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## Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> ELISA Kit - Monoclonal

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Item No. 514010

[www.caymanchem.com](http://www.caymanchem.com)

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Materials Supplied

Item Number	Item	96 wells Quantity/Size	480 wells Quantity/Size
414013	Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub> Monoclonal Antibody	1 vial/100 dtn	1 vial/500 dtn
414010	Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub> AChE Tracer	1 vial/100 dtn	1 vial/500 dtn
414014	Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub> ELISA Standard	1 vial	1 vial
400060	ELISA Buffer Concentrate (10X)	2 vials/10 ml	4 vials/10 ml
400062	Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X)	1 vial/5 ml	1 vial/12.5 ml
400035	Polysorbate 20	1 vial/3 ml	1 vial/3 ml
400008/400009	Goat Anti-Mouse IgG Coated Plate	1 plate	5 plates
400012	96-Well Cover Sheet	1 cover	5 covers
400050	Ellman's Reagent	3 vials/100 dtn	6 vials/250 dtn
400040	ELISA Tracer Dye	1 vial	1 vial
400042	ELISA Antiserum Dye	1 vial	1 vial

If any of the items listed above are damaged or missing, please contact our Customer Service department at (800) 364-9897 or (734) 971-3335. We cannot accept any returns without prior authorization.



**WARNING:** THIS PRODUCT IS FOR RESEARCH ONLY - NOT FOR HUMAN OR VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC USE.

## Safety Data

This material should be considered hazardous until further information becomes available. Do not ingest, inhale, get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Wash thoroughly after handling. Before use, the user must review the complete Safety Data Sheet, which has been sent *via* email to your institution.

## Precautions

**Please read these instructions carefully before beginning this assay.**

The reagents in this kit have been tested and formulated to work exclusively with Cayman Chemical's Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> ELISA Kit - Monoclonal. This kit may not perform as described if any reagent or procedure is replaced or modified.

When compared to quantification by LC/MS or GC/MS, it is not uncommon for immunoassays to report higher analyte concentrations. While LC/MS or GC/MS analyses typically measure only a single compound, antibodies used in immunoassays sometimes recognize not only the target molecule, but also structurally related molecules, including biologically relevant metabolites. In many cases, measurement of both the parent molecule and metabolites is more representative of the overall biological response than is the measurement of a short-lived parent molecule. It is the responsibility of the researcher to understand the limits of both assay systems and to interpret their data accordingly.

## If You Have Problems

### Technical Service Contact Information

Phone: 888-526-5351 (USA and Canada only) or 734-975-3888

Email: techserv@caymanchem.com

In order for our staff to assist you quickly and efficiently, please be ready to supply the lot number of the kit (found on the outside of the box).

## Storage and Stability

This kit will perform as specified if stored as directed at -20°C and used before the expiration date indicated on the outside of the box.

## Materials Needed But Not Supplied

1. A plate reader capable of measuring absorbance between 405-420 nm.
2. Adjustable pipettes; multichannel or repeating pipettor recommended.
3. A source of 'UltraPure' water. Water used to prepare all ELISA reagents and buffers must be deionized and free of trace organic contaminants ('UltraPure'). Use activated carbon filter cartridges or other organic scavengers. Glass distilled water (even if double distilled), HPLC-grade water, and sterile water (for injections) are not adequate for ELISA. *NOTE: UltraPure water is available for purchase from Cayman (Item No. 400000).*
4. Materials used for **Sample Preparation** (see page 11).

## Background

Prostaglandin  $E_2$  ( $PGE_2$ ) is an eicosanoid formed from arachidonic acid by COX enzymes and  $PGE_2$  synthase (PGES) via  $PGG_2$  and  $PGH_2$  intermediates.<sup>1</sup> It can be produced *de novo* in all cells following cell activation and the release of arachidonic acid from plasma membrane phospholipids or when exogenous free arachidonate is available.<sup>2</sup> It acts in an autocrine or paracrine fashion to bind to its receptors,  $EP_1$ ,  $EP_2$ ,  $EP_3$ , and  $EP_4$ , which have differing tissue distribution and cellular localizations, to initiate signaling through various pathways, including the protein kinase A (PKA),  $\beta$ -catenin, EGF, MAPK, NF- $\kappa$ B, and PI3K/Akt pathways.<sup>1-4</sup> Due to this,  $PGE_2$  is involved in a wide variety of biological processes, including inflammation, fertility and parturition, gastric mucosal integrity and motility, and immune modulation in and outside of cancer.<sup>1,2,4-8</sup>

## About This Assay

Cayman's  $PGE_2$  ELISA Kit - Monoclonal is a competitive assay that can be used for quantification of  $PGE_2$  in urine, plasma, tissue culture supernatants, and other sample matrices. The assay has a range from 7.8-1,000 pg/ml, a sensitivity (80% B/ $B_0$ ) of approximately 13 pg/ml, and a lower limit of detection (LLOD) of 11 pg/ml.

