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# 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine alpha-ketoglutarate detection assay for Prolyl Hydroxylase Domain (PHD) proteins V.3

sjwong<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Harvard University

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2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine a-ketoglutarate detection assay for Prolyl Hydroxylase Domain (PHD) proteins



sjwong

The 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2,4-DNPH) alpha-ketoglutarate detection assay was developed to support the study of prolyl hydroxylase domain (PHD) proteins in a substrate-independent manner. This protocol was extensively optimized for the PHD protein reaction, and is applicable to the study of enzyme kinetics or to high-throughput screening.

2,4-DNPH assay protocol  
deposited  
[protocols.io\\_formalizedfor](#)  
thesis.docx

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[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5igq4bw](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5igq4bw)<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0021925821001691>

sjwong 2022. 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine alpha-ketoglutarate detection assay for Prolyl Hydroxylase Domain (PHD) proteins. **protocols.io**  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5igq4bw>  
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protocol

Samantha J. Wong, Alison E. Ringel, William Yuan, Joao A. Paulo, Haejin Yoon, Mark A. Currie, Marcia C. Haigis, Development of a colorimetric  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate detection assay for prolyl hydroxylase domain (PHD) proteins, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Volume 296, 2021, 100397, ISSN 0021-9258, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbc.2021.100397>.

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The following materials must be prepared fresh:

- 1 mM iron (II) sulfate: Prepare 500 mM in 20 mM HCl, then dilute to 1 mM in water just before use (Hewitson, K. S., Schofield, C. J., & Ratcliffe, P. J. (2007). Hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl-hydroxylase: purification and assays of PHD2. *Methods in enzymology*, 435, 25–42. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0076-6879\(07\)35002-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0076-6879(07)35002-7))
- PHD enzyme source: frozen stocks may be use, but fresh enzyme is best, especially for PHD3 due to its lability.
- 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2,4-DNPH): Dissolve in 0.5 M phosphoric acid, let stand for 30-60 mins, then add water to intended concentration. Filter through 0.45 µM filter to remove precipitate.

#### General lab items for assay

1. Eppendorf tubes
2. Tabletop vortex
3. Tabletop shaking incubator with temperature control
4. 96-well plate
5. Multichannel pipette
6. Microcentrifuge
7. Plate reader

#### *In vitro* hydroxylation assay materials

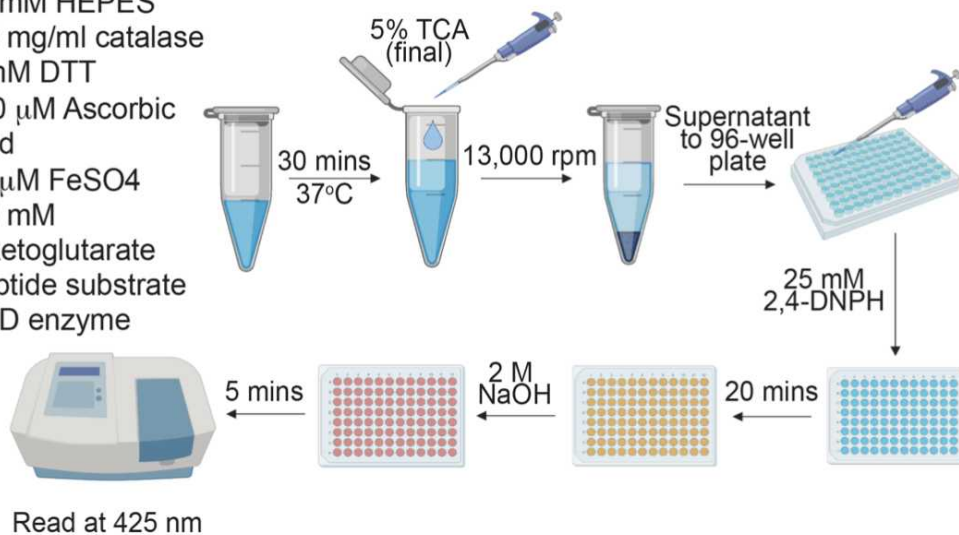
A	B	C	D
Reagent stock	Stock concentration	Working concentration	Preparation notes
HEPES pH 7.0 / MES pH 6.0	0.5 M	50 mM	
Bovine liver catalase	21 mg/ml	0.6 mg/ml	
DTT	10 mM	1 mM	Prepare fresh
Ascorbic acid	40 mM	500 $\mu$ M	Prepare fresh
FeSO <sub>4</sub>	1 mM	50 $\mu$ M	Prepare 500 mM in 20 mM HCl, then dilute to 1 mM in water just before use .
$\alpha$ -ketoglutarate	20 mM	0.5 mM	
Peptide	20 mM	100 $\mu$ M	Dissolved in DMSO
PHD enzyme source	20 $\mu$ M	10 $\mu$ M	Prepare fresh
Trichloroacetic acid (TCA)	10%	5%	
Sodium phosphate pH 7.2	0.5 M	50 mM	
2,4-DNPH	50 mM	25 mM	Prepare fresh. Dissolve in 0.5 M phosphoric acid, let stand for 30-60 mins, then add water to intended concentration. Filter through 0.45 $\mu$ M filter to remove precipitate.
NaOH	6 M	2 M	

