

Corticotropin Releasing Factor ELISA Kit

Catalog Number: EIA-CRF

User Manual

Last Revised: February 12, 2024

Please read entire manual carefully before starting experiment.

Introduction

The RayBio[®] CRF Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) Kit is an in vitro quantitative assay for detecting CRF peptide based on the competitive ELISA principle.

In this assay, a biotinylated CRF peptide is spiked into the samples and standards. The samples and standards are then added to the plate, where the biotinylated CRF peptide competes with endogenous (unlabeled) CRF for binding to the anti-CRF antibody. After a wash step, any bound biotinylated CRF then interacts with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-streptavidin, which catalyzes a color development reaction. The intensity of the colorimetric signal is directly proportional to the amount of captured biotinylated CRF peptide and inversely proportional to the amount of endogenous CRF in the standard or samples. A standard curve of known concentration of CRF peptide can be established and the concentration of CRF peptide in the samples can be calculated accordingly.

Storage

The entire kit may be stored at -20°C to -80°C for up to 6 months from the date of shipment. For extended storage, it is recommended to store at -80°C. **Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.** For prepared reagent storage, see the 'Reagents' table on the next page.

Reagents

Component	Size / Description	Storage / Stability After Preparation
Microplate	96 wells (12 strips x 8 wells) coated with secondary antibody.	1 month at 4°C*
Wash Buffer	25 ml of 20X concentrated solution.	1 month at 4°C
Standard CRF Peptide	2 vials of Lyophilized CRF Peptide. 1 vial is enough to run each standard in duplicate.	Do not store and reuse
Anti-CRF Polyclonal Antibody	2 vials of Lyophilized anti-CRF.	Do not store and reuse
5X Assay Diluent B	15 ml of 5X concentrated buffer. Diluent for both standards and samples including serum, plasma, cell culture media or other sample types.	1 month at 4°C
Biotinylated CRF Peptide	2 vials of Lyophilized Biotinylated CRF Peptide, 1 vial is enough to assay the whole plate.	Do not store and reuse
HRP-Streptavidin	600 µl 100x concentrated HRP-conjugated streptavidin.	Do not store and reuse
Positive Control	1 vial of Lyophilized Positive Control.	Do not store and reuse
TMB One-Step Substrate Reagent	12 ml of 3,3,5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) in buffer solution.	N/A
Stop Solution	8 ml of 0.2 M sulfuric acid.	N/A

*Return unused wells to the pouch containing desiccant pack, reseal along entire edge.

Additional Materials Required

1. Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm
2. Precision pipettes to deliver 2 µl to 1 ml volumes
3. Adjustable 1-25 ml pipettes for reagent preparation
4. 100 ml and 1 liter graduated cylinders
5. Absorbent paper
6. Distilled or deionized water
7. SigmaPlot software (or other software which can perform four-parameter logistic regression models)
8. Tubes to prepare standard or sample dilutions
9. Orbital shaker
10. Aluminum foil
11. Plastic wrap

Reagent Preparation

Keep kit reagents on ice during reagent preparation steps.

