Monobind Inc.
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AccuBind
ELISA Microwells

AccuBind™ DHEA-S ELISA
Product Code: 5125-300

Intended Use: The Quantitative Determination of Dehydroepiandrosterone Sulfate Concentration in Human Serum or Plasma by a Microplate Enzyme Immunoassay

SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION OF THE TEST

Dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEA-S) is the major C19 steroid secreted by the adrenal cortex, and is a precursor in testosterone and estrogen biosynthesis. DHEA-S, the sulfate ester of DHEA, is derived from sulfated precursors and by enzymatic conversion of DHEA in adrenal and extradrenal tissues. Due to the presence of a 17-oxo [rather than hydroxyl] group, DHEA-S possesses relatively weak androgenic activity, which for unsulfated DHEA has been estimated at ~10% that of testosterone [1]. However, the bioactivity of DHEA-S may be increased by its relatively high serum concentrations, approximately 100 to 1000-fold higher than DHEA or testosterone, and its weak affinity for sex-hormone binding globulin [2]. The physiologic role of DHEA-S is not well-defined. Serum levels are relatively high in the fetus and neonate, low during childhood, and increase during puberty [3, 4]. Increased levels of DHEA-S during adrenarche may contribute to the development of secondary sexual hair. DHEA-S levels show a progressive decline after the third decade of life [5]. Unlike DHEA, DHEA-S levels do not show significant diurnal variation, show little day-to-day variation, are not responsive to acute corticotropin administration [4], and do not vary significantly during the normal menstrual cycle [2]. This may be due to the slower metabolic clearance rate of DHEA-S as compared to DHEA [6]. Measurement of serum DHEA-S is a useful marker of adrenal androgen synthesis. Abnormally low levels have been reported in hypoadrenalism [3], while elevated levels occur in several conditions; including virilizing adrenal adenoma and carcinoma [7], 21-hydroxylase and 3β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase deficiencies [2,6] and some cases of female hirsutism [2]. Since very little DHEA-S is produced by the gonads [2, 3], measurement of DHEA-S may aid in the localization of the androgen source in virilizing conditions. Methods for measurement of DHEA-S include gas-liquid chromatography, double-isotope derivative techniques, competitive protein-binding assays, and radioimmunoassay. Although significant cross-reactivity occurs with DHEA, androstenedione and androsterone, the relative concentrations of these competing substances in most normal and pathologic samples predicts a minimal effect on assay performance.

The Monobind DHEA-S ELISA Kit uses a specific anti-DHEA-S antibody, and does not require prior sample extraction of serum or plasma. Cross-reactivity to other naturally occurring and structurally related steroids is low.

The employment of several serum references of known DHEA-S concentration permits construction of a graph of activity and concentration. From comparison to the dose response curve, an unknown specimen's activity can be correlated with DHEA-S concentration.

PRINCIPLE

Competitive Enzyme Immunoassay (TYPE 7):

The essential reagents required for an enzyme immunoassay include antibody, enzyme-antigen conjugate and native antigen. Upon mixing biotinylated antibody, enzyme-antigen conjugate and a serum containing the native antigen, a competition reaction results between the native antigen and the enzyme-antigen conjugate for a limited number of antibody binding sites. The interaction is illustrated by the followed equation:

$$^{Enz}Ag + Ag + Ab_{Btn} \underset{k_{-a}}{\overset{k_a}{\rightleftharpoons}} AgAb_{Btn} + {}^{Enz}AgAb_{Btn}$$

Ab_{Btn} = Biotinylated x-DHEA-S IgG Antibody (Constant Quantity)

Ag = Native Antigen (Variable Quantity)

^{Enz}Ag = Enzyme-antigen Conjugate (Constant Quantity)

$AgAb_{Btn}$ = Antigen-Antibody Complex

$^{Enz}Ag\ Ab_{Btn}$ = Enzyme-antigen Conjugate -Antibody Complex

k_a = Rate Constant of Association

k_{-a} = Rate Constant of Disassociation

$K = k_a / k_{-a}$ = Equilibrium Constant

A simultaneous reaction between the biotin attached to the antibody and the streptavidin immobilized on the microwell occurs. This effects the separation of the antibody bound fraction after decantation or aspiration.

