promote endothelial cell growth, migration, adhesion and survival and is thus implicated in endothelial cell function and angiogenesis. CTGF gene expression had been demonstrated in human trabecular meshwork cells, ciliary body, retinal vascular endothelial cells, proliferative vitreoretinopathy membranes, choroidal neovascular membranes, cataractous plaque, corneal scars, tear fluid, and pterygia.

CTGF binds to perlecan, a proteoglycan which has been localised in synovium, cartilage and numerous other tissues. CTGF has been implicated in extracellular matrix remodelling in wound healing, scleroderma and other fibrotic processes, as it is capable of upregulating both matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) and their inhibitors (TIMPs). Therefore, CTGF has the potential to activate both the synthesis and degradation of the extracellular matrix.

## **PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY**

The microtiter plate provided in this kit has been pre-coated with an antibody specific to CTGF. Standards or samples are then added to the appropriate microtiter plate wells with a biotin-conjugated antibody preparation specific for CTGF and Avidin conjugated to Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) is added to each microplate well and incubated. Then a TMB (3,3',5,5' tetramethyl-benzidine) substrate solution is added to each well. Only those wells that contain CTGF, biotin-conjugated antibody and enzyme-conjugated Avidin will exhibit a change in color. The enzyme-substrate reaction is terminated by the addition of a sulphuric acid solution and the color change is measured spectrophotometrically at a wavelength of 450 nm  $\pm$  2 nm. The concentration of CTGF in the samples is then determined by comparing the O.D. of the samples to the standard curve.

## **DETECTION RANGE**

0.16 ng/ml-10 ng/ml. The standard curve concentrations used for the ELISA's were 10 ng/ml, 5 ng/ml, 2.5 ng/ml, 1.25 ng/ml, 0.62 ng/ml, 0.32 ng/ml, 0.16 ng/ml.

## **SPECIFICITY**

This assay recognizes rat CTGF. No significant cross-reactivity or interference was observed.

## **SENSITIVITY**

The minimum detectable dose of rat CTGF is typically less than 0.04 ng/ml.

The sensitivity of this assay, or Lower Limit of Detection (LLD) was defined as the lowest protein concentration that could be differentiated from zero.

## **MATERIALS PROVIDED**

| <b>Reagent</b>          | <b>Quantity</b>               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assay plate             | 1                             |
| Standard                | 2                             |
| Sample Diluent          | 1 x 20 ml                     |
| Biotin-antibody Diluent | 1 x 10 ml                     |
| HRP-avidin Diluent      | 1 x 10 ml                     |
| Biotin-antibody         | 1 x 120 $\mu$ l               |
| HRP-avidin              | 1 x 120 $\mu$ l               |
| Wash Buffer             | 1 x 20 ml<br>(25xconcentrate) |
| TMB Substrate           | 1 x 10 ml                     |
| Stop Solution           | 1 x 10 ml                     |

## STORAGE

1. Unopened test kits should be stored at 2-8°C upon receipt and the microtiter plate should be kept in a sealed bag. The test kit may be used throughout the expiration date of the kit, provided it is stored as prescribed above. Refer to the package label for the expiration date.
2. Opened test plate should be stored at 2-8°C in the aluminum foil bag with desiccants to minimize exposure to damp air. The kits will remain stable until the expiring date shown, provided it is stored as prescribed above.
3. A microtiter plate reader with a bandwidth of 10 nm or less and an optical density range of 0-3 OD or greater at 450nm wavelength is acceptable for use in absorbance measurement.

## REAGENT PREPARATION

*Bring all reagents to room temperature before use.*

1. **Wash Buffer** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, warm up to room temperature and mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute 20 ml of Wash Buffer Concentrate into deionized or distilled water to prepare 500 ml of Wash Buffer.

2. **Standard** Centrifuge the standard vial at 6000-10000rpm for 30s. Reconstitute the **Standard** with 1.0 ml of **Sample Diluent**. This reconstitution produces a stock solution of 10ng/ml. Allow the standard to sit for a minimum of 15 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making serial dilutions. The undiluted standard serves as the high standard (10ng/ml). The **Sample Diluent** serves as the zero standard (0 ng/ml). Prepare fresh for each assay. Use within 4 hours and discard after use.
3. **Biotin-antibody** Centrifuge the vial before opening. Dilute to the working concentration using **Biotin-antibody Diluent**(1:100), respectively.
4. **HRP-avidin** Centrifuge the vial before opening. Dilute to the working concentration using **HRP-avidin Diluent**(1:100), respectively.

*Precaution: The Stop Solution provided with this kit is an acid solution. Wear eye, hand, face, and clothing protection when using this material.*

## **OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED**

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm, with the correction wavelength set at 540 nm or 570 nm.
- Pipettes and pipette tips.

