

## ALT (SGPT) REAGENT (UV-KINETIC METHOD) Catalog Number: BQ 004B-CR

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### INTENDED USE

For the quantitative determination of alanine aminotransferase in human serum.

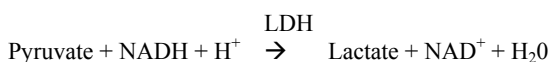
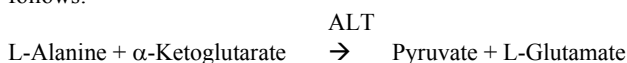
### INTRODUCTION

The enzyme alanine aminotransferase is widely reported in a variety of tissue sources. The major source of ALT is of hepatic origin and has led to the application of ALT determinations in the study of hepatic diseases. Elevated serum levels are found in hepatitis, cirrhosis, and obstructive jaundice. Levels of ALT are only slightly elevated in patients following a myocardial infarction.<sup>1</sup>

UV methods for ALT determination were first developed by Wroblewski and LaDue in 1956.<sup>2</sup> The method was based on the oxidation of NADH by lactate dehydrogenase (LDH). In 1980, the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry recommended a reference procedure for the measurements of ALT based on the Wroblewski and LaDue procedure.<sup>3</sup> The ALT reagent conforms to the formulation recommended by the IFCC.

### PRINCIPLE

The enzymatic reaction sequence employed in the assay of ALT is as follows:



The pyruvate formed in the first reaction is reduced to lactate in the presence of lactate dehydrogenase and NADH. The activity of ALT is determined by measuring the rate of oxidation of NADH at 340 nm. Endogenous sample pyruvate is converted to lactate by LDH during the lag phase prior to measurement.

### REAGENT COMPOSITION

When reconstituted as directed, the reagent for ALT contains the following:

(Concentrations refer to reconstituted reagent): a-Ketoglutarate 13 mM, L-Alanine 400 mM, NADH 0.2 mM, LDH 800 U/L, Buffer 100 mM, pH 7.5, Non-reactive stabilizers and preservatives.

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- For in vitro diagnostic use.  
**CAUTION:** In vitro diagnostic reagents may be hazardous. Handle in accordance with good laboratory procedures which dictate avoiding ingestion, and eye or skin contact.
- Specimens should be considered infectious and handled appropriately.
- Use distilled or deionized water where indicated.

### STORAGE AND STABILITY

- Store dry reagent at 2 – 8 °C (refrigerated).
- The reconstituted reagent is stable for thirty days (30) if immediately refrigerated and for twenty-four (24) hours at room temperature.

### REAGENT DETERIORATION

The reagent should be discarded if:

- Turbidity has occurred; turbidity may be a sign of contamination.
- Moisture has penetrated the vial and caking has occurred.
- The reagent fails to meet linearity claims or fails to recover control values in the stated range.
- The reconstituted reagent has a reagent blank absorbance less than 0.8 at 340 nm.

### SPECIMEN COLLECTION

This assay is intended for use with serum. Reports indicate that ALT in serum remains stable at 4 – 8 °C for a minimum of seven (7) days.<sup>4</sup> Hemolyzed specimens should not be used as erythrocytes contain seven times the ALT activity of serum.

### INTERFERING SUBSTANCES

Pyridoxal phosphate can elevate ALT values by activating the apoenzyme form of the transaminase.<sup>5</sup> Pyridoxal phosphate may be found in water contaminated with microbial growth.

High levels of serum pyruvate may also interfere with assay performance. Young, et al., give a list of drugs and other substances that interfere with the determination of ALT activity.<sup>6</sup>

### MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- Pipetting devices
- Test tubes/rack
- Timer
- Spectrophotometer with capability to read at 340 nm
- Heating bath/block (37°C)

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The reagent for ALT is intended for use either as an automated procedure on chemistry instruments or as a manual procedure on a suitable spectrophotometer.

### AUTOMATED PROCEDURE

Refer to appropriate application manual available.

### MANUAL PROCEDURE

- Reconstitute reagent according to instructions.
- Zero spectrophotometer at 340 nm with distilled water.
- Pipette 1.0 ml of reagent into a test tube and allow to equilibrate to 37 °C. If the spectrophotometer being used requires a final volume greater than 1.0 ml for accurate readings refer to ALTERNATE PROCEDURE.
- Add 0.10 ml (100 µl) of specimen to reagent and mix gently.
- Maintain solution at 37 °C. After 60 seconds, measure the absorbance at 340 nm.
- Take two additional absorbance readings at one (1) minute interval. Calculate the mean absorbance change per minute ( $\Delta A/\text{min}$ ).
- Multiply the  $\Delta A/\text{min}$ . by 1768 to calculate IU/L of ALT activity.
- Sample with values above 500 IU/L should be diluted 1:1 with saline, re-assayed and the results multiplied by two (2).