$AgAb_{Btn} + {}^{Enz}AgAb_{Btn} + \underline{Streptavidin_{CW}} \Rightarrow \underline{\text{immobilized complex}}$

$\underline{Streptavidin_{CW}}$ = Streptavidin immobilized on well

Immobilized complex = sandwich complex bound to the solid surface

The enzyme activity in the antibody bound fraction is inversely proportional to the native antigen concentration. By utilizing several different serum references of known antigen concentration, a dose response curve can be generated from which the antigen concentration of an unknown can be ascertained.

REAGENTS MATERIALS PROVIDED:

A. DHEA-S Calibrators – 1ml/vial - Icons A-F
Six (6) vials of serum reference for DHEA-S at concentrations of 0 (**A**), 0.2 (**B**), 1.0 (**C**), 2.0 (**D**), 4.0 (**E**) and 8.0 (**F**) in µg/ml. Store at 2-8°C. A preservative has been added. The calibrators can be expressed in molar concentrations (nM/L) by multiplying by 2.71.

For example: 1µg/ml x 2.71 = 2.71 µM/L

B. DHEA-S Enzyme Reagent – 6.0 ml/vial
One (1) vial of DHEA-S (Analog)-horseradish peroxides (HRP) conjugate in a protein-stabilizing matrix with red dye. Store at 2-8°C.

C. DHEA-S Biotin Reagent – 6.0 ml - Icon
One (1) bottle of reagent contains anti-DHEA-S biotinylated purified rabbit IgG conjugate in buffer, blue dye and preservative. Store at 2-8°C.

D. Streptavidin Coated Plate – 96 wells –Icon
One 96-well microplate coated with 1.0 µg/ml streptavidin and packaged in an aluminum bag with a drying agent. Store at 2-8°C.

E. Wash Solution Concentrate – 20ml - Icon
One (1) vial contains a surfactant in buffered saline. A preservative has been added. Store at 2-30°C.

F. Substrate A – 7ml/vial - Icon S[A]
One (1) vial contains tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) in buffer. Store at 2-8°C.

G. Substrate B -- 7ml/vial - Icon S[B]
One (1) vial contains hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) in buffer. Store at 2-8°C.

H. Stop Solution -- 8ml/vial - Icon (STOP)
One (1) vial contains a strong acid (1N HCl). Store at 2-30°C.

I. Product Instructions.

Note 1: Do not use reagents beyond the kit expiration date.

Note 2: Opened reagents are stable for sixty (60) days when stored at 2-8°C.

Note 3: Above reagents are for a single 96-well microplate.

Required But Not Provided:

1. Pipette capable of delivering 10 µl and 50 µl with a precision of better than 1.5%.
2. Dispenser(s) for repetitive deliveries of 0.100ml and 0.350ml volumes with a precision of better than 1.5%.
3. Adjustable volume (200-1000µl) dispenser(s) for conjugate.
4. Microplate washer or a squeeze bottle (optional).
5. Microplate Reader with 450nm and 620nm wavelength absorbance capability.
6. Absorbent Paper for blotting the microplate wells.
7. Plastic wrap or microplate cover for incubation steps.
8. Vacuum aspirator (optional) for wash steps.
9. Timer.
10. Quality control materials.

PRECAUTIONS

For In Vitro Diagnostic Use
Not for Internal or External Use in Humans or Animals

All products that contain human serum have been found to be non-reactive for Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, HIV 1&2 and HCV Antibodies by FDA required tests. Since no known test can offer complete assurance that infectious agents are absent, all human serum products should be handled as potentially hazardous and capable of transmitting disease. Good laboratory procedures for handling blood products can be found in the Center for Disease Control / National Institute of Health, "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories," 2nd Edition, 1988, HHS Publication No. (CDC) 88-8395.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

The specimens shall be blood; serum or heparanised plasma in type and taken with the usual precautions in the collection of venipuncture samples. For accurate comparison to establish normal values, a fasting morning serum sample should be obtained. The blood should be collected in a redtop veni-puncture tube with or without additives or anti-coagulants (for serum) or evacuated tube(s) containing EDTA or heparin (for plasma). Allow the blood to clot for serum samples. Centrifuge the specimen to separate the serum or plasma from the cells.