Materials needed to perform the in vitro hydroxylation assay

## Overview of assay schematic

1

50 mM HEPES  
0.6 mg/ml catalase  
1 mM DTT  
500  $\mu$ M Ascorbic Acid  
50  $\mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub>  
0.5 mM  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate  
Peptide substrate  
PHD enzyme



#### *In vitro* hydroxylation assay

2

Prepare 5 Eppendorf tubes containing 50  $\mu$ l of 10% TCA.

- Label tubes: 0 min, 1 min, 2 min, 5 min, 15 min.

3

Prepare cofactor solution containing HEPES/MES, catalase, DTT, ascorbic acid, FeSO<sub>4</sub>,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate, and peptide in a 150  $\mu$ l volume in an Eppendorf tube (using the working concentrations).

4

Add 150  $\mu$ l of 20  $\mu$ M PHD enzyme into the cofactor solution.

5

Vortex briefly.

6

Place into a 37 °C tabletop shaking incubator and start the timer (counting up).

- This step equilibrates the temperature of the reaction to 37 °C

7

At T = 1 min on the timer, withdraw 50  $\mu$ l of the reaction solution and quench in the "0 min" tube containing 10% TCA, and replace the reaction tube in the incubator.

- 8 Repeat this for the other time points.
  - At T = 2 min, withdraw 50  $\mu$ l of the reaction solution and quench in the “1 min” tube
  - At T = 3 min, withdraw 50  $\mu$ l of the reaction solution and quench in the “2 min” tube
  - At T = 6 min, withdraw 50  $\mu$ l of the reaction solution and quench in the “5 min” tube
  - At T = 16 min, withdraw 50  $\mu$ l of the reaction solution and quench in the “15 min” tube
- 9 Briefly vortex the quenched reactions.
- 10 Keep the quenched reactions at 4 °C until ready for downstream processing.
  - Reactions have been stored up to 3 days with no loss of signal.

#### Color development with 2,4-DNPH

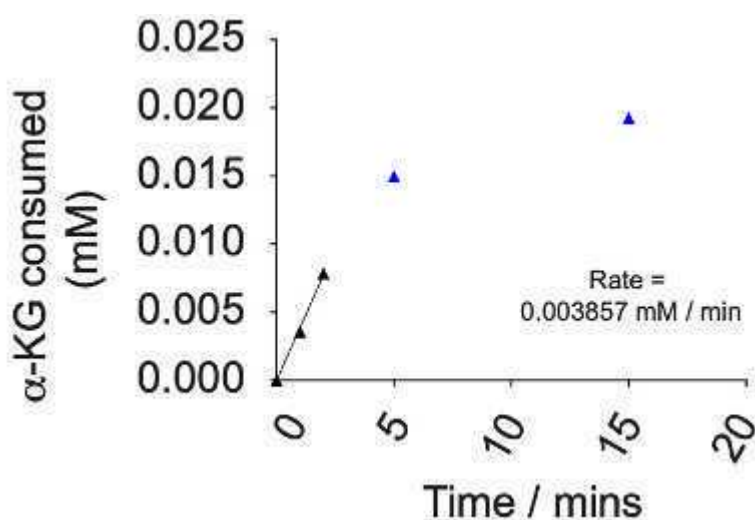
- 11 Centrifuge the quenched reactions at 13,000 rpm for 15 minutes.
- 12 Meanwhile, add 10  $\mu$ l of 0.5 M sodium phosphate to 5 wells of a 96-well plate.
- 13 Transfer 90  $\mu$ l of the supernatant of the quenched reaction to a well containing 10  $\mu$ l of 0.5 M sodium phosphate ( $V_T$  = 100  $\mu$ l).
  - Do the same for the other 4 quenched supernatants.
- 14 Using a multi-channel pipette, add 100  $\mu$ l of 50 mM 2,4-DNPH to the wells ( $V_T$  = 200  $\mu$ l). Pipette up and down gently to mix.
- 15 Leave at room temperature for 20 minutes.
- 16 Using a multi-channel pipette, add 50  $\mu$ l of 6 M NaOH to the wells ( $V_T$  = 250  $\mu$ l). Pipette up and down gently to mix.
- 17 Leave at room temperature for 5 minutes.

18 Read at 425 nm on a spectrophotometer.

Data handling

19 Calculate the amount of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate consumed from a standard curve processed in the same way as the samples.

20 Plot the amount of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate consumed against time, to obtain a curve that looks like this:



21 The initial rate should be taken as the linear portion of the curve. In this case, from  $T = 0$  to 2 mins.