

# Mouse Interleukin-6 (IL-6) ELISA Kit

## Introduction

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a cytokine of approximately 26 kDa that is synthesized by T-cells, macrophages, B-cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells, and epithelial cells. IL-6 acts in both pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory processes. When released systemically it stimulates the liver to produce proteins, such as C-reactive protein and fibrin, which are responsible for the acute-phase response (1). Besides the systemic acute phase reaction, IL-6 is associated with several acute and chronic inflammatory diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, acute pancreatitis, viral and bacterial meningitis, and Alzheimer's disease (2, 3). However, IL-6 can also downregulate the inflammatory reaction by suppressing the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 and TNF, and protect against lung damage (4) and septic shock (5).

## Principal of the Assay

The Mouse IL-6 ELISA kit is designed for detection of IL-6 in mouse plasma, tissue extracts or cell culture samples. This assay employs a quantitative sandwich enzyme immunoassay technique that measures IL-6 in 5 hours. A rat monoclonal antibody specific for mouse IL-6 has been pre-coated onto a microplate. IL-6 in standards and samples is sandwiched by the immobilized antibody and a biotinylated polyclonal antibody specific for mouse IL-6, which is recognized by a streptavidin-peroxidase conjugate. All unbound material is then washed away and a peroxidase enzyme substrate is added. The color development is stopped and the intensity of the color is measured.

## Caution and Warning

- **Prepare all reagents (working diluent buffer, wash buffer, standards, biotinylated-antibody, and SP conjugate) as instructed, prior to running the assay.**
- **Prepare all samples prior to running the assay. The dilution factors for the samples are suggested in this protocol. However, the user should determine the optimal dilution factor.**
- **Spin down the SP conjugate vial and the biotinylated-antibody vial before opening and using contents.**
- This kit is for research use only.
- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date.
- The Stop Solution is an acid solution

## Reagents

- **IL-6 Microplate:** A 96 well polystyrene microplate (12 strips of 8 wells) coated with a rat-monoclonal antibody against IL-6.
- **Sealing Tapes:** Each kit contains 3 pre-cut, pressure-sensitive sealing tapes that can be cut to fit the format of the individual assay.
- **IL-6 Standard:** Mouse IL-6 in a buffered protein base (2 ng, lyophilized).
- **Biotinylated IL-6 Antibody (100x):** A 100-fold concentrated biotinylated polyclonal antibody against IL-6 (80 µl).
- **MIX Diluent Concentrate (10x):** A 10-fold concentrated buffered protein base (30 ml).
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x):** A 20-fold concentrated buffered surfactant (30 ml, 2 bottles).
- **Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate):** A 100-fold concentrate (80 µl).
- **Chromogen Substrate:** A ready-to-use stabilized peroxidase chromogen substrate tetramethylbenzidine (8 ml).
- **Stop Solution:** A 0.5 N hydrochloric acid to stop the chromogen substrate reaction (12 ml).

## Storage Condition

- Store components of the kit at 2-8°C or -20°C upon arrival up to the expiration date.
- Store SP Conjugate and Biotinylated Antibody at -20°C
- Store Microplate, Diluent Concentrate (10x), Wash Buffer, Stop Solution, and Chromogen Substrate at 2-8°C
- Opened unused microplate wells may be returned to the foil pouch with the desiccant packs. Reseal along zip-seal. May be stored for up to 1 month in a vacuum desiccator.
- Diluent (1x) may be stored for up to 1 month at 2-8°C.
- Store Standard at 2-8°C before reconstituting with Diluent and at -20°C after reconstituting with Diluent.

## Other Supplies Required

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm
- Pipettes (1-20 µl, 20-200 µl, 200-1000 µl and multiple channel)
- Deionized or distilled reagent grade water

## Sample Collection, Preparation and Storage

- **Plasma:** Collect plasma using one-tenth volume of 0.1 M sodium citrate as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples at 2000 x g for 10 minutes and assay. Store samples at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Serum:** Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. After clot formation, centrifuge samples at 2000 x g for 10 minutes. Remove serum and assay. Store serum at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Cell Culture Supernatants:** Centrifuge cell culture media at 2000 x g for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants and assay. Store samples at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

## Reagent Preparation

- Freshly dilute all reagents and bring all reagents to room temperature before use.
- MIX Diluent Concentrate (10x):** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute the MIX Diluent Concentrate 1:10 with reagent grade water. Store for up to 1 month at 2-8°C.
- Standard Curve:** Reconstitute the 2 ng of mouse IL-6 Standard with 2 ml of MIX Diluent to generate a stock solution of 1 ng/ml. Allow the standard to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making dilutions. Prepare duplicate or triplicate standard points by serially diluting the IL-6 standard solution 1:2 with equal volume of MIX Diluent to produce 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.063, 0.031, 0.016 and 0.008 ng/ml. MIX Diluent serves as the zero standard (0 ng/ml). Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