Samples may be refrigerated at 2-8°C for a maximum period of five (5) days. If the specimen(s) cannot be assayed within this time, the sample(s) may be stored at temperatures of -20°C for up to 30 days. Avoid repetitive freezing and thawing. When assayed in duplicate, 0.020ml of the specimen is required.

REAGENT PREPARATION

1. **Wash Buffer**
   Dilute contents of wash solution to 1000ml with distilled or deionized water in a suitable storage container. Diluted buffer can be stored at room temperature (20-27°C) for up to 60 days.

2. **Working Substrate Solution - Stable for 1 year**
   Pour the contents of the amber vial labeled Solution 'A' into the clear vial labeled Solution 'B'. Place the yellow cap on the clear vial for easy identification. Mix and label accordingly. Store at 2 - 8°C.

Note: Do not use the working substrate if it looks blue.

TEST PROCEDURE

Before proceeding with the assay, bring all reagents, serum references and controls to room temperature (20 - 27°C).

1. Format the microplates' wells for each serum reference, control and patient specimen to be assayed in duplicate. **Replace any unused microwell strips back into the aluminum bag, seal and store at 2-8°C.**
2. Pipette 0.010 ml (10 µL) of the appropriate serum reference, control or specimen into the assigned well.
3. Add 0.050 ml (50µl) of the DHEA-S Enzyme Reagent to all wells.
4. Swirl the microplate gently for 20-30 seconds to mix.
5. Add 0.050 ml (50µl) of Anti- DHEA-S Biotin Reagent to all wells.
6. Swirl the microplate gently for 20-30 seconds to mix.
7. Cover and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature.
8. Discard the contents of the microplate by decantation or aspiration. If decanting, blot the plate dry with absorbent paper.
9. Add 350µl of wash buffer (see Reagent Preparation Section), decant (tap and blot) or aspirate. Repeat two (2) additional times for a total of three (3) washes. **An automatic or manual plate washer can be used. Follow the manufacturer's instruction for proper usage. If a squeeze bottle is employed, fill each well by depressing the container (avoiding air bubbles) to dispense the wash. Decant the wash and repeat two (2) additional times.**
10. Add 0.100 ml (100µl) of working substrate solution to all wells (see Reagent Preparation Section). **Always add reagents in the same order to minimize reaction time differences between wells.**
    DO NOT SHAKE THE PLATE AFTER SUBSTRATE ADDITION
11. Incubate at room temperature for fifteen (15) minutes.
12. Add 0.050ml (50µl) of stop solution to each well and gently mix for 15-20 seconds. **Always add reagents in the same order to minimize reaction time differences between wells.**
13. Read the absorbance in each well at 450nm (using a reference wavelength of 620-630nm.. **The results should be read within thirty (30) minutes of adding the stop solution.**

Note: Dilute the samples suspected of concentrations higher than 8.0 ug/ml 1:5 and 1:10 with DHEA-S '0' µg/ml calibrator or patient serum pools with a known low value for DHEA-S.

QUALITY CONTROL

Each laboratory should assay controls at levels in the low, normal and high range for monitoring assay performance. These controls should be treated as unknowns and values determined in every test procedure performed. Quality control charts should be maintained to follow the performance of the supplied reagents. Pertinent statistical methods should be employed to ascertain trends. The individual laboratory should set acceptable assay performance limits. In addition, maximum absorbance should be consistent with past experience. Significant deviation from established performance can indicate unnoticed change in experimental conditions or degradation of kit reagents. Fresh reagents should be used to determine the reason for the variations.