## Principle of This Assay

This assay is based on the competition between  $PGE_2$  and a  $PGE_2$ -acetylcholinesterase (AChE) conjugate ( $PGE_2$  Tracer) for a limited amount of  $PGE_2$  Monoclonal Antibody. Because the concentration of the  $PGE_2$  Tracer is held constant while the concentration of  $PGE_2$  varies, the amount of  $PGE_2$  Tracer that is able to bind to the  $PGE_2$  Monoclonal Antibody will be inversely proportional to the concentration of  $PGE_2$  in the well. This antibody- $PGE_2$  complex binds to goat polyclonal anti-mouse IgG that has been previously attached to the well. The plate is washed to remove any unbound reagents and then Ellman's Reagent (which contains the substrate to AChE) is added to the well. The product of this enzymatic reaction has a distinct yellow color and absorbs strongly at 412 nm. The intensity of this color, determined spectrophotometrically, is proportional to the amount of  $PGE_2$  Tracer bound to the well, which is inversely proportional to the amount of free  $PGE_2$  present in the well during the incubation; or

$$\text{Absorbance} \propto [\text{Bound } PGE_2 \text{ Tracer}] \propto 1/[PGE_2]$$

A schematic of this process is shown in Figure 1, below.

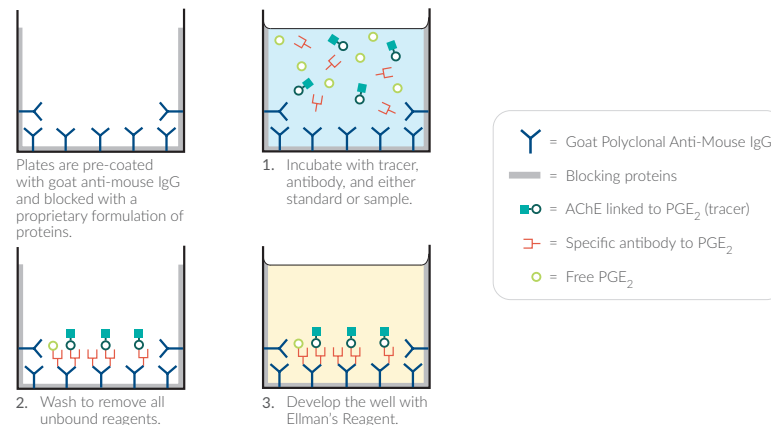


Figure 1. Schematic of the ELISA

## Definition of Key Terms

**Blk (Blank):** background absorbance caused by Ellman's Reagent. The blank absorbance should be subtracted from the absorbance readings of all the other wells, including the non-specific binding (NSB) wells.

**TA (Total Activity):** total enzymatic activity of the AChE-linked tracer.

**NSB (Non-Specific Binding):** non-immunological binding of the tracer to the well. Even in the absence of specific antibody a very small amount of tracer still binds to the well; the NSB is a measure of this low binding.

**B<sub>0</sub> (Maximum Binding):** maximum amount of the tracer that the antibody can bind in the absence of free analyte.

**%B/B<sub>0</sub> (%Bound/Maximum Bound):** ratio of the absorbance of a sample or standard well to the average absorbance of the maximum binding (B<sub>0</sub>) well.

**Standard Curve:** a plot of the %B/B<sub>0</sub> values *versus* concentration of a series of wells containing various known amounts of analyte.