*NOTE: If the spectrophotometer being used is equipped with a temperature-controlled cuvette, the reaction mixture may be left in the cuvette while the absorbance readings are taken.*

### PROCEDURE NOTES (MANUAL)

Turbid or highly icteric samples may give readings whose initial absorbance exceeds the capabilities of the spectrophotometer. More accurate results may be obtained by using 0.05 ml (50µl) sample and multiplying the final answer by two (2).

## CALCULATIONS

One International Unit (IU) is defined as the amount of enzyme that catalyzes the transformation of one micromole of substrate per minute under specified conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ALT (IU/L)} &= \frac{\Delta A/\text{min.} \times \text{TV} \times 1000}{\epsilon \times \text{SV} \times \text{LP}} \\ &= \frac{\Delta A/\text{min.} \times 1.10 \times 1000}{6.22 \times 0.1 \times 1.0} \\ &= \Delta A/\text{min.} \times 1768 \end{aligned}$$

Where:

$\Delta A/\text{min.}$  = Average absorbance change per minute  
TV = Total reaction volume (ml)  
1000 = Conversion of IU/ml to IU/L  
 $\epsilon$  = Millimolar absorptivity of NADH  
SV = Sample volume (ml)  
LP = Light path (cm)

Example: 1.480 = Initial absorbance  
1.350 = absorbance after one (1) minute.  
 $\Delta A/\text{min.}$  = 1.480 - 1.360 = 0.12

Then  $0.12 \times 1768 = 212.2$  IU/L

SI UNITS: To convert to SI Units (nkat/L) multiply IU/L by 16.67.

*NOTE: If any of the test parameters are altered, a new factor must be calculated using the formula above.*

## ALTERNATE PROCEDURE

1. Reconstitute reagent according to instructions.
2. Pipette 2.8 ml of reagent into a test tube and allow to equilibrate to 37 °C.
3. Add 0.2 ml (200ml) of specimen to reagent, and then mix gently.
4. Maintain solution at 37°C. After 1 minute, measure the absorbance at 340 nm. ( $A_1$ )
5. After exactly three (3) minutes, read and record.
6. The difference in absorbance between readings ( $A_1 - A_2$ ) multiplied by the factor of 803.

## ALTERNATE PROCEDURE CALCULATIONS

$$\text{ALT (IU/L)} = \frac{(A_1 - A_2) \times 3.0 \times 1000}{3 \times 1 \times 6.22 \times 0.2} = (A_1 - A_2) \times 803$$

$= (A_1 - A_2) =$  absorbance change.

Example:

If  $A_1 = 1.45$ ,  $A_2 = 1.35$   
then  $(1.45 - 1.35) \times 803 = 0.10 \times 803 = 80.3$  IU/L

*NOTE: If any of the above tests parameters have been altered, a new factor must be calculated using the above formula.*

## LIMITATIONS

The reagent is linear to 500 IU/L. Sample that have ALT values greater than 500 IU/L should be diluted 1:1 with saline, re-assayed and the results multiplied by two (2).

## QUALITY CONTROL

It is recommended that controls be included in each set of assays. Commercially available control material with established ALT values may be routinely used for quality control. The assigned value of the control material must be confirmed by the chosen application. Failure to obtain the proper range of values in the assay of control material may indicate reagent deterioration, instrument malfunction, or procedure errors.

## TEMPERATURE CORRECTION<sup>7</sup>

1. If the assay is performed at 37 °C but is to be reported at 30 °C, multiply the results by 0.7.
2. If the assay is performed at 30°C but is to be reported at 37°C, multiply the results by 1.43.

## EXPECTED VALUES<sup>8</sup>

Up to 26 IU/L (30 °C) Up to 38 IU/L (37 °C)

It is strongly recommended that each laboratory establish its own normal range.

## PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Linearity: 500 IU/L
2. Comparison: Studies between the present method and a similar method yield a correlation of 0.99 and a regression equation  $Y = 0.98X + 1.32$ .
3. Precision studies:

Mean (IU/L)	<u>Within Run</u>	
	S.D.	C.V. %
23.6	1.8	7.9
82.6	2.1	2.5

Mean (IU/L)	<u>Run-to-Run</u>	
	S.D.	C.V. %
23.4	1.9	8.0
82.4	1.9	2.3

## REFERENCES

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6. Young, D.S., et al.: *Clin. Chem.* 21:5 (1975).
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8. Tietz, N.W.: *Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry*. W.B. Saunder Co., Philadelphia, PA p. 682 (1976).