CALCULATION OF RESULTS

A dose response curve is used to ascertain the concentration of DHEA-S in unknown specimens.

1. Record the absorbance obtained from the printout of the microplate reader as outlined in Example 1.
2. Plot the absorbance for each duplicate serum reference versus the corresponding DHEA-S concentration in ug/ml on linear graph paper (do not average the duplicates of the serum references before plotting).

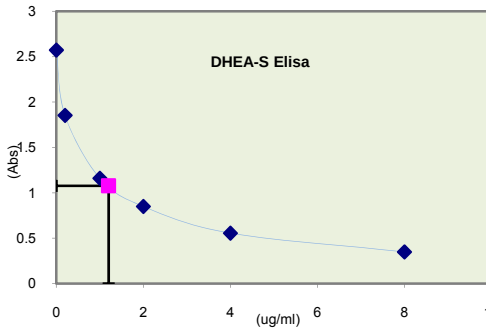
3. Connect the points with a best-fit curve.
4. To determine the concentration of DHEA-S for an unknown, locate the average absorbance of the duplicates for each unknown on the vertical axis of the graph, find the intersecting point on the curve, and read the concentration (in ug/ml) from the horizontal axis of the graph (the duplicates of the unknown may be averaged as indicated). In the following example, the average absorbance in the patient sample (1.078) intersects the dose response curve at (1.21 µg/ml) DHEA-S concentration (See Figure 1).

EXAMPLE 1

Sample I.D.	Well Number	Abs (A)	Mean Abs (B)	Value (µg/ml)
Cal A	A1	2.562	2.572	0.0
	B1	2.582		
Cal B	C1	1.865	1.847	0.2
	D1	1.829		
Cal C	E1	1.186	1.163	1.0
	F1	1.140		
Cal D	G1	0.855	0.850	2.0
	H1	0.845		
Cal E	A2	0.555	0.556	4.0
	B2	0.557		
Cal F	C2	0.355	0.349	8.0
	D2	0.344		
Cont 1	G2	1.394	1.387	0.62
	H2	1.380		
Pat# 1	A3	1.065	1.078	**1.21**
	B3	1.091		

*The above data and table below is for example only. Do not use it for calculating your results.

Figure 1



Q.C. PARAMETERS

In order for the assay results to be considered valid the following criteria should be met:

1. The absorbance (OD) of calibrator 0 ug/ml should be ≥ 1.3.
2. Four out of six quality control pools should be within the established ranges.

RISK ANALYSIS

A. Assay Performance

1. It is important that the time of reaction in each well is held constant for reproducible results.
2. Pipetting of samples should not extend beyond ten (10) minutes to avoid assay drift.
3. If more than one (1) plate is used, it is recommended to repeat the dose response curve.
4. Addition of the substrate solution initiates a kinetic reaction, which is terminated by the addition of the stop solution. Therefore, the addition of the substrate and the stopping solution should be added in the same sequence to eliminate any time-deviation during reaction.
5. Plate readers measure vertically. Do not touch the bottom of the wells.
6. Failure to remove adhering solution adequately in the aspiration or decantation wash step(s) may result in poor replication and spurious results.
7. Use components from the same lot. No intermixing of reagents from different batches.
8. Make sure that your instrumentation is properly calibrated according to MEDDEV Standards ISO 13485-2003 or equivalent.
9. All the instrumentation, used in the lab, should be properly maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
10. Accurate and precise pipetting, as well as following the exact time and temperature requirements prescribed are essential. Any deviation from this may yield inaccurate results.

B. Interpretation

1. If computer controlled data reduction is used to interpret the results of the test, it is imperative that the predicted values for the calibrators fall within 10% of the assigned concentrations.

EXPECTED RANGES OF VALUES

In agreement with established reference intervals for a "normal" adult population, the expected ranges for the DHEA-S AccuBind™ ELISA Test System are detailed in Table 1.