A. Preparation of Plate and Anti-CRF Antibody

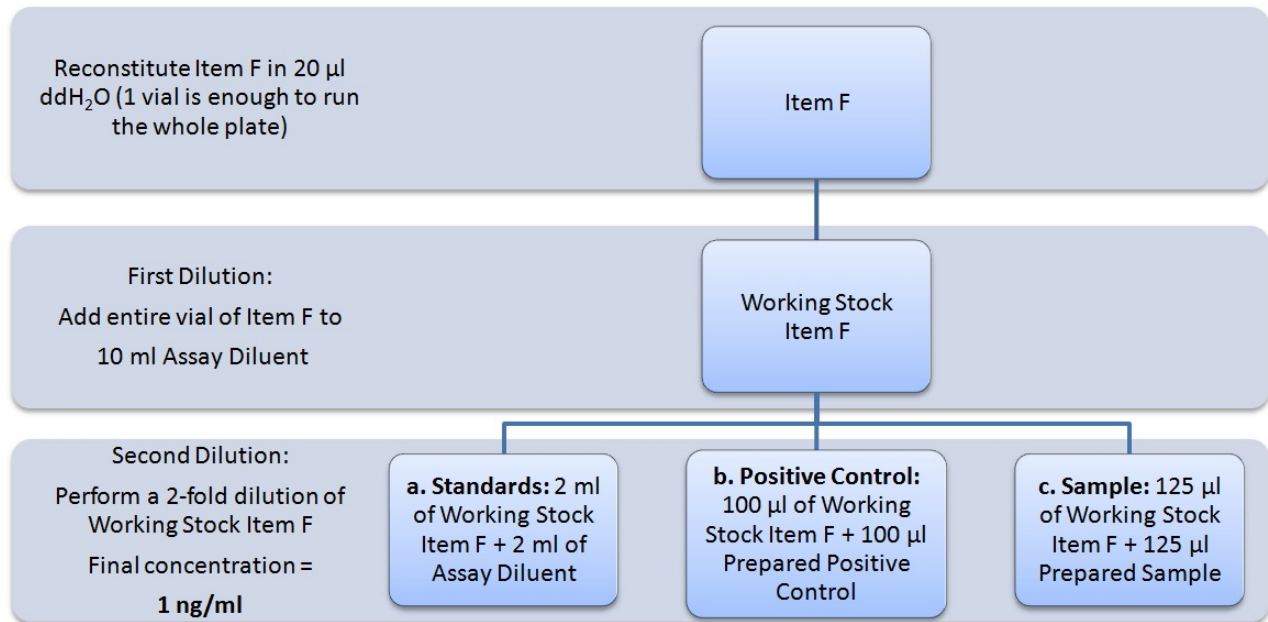
1. Equilibrate plate to room temperature before opening the sealed pouch.
2. Label removable 8-well strips as appropriate for your experiment.
3. 5X Assay Diluent B should be diluted 5-fold with deionized or distilled water.
4. Briefly centrifuge the anti-CRF antibody vial and reconstitute with 55 μ l of 1X Assay Diluent B to prepare the antibody concentrate. Pipette up and down to mix gently.
5. The antibody concentrate should then be diluted 100-fold with 1X Assay Diluent B. This is your anti-CRF antibody working solution, which will be used in step 2 of Assay Procedure.

Note: The following steps may be done during the antibody incubation procedure (step 2 of Assay Procedure)

B. Preparation of Biotinylated CRF Peptide

6. Briefly centrifuge the vial of Biotinylated CRF Peptide and reconstitute with 20 μ l of ddH₂O before use.
7. See the image below for proper preparation of the Biotinylated CRF Peptide. Transfer the entire contents of the biotinylated peptide vial into a tube containing 10 ml of 1X Assay Diluent B. This is your working stock. Pipette up and down to mix gently. *The final concentration of biotinylated CRF will be **2 ng/ml**.*
 - a. Second Dilution of Biotinylated CRF Peptide for Standards: Add 2 ml of working stock biotinylated peptide to 2 ml of 1X Assay Diluent B. The final concentration of biotinylated CRF will be **1 ng/ml**.
 - b. Second Dilution of Biotinylated CRF Peptide for Positive Control: Add 100 μ l of working stock biotinylated peptide to 100 μ l of the prepared Positive Control. (See section D for Positive Control preparation) The final concentration of biotinylated CRF will be **1 ng/ml**.
 - c. Second Dilution of Biotinylated CRF Peptide for samples: Add 125 μ l of working stock biotinylated peptide to 125 μ l of prepared sample (see section E for sample preparation). This is a 2-fold dilution of your sample. The final concentration of biotinylated CRF will be **1 ng/ml**.

"Item F" = Biotinylated CRF Peptide

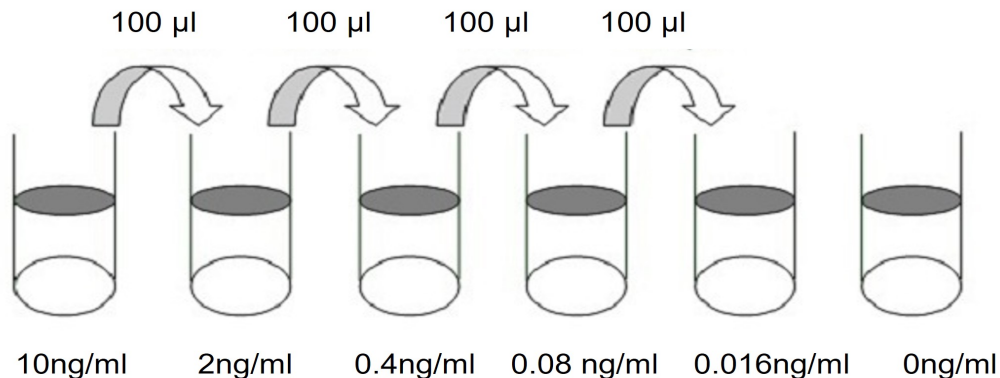


C. Preparation of Standards

- Label 6 microtubes with the following concentrations: 10 ng/ml, 2 ng/ml, 0.4 ng/ml, 0.08 ng/ml, 0.016 ng/ml and 0 ng/ml. Pipette 400 μ l of biotinylated CRF peptide working solution (prepared in step 7a) into each tube, except the 10 ng/ml

It is very important to make sure the concentration of biotinylated CRF is 1 ng/ml in all standards.