**Dtn (Determination):** one dtn is the amount of reagent used per well.

**Cross Reactivity:** numerical representation of the relative reactivity of this assay towards structurally related molecules as compared to the primary analyte of interest. Biomolecules that possess similar epitopes to the analyte can compete with the assay tracer for binding to the primary antibody. Substances that are superior to the analyte in displacing the tracer result in a cross reactivity that is greater than 100%. Substances that are inferior to the primary analyte in displacing the tracer result in a cross reactivity that is less than 100%. Cross reactivity is calculated by comparing the mid-point (50% B/B<sub>0</sub>) value of the tested molecule to the mid-point (50% B/B<sub>0</sub>) value of the primary analyte when each is measured in assay buffer using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Cross Reactivity} = \left[ \frac{50\% \text{ B/B}_0 \text{ value for the primary analyte}}{50\% \text{ B/B}_0 \text{ value for the potential cross reactant}} \right] \times 100\%$$

**LLOD (Lower Limit of Detection):** the smallest measure that can be detected with reasonable certainty for a given analytical procedure. The LLOD is defined as a concentration two standard deviations higher than the mean zero value.

## Buffer Preparation

Store all diluted buffers at 4°C; they will be stable for approximately two months.

*NOTE: It is normal for the concentrated buffer to contain crystalline salts after thawing. These will completely dissolve upon dilution with ultrapure water.*

### 1. ELISA Buffer Preparation

Dilute the contents of one vial of ELISA Buffer Concentrate (10X) (Item No. 400060) with 90 ml of UltraPure water. Be certain to rinse the vial to remove any salts that may have precipitated. *NOTE: It is normal for the concentrated buffer to contain crystalline salts after thawing. These will completely dissolve upon dilution with water.*

### 2. Wash Buffer Preparation

**5 ml vial Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X) (96-well kit; Item No. 400062):** Dilute to a total volume of 2 liters with UltraPure water and add 1 ml of Polysorbate 20 (Item No. 400035).

OR

**12.5 ml vial Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X) (480-well kit; Item No. 400062):** Dilute to a total volume of 5 liters with UltraPure water and add 2.5 ml of Polysorbate 20 (Item No. 400035).

Smaller volumes of Wash Buffer can be prepared by diluting the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:400 and adding Polysorbate 20 (0.5 ml/liter of Wash Buffer).

*NOTE: Polysorbate 20 is a viscous liquid and cannot be measured by a regular pipette. A positive displacement pipette or a syringe should be used to deliver small quantities accurately.*

## Sample Preparation

This assay has been validated for a wide range of samples including urine, plasma, and tissue culture media (see Figure 2, on page 13). Proper sample storage and preparation are essential for consistent and accurate results. Please read this section thoroughly before beginning the assay.

### General Precautions

- All samples must be free of organic solvents prior to assay.
- Samples should be assayed immediately after collection; samples that cannot be assayed immediately should be stored at -80°C.
- Samples of mouse and rat origin may contain antibodies which interfere with the assay by binding to the goat anti-mouse plate. We recommend that all mouse and rat samples be purified prior to use in this assay.

## Urine

Since interference in urine is infrequent, dilutions of 1:2 and greater show a direct linear correlation between PGE<sub>2</sub> immunoreactivity and PGE<sub>2</sub> concentration. However, the amount of PGE<sub>2</sub> in normal urine is very low in comparison with other potentially immunoreactive metabolites.<sup>2</sup> A more accurate index of PGE<sub>2</sub> biosynthesis and excretion can be obtained using our PGE Metabolite ELISA Kit (Item No. 514531).

## Plasma

Collect blood in vacutainers containing heparin, EDTA, or sodium citrate. Indomethacin should be added immediately after whole blood collection (sufficient to give a 10  $\mu$ M final concentration). Indomethacin will prevent *ex vivo* formation of eicosanoids, which have the potential to interfere with this assay (although most eicosanoids do not appear to exhibit any cross reactivity (see page 30)).

The amount of PGE<sub>2</sub> in normal plasma is very low in comparison with other potentially immunoreactive metabolites.<sup>2</sup> In addition, plasma is a complex matrix that contains many substances that can interfere with this assay and therefore sample purification is recommended. By purifying a large volume of sample (5-10 ml), the PGE<sub>2</sub> content can be concentrated into as little as 0.5 ml of ELISA Buffer. This will bring the PGE<sub>2</sub> concentration into the readable range of the standard curve. A more accurate index of PGE<sub>2</sub> biosynthesis in plasma can be obtained using our PGE Metabolite ELISA Kit (Item No. 514531).