TABLE I
Expected Values for the DHEA-S Test System

	(µg/ml)
Male	0.06 – 4.58
Female	0.03 – 5.88

It is important to keep in mind that establishment of a range of values which can be expected to be found by a given method for a population of "normal" persons is dependent upon a multiplicity of factors: the specificity of the method, the population tested and the precision of the method in the hands of the analyst. For these reasons each laboratory should depend upon the range of expected values established by the manufacturer only until an in-house range can be determined by the analysts using the method with a population indigenous to the area in which the laboratory is located.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

A. Precision

The within and between assay precision of the DHEA-S AccuBind™ Microplate EIA Test System were determined by analyses on three different levels of pool control sera. The number, mean values, standard deviation and coefficient of variation for each of these control sera are presented in Table 2 and Table 3.

TABLE 2
Within Assay Precision (Values in µg/ml)

Sample	N	X	σ	C.V.
Low	16	0.66	0.06	9.8%
Normal	16	1.14	0.05	4.9%
High	16	4.84	0.21	4.3%

TABLE 3
Between Assay Precision (Values in µg/ml)

Sample	N	X	σ	C.V.
Low	10	0.61	0.06	9.5%
Normal	10	1.36	0.04	3.1%
High	10	4.73	0.16	3.4%

*As measured in ten experiments in duplicate over a ten day period.

B. Accuracy

The DHEA-S AccuBind™ Microplate EIA Test System was compared with a chemiluminescence immunoassay method. Biological specimens from low, normal and relatively high DHEA-S level populations were used (The values ranged from 0.2 ug/ml – 7.7 ug/ml). The total number of such specimens was 77. The least square regression equation and the correlation coefficient were computed for this DHEA-S EIA in comparison with the reference method. The data obtained is displayed in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Method	Mean (x)	Least Square Regression Analysis	Correlation Coefficient
This Method (y)	1.12	Y= 0.1448+0.9858*(X)	0.983
Reference (X)	1.18		

Only slight amounts of bias between this method and the reference method are indicated by the closeness of the mean values. The least square regression equation and correlation coefficient indicates excellent method agreement.

C. Sensitivity

The DHEA-S AccuBind™ Microplate EIA Test System has a sensitivity of 0.05 ug/ml. The sensitivity was ascertained by determining the variability of the 0 ug/ml serum calibrator and using the 2σ (95% certainty) statistic to calculate the minimum dose.

D. Specificity

The % cross reactivity of the DHEA-S antibody to selected substances was evaluated by adding the interfering substance to a serum matrix at various concentrations. The cross-reactivity was calculated by deriving a ratio between dose of interfering substance to dose of DHEA-S needed to displace the same amount of labeled analog.

Substance	Cross Reactivity
DHEA-S	1.0000
DHEA	0.0004
Androstenedione	0.0003
Dihydotestosterone	0.0008
Cortisone	<0.0001
Corticosterone	<0.0001
Cortisol	0.0004
Spirolactone	<0.0001
Estriol	<0.0001
Estradiol	<0.0001
Estrone	<0.0001
Testosterone	<0.0001

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Revision: 1 **Date: 070709** **DCO: 0153**
Cat #: 5125-*300*

Size		96(A)	192(B)
Reagent (fill)	A)	1ml set	1ml set
	B)	1 (6ml)	2 (6ml)
	C)	1 (6ml)	2 (6ml)
	D)	1 plate	2 plates
	E)	1 (20ml)	1 (20ml)
	F)	1 (7ml)	2 (7ml)
	G)	1 (7ml)	2 (7ml)

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Instruments & Applications

Monobind's immunoassay products are designed to work in both manual and automated lab environments. AccuBind™ and AccuLite™ are compatible with any open-ended instrumentation, including chemistry analyzers, microplate readers and microplate washers. There may or may not be an application developed for your particular instrument, please visit the instrument section of our website, or contact techsupport@monobind.com

Monobind offers several instruments, including the Impulse 2 Luminometer CLIA Plate Reader designed hand-in-hand with our products and capable of 2-point calibration. Visit our website for more information.