- Briefly centrifuge the vial of CRF Standard. Reconstitute with 10 μ l of ddH₂O and briefly vortex if desired. Pipette 8 μ l of Standard Peptide and 792 μ l of 1 ng/ml biotinylated CRF working solution (prepared in step 7a) into the tube labeled 10 ng/ml. Mix thoroughly. This solution serves as the first standard (10 ng/ml CRF standard, 1 ng/ml biotinylated CRF).
- To make the 2 ng/ml standard, pipette 100 μ l of the 10 ng/ml CRF standard into the tube labeled 2 ng/ml. Mix thoroughly.
- Repeat this step with each successive concentration, preparing a dilution series as shown in the illustration below. Each time, use 400 μ l of biotinylated CRF and 100 μ l of the prior concentration until the 0.016 ng/ml is reached. Mix each tube thoroughly before the next transfer.



D. Positive Control Preparation

12. Briefly centrifuge the Positive Control vial and reconstitute with 100 μ l of ddH₂O.
13. Refer to step 7b. This is a 2-fold dilution of the Positive Control. The final concentration of biotinylated CRF should still be 1 ng/ml.

The Positive Control is a serum sample that serves as a system control to verify that the kit components are working. The resulting OD will not be used in any calculations; if no positive competition is observed please contact RayBiotech Technical Support. The Positive Control may be diluted further if desired, but be sure the final concentration of biotinylated CRF is 1 ng/ml.

E. Sample Preparation

14. If you wish to perform a 2-fold dilution of your sample, proceed to step 7c. If you wish to perform a higher dilution of your sample, dilute your sample with 1X Assay Diluent B before performing step 7c.

EXAMPLE (to make a 4-fold dilution of sample):

- a. Dilute sample 2-fold (62.5 μ l of sample + 62.5 μ l of 1X Assay Diluent B.).
- b. Perform step 7c (125 μ l of working solution Biotinylated CRF Peptide + 125 μ l of sample prepared above).

The total volume is 250 μ l, enough for duplicate wells on the microplate.

It is very important to make sure the final concentration of the biotinylated CRF is **1 ng/ml**.

Note: Optimal sample dilution factors should be determined empirically, however you may reference the following for recommended dilution factors for serum: Human=4x Mouse=2x Rat=2x .

If you have any questions regarding the recommended dilutions you may contact technical support at 770-729-2992 or techsupport@raybiotech.com.

F. Preparation of Wash Buffer and HRP

15. If the Wash Buffer contains visible crystals, warm to room temperature and mix gently until dissolved.
16. Dilute 20 ml of Wash Buffer concentrate into deionized or distilled water to yield 400 ml of 1X Wash Buffer.
17. Briefly centrifuge the HRP-Streptavidin vial before use.
18. Dilute the HRP-Streptavidin concentrate 100-fold with 1X Assay Diluent B.

Assay Procedure

1. Keep kit reagents on ice during reagent preparation steps. It is recommended that all standards and samples be run at least in duplicate.
2. Add 100 μ l of Anti-CRF Antibody (See Reagent Preparation step 5) to each well. Incubate for 1.5 hours at room temperature with gentle shaking (1-2 cycle/sec). You may also incubate overnight at 4°C.
3. Discard the solution and wash wells 4 times with 1X Wash Solution Buffer (200-300 μ l each). Washing may be done with a multichannel pipette or an automated plate washer. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential to good assay performance. After the last wash, remove any remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or decanting. Invert the plate and blot it against clean paper towels.
4. Add 100 μ l of each standard (see Reagent Preparation Section C), Positive Control (see Reagent Preparation Section D) and sample (see Reagent Preparation Section E) to appropriate wells. Be sure to include a blank well (Assay Diluent only). Cover wells and incubate for 2.5 hours at room temperature with gentle shaking (1-2 cycles/sec) overnight or at 4°C.
5. Discard the solution and wash 4 times as directed in Step 3.
6. Add 100 μ l of prepared HRP-Streptavidin solution (see Reagent Preparation step 18) to each well. Incubate for 45 minutes at room temperature with gentle shaking. It is recommended that incubation time should not be shorter or longer than 45 minutes.
7. Discard the solution and wash 4 times as directed in Step 3.
8. Add 100 μ l of TMB One-Step Substrate Reagent to each well. Incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature in the dark with gentle shaking (1-2 cycles/sec).
9. Add 50 μ l of Stop Solution to each well. Read at 450 nm immediately.