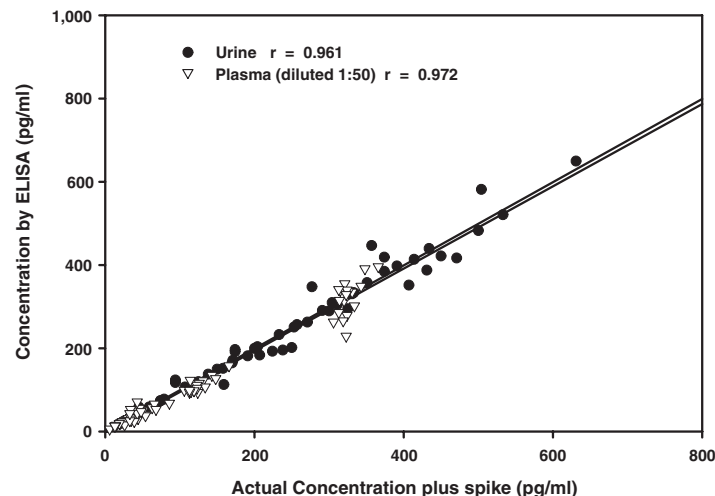


Figure 2. Validation curves for this PGE<sub>2</sub> assay

## Culture Medium Samples

Cell culture supernatants may be assayed directly without purification. If the PGE<sub>2</sub> concentration in the medium is high enough to dilute the sample 10-fold with ELISA Buffer, the assay can be performed without any modifications. When assaying less concentrated samples (where samples cannot be diluted with ELISA Buffer), dilute the standard curve in the same culture medium as that used in the experiment. This will ensure that the matrix for the standards is comparable to the samples. We recommend that a standard curve be run first to ensure that the assay will perform in a particular culture medium.

Tissue Samples

Snap-freeze tissues in liquid nitrogen immediately upon collection and then store at -80°C. Add 5 ml homogenization buffer (0.1 M phosphate, pH 7.4, containing 1 mM EDTA and 10 µM indomethacin) to 1 g of tissue. Homogenize the sample with either a Polytron-type homogenizer or a sonicator. Proceed to the purification section below. Alternatively, frozen samples can be pulverized in the presence of ethanol for extraction of PGE<sub>2</sub>.<sup>4</sup>

Tissue Homogenization using the Precellys 24 Homogenizer

Snap-freeze tissues in liquid nitrogen immediately upon collection and store at -80°C. Add 1 ml homogenization buffer (0.1 M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, containing 1 mM EDTA and 10 µM indomethacin) per 100 mg of tissue. Homogenize the sample with the Precellys 24 using the appropriate settings (see Table 1). Spin the tissue homogenates at 8,000 x g for 10 minutes. Collect supernatant and assay as described below. Samples will need to be diluted appropriately for the assay. Tissue samples should be normalized using a protein assay. Cayman’s Protein Determination Kit (Item No. 704002) may be used to normalize protein samples.

Organ	Speed (rpm)	Cycle Length (seconds)	Beads
Lung	5,200	20	CK28 Large Ceramic (Item No. 10011151)
Brain	5,500	20	CK28 Large Ceramic (Item No. 10011151)
Liver	5,200	15	CK28 Large Ceramic (Item No. 10011151)
Kidney	5,200	20	CK14 Small Ceramic (Item No. 10011152)
Heart	5,200	30	CK14 Small Ceramic (Item No. 10011152)

Table 1. Precellys settings

Testing for Interference

Plasma, serum, as well as other heterogeneous mixtures such as CSF often contain contaminants which can interfere in the assay. It is best to check for interference to evaluate the need for sample purification before embarking on a large number of sample measurements. To test for interference, dilute one or two test samples to obtain at least two different dilutions of each sample between 10 and 250 pg/ml (i.e., between 20-80% B/B<sub>0</sub>). If the two different dilutions of the sample show good correlation (differ by 20% or less) in the final calculated PGE<sub>2</sub> concentration, purification is not required. If you do not see good correlation of the different dilutions, purification is advised.

SPE (C-18) Purification Protocol

The following protocol is a suggestion only. You may choose a different protocol based on your own requirements, sample type, and expertise.

