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ELISA for quantification of human immunoglobulin A (IgA) in serum or plasma.

Angel A Justiz-Vaillant¹, Belkis Ferrer-Cosme²¹University of the West Indies St. Augustine; ²Saturnino Lora Torres' Provincial Teaching Clinical Surgical Hospital. Cuba**1** Works for me dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bj7vkrn6[University of the West Indies](#) angel.vaillant@sta.uwi.eduAngel Justiz-Vaillant
University of the West Indies St. Augustine

ABSTRACT

IgA appears in 2 different molecular structures: monomeric (serum) and dimeric structure (secretory). The serum IgA has a molecular weight of 160 Kd and a serum concentration of 3 mg/mL. Secretory IgA (sIgA) has a molecular weight of 385 Kd and a mean serum concentration of 0.05 mg/mL. It appears in mucosa membranes as a dimer (with J chain when secreted) and protects the epithelial surfaces of the respiratory, digestive, and genitourinary system. IgA possesses a secretory component that prevents its enzymatic digestion. It activates the alternative pathway of activation of the complement system. [\[1\]](#)

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- 1 An anti-human IgA coating antibody is adsorbed onto the microwells by incubation overnight at 4°C with carbonate-bicarbonate buffer.
- 2 Add 50 µl of human serum or plasma. Human IgA present in the serum or plasma binds to antibodies adsorbed into the microwells.
- 3 The microplate is blocked with 3% non-fat milk-PBS buffer and later wash to remove unbound proteins.

- 4 Fifty (50) μ l of biotin-conjugated anti-IgA antibody is added. The optimal dilution must be investigated.
- 5 The microplate is rewashed with PBS-Tween 20 buffer, pH 7.4.
- 6 One hundred μ l of streptavidin-HRP conjugate is added and it binds to the biotin-conjugated anti-IgA antibody. The optimal dilution of this conjugate must be investigated.
- 7 The plate is washed following incubation to remove the unbound Streptavidin-HRP.
- 8 Add 100 μ l of 3,3',5,5'- tetramethylbenzidine (TMB; Sigma-Aldrich) into each well.
- 9 Incubate the microwells in the dark for 20 min.
- 10 A colored product is formed in proportion to the quantity of IgA present in the sample or standard.
- 11 The reaction is terminated by addition of 100 μ l 3M H₂SO₄ and the absorbance is measured at 450 nm.
- 12 A standard curve is made from 7 human IgA standard dilutions and the human IgA sample concentration is determined.
- 13 For better results place the microplate on a microplate shaker in every incubation.