Standard Point	Dilution	[IL-6] (ng/ml)
P1	Stock (1 ng/ml) + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.500
P2	1 part P1 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.250
P3	1 part P2 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.125
P4	1 part P3 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.063
P5	1 part P4 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.031
P6	1 part P5 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.016
P7	1 part P6 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.008
P8	MIX Diluent	0.000

- Biotinylated IL-6 Antibody (100x):** Spin down the antibody briefly and dilute the desired amount of the antibody 1:100 with MIX Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.
- Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x):** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:20 with reagent grade water.
- SP Conjugate (100x):** Spin down the SP Conjugate briefly and dilute the desired amount of the conjugate 1:100 with MIX Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

## Assay Procedure

- Prepare all reagents, working standards and samples as instructed. Bring all reagents to room temperature before use. The assay is performed at room temperature (20-30°C).
- Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame and return them immediately to the foil pouch with desiccant inside. Reseal the pouch securely to minimize exposure to water vapor and store in a vacuum desiccator.
- Add 50 µl of Standard or sample per well. Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for two hours. Start the timer after the last sample addition.
- Wash five times with 200 µl of Wash Buffer manually. Invert the plate each time and decant the contents; hit it 4-5 times on absorbent paper towel to completely remove the liquid. If using a machine wash six times with 300 µl of Wash Buffer and then invert the plate, decant the contents; hit it 4-5 times on absorbent paper towel to completely remove the liquid.
- Add 50 µl of Biotinylated IL-6 Antibody to each well and incubate for two hours.
- Wash the microplate as described above.

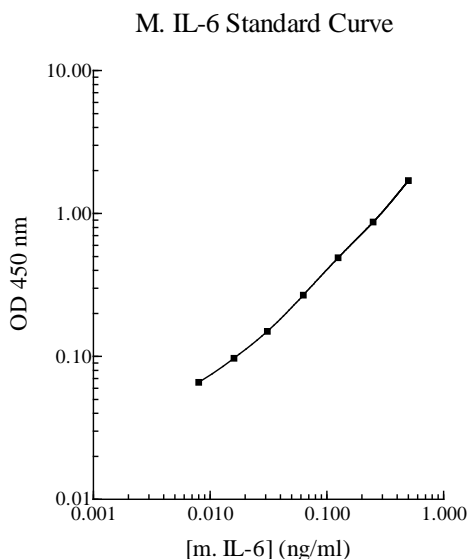
- Add 50  $\mu$ l of Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate per well and incubate for 30 minutes. Turn on the microplate reader and set up the program in advance.
- Wash the microplate as described above.
- Add 50  $\mu$ l of Chromogen Substrate per well and incubate for approximately 15 minutes or till the optimal blue color density develops. Gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing and break the bubbles in the well with pipette tip.
- Add 50  $\mu$ l of Stop Solution to each well. The color will change from blue to yellow.
- Read the absorbance on a microplate reader at a wavelength of 450 nm **immediately**. If wavelength correction is available, subtract readings at 570 nm from those at 450 nm to correct optical imperfections. Otherwise, read the plate at 450 nm only. Please note that some unstable black particles may be generated at high concentration points after stopping the reaction for about 10 minutes, which will reduce the readings.

## Data Analysis

- Calculate the mean value of the duplicate or triplicate readings for each standard and sample.
- To generate a Standard Curve, plot the graph using the standard concentrations on the x-axis and the corresponding mean 450 nm absorbance on the y-axis. The best-fit line can be determined by regression analysis using log-log or four-parameter logistic curve-fit.
- Determine the unknown sample concentration from the Standard Curve and multiply the value by the dilution factor.

## Standard Curve

- The curve is provided for illustration only. A standard curve should be generated each time the assay is performed.



## Performance Characteristics

- The minimum detectable dose of IL-6 is typically  $\sim 8$  pg/ml.
- Intra-assay and inter-assay coefficients of variation were 5.1% and 7.5% respectively.

## Linearity

Sample Dilution	Average Percentage of Expected Value	
	Plasma	Serum
No Dilution	102%	98%
1:2	101%	101%
1:4	99%	98%

## Recovery

Standard Added Value	0.02 – 0.2 ng/ml
Recovery %	85-114 %
Average Recovery %	99.5 %

## Cross-Reactivity

Species	% Cross Reactivity
Beagle	None
Bovine	None
Human	None
Monkey	None
Rat	None
Swine	None

## References

- (1) Dosquet, C. *et al.* (1994) *Eur. J. Cancer* 30A: 162
- (2) Odeh, M. (1997) *Clin. Immunol. Immunopathol.* 83:103
- (3) Feldmann, M. *et al.* (1996) *Annu Rev. Immunol.* 14:397
- (4) Schindler, R. *et al.* (1990) *Blood* 75:40
- (5) Barton, B.E. and Jackson, J.V. (1993) *Infect Immun.* 61:1496

Version 3.4R2