Assay Procedure Summary

1. Prepare all reagents, samples and standards as instructed.
2. Add 100 μ l anti-CRF to each well. Incubate 1.5 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C.
3. Add 100 μ l standard or sample to each well. Incubate 2.5 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C.
4. Add 100 μ l prepared Streptavidin solution. Incubate 45 minutes at room temperature.
5. Add 100 μ l TMB One-Step Substrate Reagent to each well. Incubate 30 minutes at room temperature.
6. Add 50 μ l Stop Solution to each well. Read at 450 nm immediately.

Calculation of Results

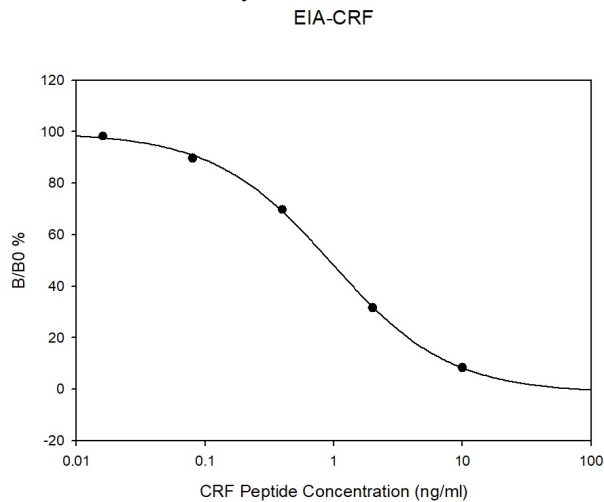
Calculate the mean absorbance for each set of duplicate stands, controls, and samples and subtract the blank optical density. Plot the standard curve using SigmaPlot software (or other software which can perform four-parameter logistic regression models), with standard concentration on the x-axis and percentage of absorbance (see calculation below) on the y-axis. Draw the best-fit curve through the standard points.

Percentage absorbance = $(B - \text{blank OD}) / (B_0 - \text{blank OD})$ where

- B = OD of sample or standard and
- B_0 = OD of zero standard (total binding)

A. Typical Data

These standard curves are for demonstration only. A standard curve must be run with each assay.



B. Sensitivity

The minimum detectable concentrations of CRF is 0.1 ng/ml.

C. Standard Curve Range

0.016-10 ng/ml

D. Reproducibility

Intra-Assay: CV<10%

Inter-Assay: CV<15%

E. Assay Diagram

Recommended Plate Layout:

Blank	Blank	SA1	SA1	SA9	SA9	SA17	SA17	SA25	SA25	SA33	SA33
Total Binding	Total Binding	SA2	SA2	SA10	SA10	SA18	SA18	SA26	SA26	SA34	SA34
Standard1	Standard1	SA3	SA3	SA11	SA11	SA19	SA19	SA27	SA27	SA35	SA35
Standard2	Standard2	SA4	SA4	SA12	SA12	SA20	SA20	SA28	SA28	SA36	SA36
Standard3	Standard3	SA5	SA5	SA13	SA13	SA21	SA21	SA29	SA29	SA37	SA37
Standard4	Standard4	SA6	SA6	SA14	SA14	SA22	SA22	SA30	SA30	SA38	SA38
Standard5	Standard5	SA7	SA7	SA15	SA15	SA23	SA23	SA31	SA31	SA39	SA39
Pos Control	Pos Control	SA8	SA8	SA16	SA16	SA24	SA24	SA32	SA32	SA40	SA40

Key:

Blank = Buffer Only

Total Binding = Biotin-CRF only

Standard 1 = 10 ng/ml

Standard 2 = 2 ng/ml

Standard 3 = 0.4 ng/ml

Standard 4 = 0.08 ng/ml

Standard 5 = 0.016 ng/ml

Pos Control = Biotin with Positive Control

Specificity

This EIA kit is designed to detect human, mouse, and rat Corticotropin Releasing Factor

Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Cause	Solution
Poor standard curve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccurate pipetting • Improper standard dilution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check pipettes • Briefly centrifuge Standard CRF Peptide and dissolve the powder thoroughly by gently mixing
Low signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper preparation of standard and/or biotinylated antibody • Too brief incubation times • Inadequate reagent volumes or improper dilution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly spin down vials before opening. Dissolve the powder thoroughly. • Ensure sufficient incubation time; assay procedure step 2 may be done overnight • Check pipettes and ensure correct preparation
Large CV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccurate pipetting • Air bubbles in wells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check pipettes • Remove bubbles in wells
High background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plate is insufficiently washed • Contaminated wash buffer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the manual for proper wash. If using a plate washer, ensure that all ports are unobstructed. • Make fresh wash buffer
Low sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper storage of the ELISA kit • Stop solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow storage recommendations in manual. Keep substrate solution protected from light. • Add stop solution to each well before reading plate