- Deionized or distilled water.
- Squirt bottle, manifold dispenser, or automated microplate washer.
- An incubator which can provide stable incubation conditions up to  $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

## **SAMPLE COLLECTION AND STORAGE**

- **Serum** Use a serum separator tube (SST) and allow samples to clot for 30 minutes before centrifugation for 15 minutes at 1000 g. Remove serum and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Centrifuge the sample again after thawing before the assay. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Plasma** Collect plasma using citrate, EDTA, or heparin as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge for 15 minutes at 1000 g within 30 minutes of collection. Assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Centrifuge the sample again after thawing before the assay. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Cell Culture Supernates** Remove particulates by centrifugation for 15 minutes at 1000 x g,  $2 - 8^{\circ}\text{C}$  and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

- **Tissue Homogenates** 100mg tissue was rinsed with 1X PBS, homogenized in 1 mL of 1X PBS and stored overnight at -20° C. After two freeze-thaw cycles were performed to break the cell membranes, the homogenates were centrifuged for 5 minutes at 5000 x g, 2 - 8°C. The supernate was assayed and removed immediately. Alternatively, aliquot and store samples at -20°C or -80°C. Centrifuge the sample again after thawing before the assay. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

*Note: Grossly hemolyzed samples are not suitable for use in this assay.*

## **ASSAY PROCEDURE**

*Bring all reagents and samples to room temperature before use. It is recommended that all samples, standards, and controls be assayed in duplicate. All the reagents should be added directly to the liquid level in the well. The pipette should avoid contacting the inner wall of the well.*

1. Add 100µl of Standard, Blank, or Sample per well. Cover with the adhesive strip. Incubate for 2 hours at 37°C.
2. Remove the liquid of each well, don't wash.
3. Add 100µl of **Biotin-antibody** working solution to each well. Incubate for 1 hour at 37°C. **Biotin-antibody** working solution may appear cloudy. Warm up to room temperature and mix gently until solution appears uniform.



4. Aspirate each well and wash, repeating the process three times for a total of three washes. Wash: Fill each well with Wash Buffer (200 $\mu$ l) and let it stand for 2 minutes, then remove the liquid by flicking the plate over a sink. The remaining drops are removed by patting the plate on a paper towel. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential to good performance.
5. Add 100 $\mu$ l of **HRP-avidin** working solution to each well. Cover the microtiter plate with a new adhesive strip. Incubate for 1 hour at 37°C.
6. Repeat the aspiration and wash five times as step 4.
7. Add 90 $\mu$ l of **TMB Substrate** to each well. Incubate for 10-30 minutes at 37°C. Keeping the plate away from drafts and other temperature fluctuations in the dark.
8. Add 50 $\mu$ l of **Stop Solution** to each well when the first four wells containing the highest concentration of standards develop obvious blue color. If color change does not appear uniform, 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.

## **CALCULATION OF RESULTS**

*Using the professional soft "Curve Exert 1.3" to make a standard curve is recommended, which can be downloaded from our web.*

Average the duplicate readings for each standard, control, and sample and subtract the average zero standard optical density. Create a standard curve by reducing the data using computer software capable of generating a four parameter logistic (4-PL) curve-fit. As an alternative, construct a standard curve by plotting the mean absorbance for each standard on the x-axis against the concentration on the y-axis and draw a best fit curve through the points on the graph. The data may be linearized by plotting the log of the CTGF concentrations versus the log of the O.D. and the best fit line can be determined by regression analysis. This procedure will produce an adequate but less precise fit of the data. If samples have been diluted, the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor.

## **LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE**

- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date on the kit label.

- Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or sources.
- It is important that the Standard Diluent selected for the standard curve be consistent with the samples being assayed.
- If samples generate values higher than the highest standard, dilute the samples with the appropriate Standard Diluent and repeat the assay.
- Any variation in Standard Diluent, operator, pipetting technique, washing technique, incubation time or temperature, and kit age can cause variation in binding.
- This assay is designed to eliminate interference by soluble receptors, binding proteins, and other factors present in biological samples. Until all factors have been tested in the Immunoassay, the possibility of interference cannot be excluded.

## **TECHNICAL HINTS**

- Centrifuge vials before opening to collect contents.
- When mixing or reconstituting protein solutions, always avoid foaming.

- To avoid cross-contamination, change pipette tips between additions of each standard level, between sample additions, and between reagent additions. Also, use separate reservoirs for each reagent.
- When using an automated plate washer, adding a 30 second soak period following the addition of wash buffer, and/or rotating the plate 180 degrees between wash steps may improve assay precision.
- To ensure accurate results, proper adhesion of plate sealers during incubation steps is necessary.
- Substrate Solution should remain colorless or light blue until added to the plate. Keep Substrate Solution protected from light. Substrate Solution should change from colorless or light blue to gradations of blue.
- Stop Solution should be added to the plate in the same order as the Substrate Solution. The color developed in the wells will turn from blue to yellow upon addition of the Stop Solution. Wells that are green in color indicate that the Stop Solution has not mixed thoroughly with the Substrate Solution.