Materials Needed

- 1. 1 M acetate buffer, deionized water, ethanol, methanol, and ethyl acetate
- 2. 500 mg SPE Cartridges (C-18) (Item No. 400020)



### SPE (C18) Purification Protocol

1. Aliquot a known amount of each sample into a clean test tube (500  $\mu$ l is recommended). If your samples need to be concentrated, a larger volume should be used (e.g., a 5 ml sample will be concentrated by a factor of 10, a 10 ml sample will be concentrated by a factor of 20, etc.).
2. *Precipitation of proteins using ethanol is optional and may not be needed if samples are clean enough to flow through the SPE Cartridge (C-18). Body fluids such as plasma and urine can typically be applied directly to the SPE Cartridge (C-18) after the acidification step (step 4) below.* To precipitate proteins, add ethanol (approximately four times the sample volume) to each tube. Vortex to mix thoroughly. Incubate samples at 4°C for five minutes, then centrifuge a 3,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove precipitated proteins. Transfer the supernatant to a clean test tube. Evaporate the ethanol under nitrogen.
3. Acidify the sample to ~pH 4.0 by the addition of 1 M acetate buffer (or citrate buffer). (Standardize the pH adjustment using the sample matrix prior to proceeding with a large number of samples). If the samples are cloudy or contain precipitate, either filter or centrifuge to remove the precipitate. Particulate matter in the sample may clog the SPE Cartridge (C-18).
4. Prepare SPE (C-18) columns by rinsing with 5 ml methanol followed by 5 ml deionized water. Do not allow the SPE Cartridge (C-18) to dry.
5. Apply the sample to the SPE Cartridge (C-18) and allow the sample to completely enter the packing material.
6. Wash the column with 5 ml deionized water. Discard the wash.
7. Elute the PGE<sub>2</sub> from the column with 5 ml ethyl acetate containing 1% methanol. Higher recovery and better reproducibility may be obtained if the sample is applied and eluted by gravity. The wash steps may be performed under vacuum or pressure.
8. Evaporate the ethyl acetate to dryness under a stream of nitrogen. It is very important that all of the organic solvent be removed as even small quantities will adversely affect the ELISA.
9. To resuspend the sample, add 500  $\mu$ l ELISA Buffer. Vortex. It is common for insoluble precipitate to remain in the sample after addition of ELISA Buffer; this will not affect the assay. This sample is now ready for use in the ELISA.
10. Use 50  $\mu$ l of the resuspended sample for scintillation counting.

## ASSAY PROTOCOL

### Preparation of Assay-Specific Reagents

#### Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> ELISA Standard

Reconstitute the contents of the PGE<sub>2</sub> ELISA Standard (Item No. 414014) with 1.0 ml of ELISA Buffer. The concentration of this solution (the bulk standard) will be 10 ng/ml. Stored at 4°C; this standard will be stable for up to 4 weeks.

*NOTE: If assaying culture medium samples that have not been diluted with ELISA Buffer, culture medium should be used in place of ELISA Buffer for dilution of the standard curve.*

To prepare the standard for use in ELISA: Obtain eight clean test tubes and number them #1 through #8. Aliquot 900 µl ELISA Buffer to tube #1 and 500 µl ELISA Buffer to tubes #2-8. Transfer 100 µl of the bulk standard (10 ng/ml) to tube #1 and mix thoroughly. The concentration of this standard, the first point on the standard curve, will be 1 ng/ml (1,000 pg/ml). Serially dilute the standard by removing 500 µl from tube #1 and placing in tube #2; mix thoroughly. Next, remove 500 µl from tube #2 and place it into tube #3; mix thoroughly. Repeat this process for tubes #4-8. These diluted standards should not be stored for more than 24 hours.

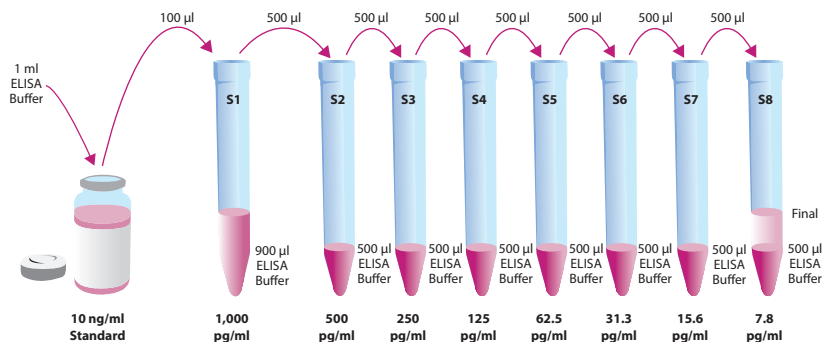


Figure 3. Preparation of the PGE<sub>2</sub> standards

#### Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> AChE Tracer

Reconstitute the PGE<sub>2</sub> AChE Tracer as follows:

**100 dtn PGE<sub>2</sub> AChE Tracer (96-well kit; Item No. 414010):** Reconstitute with 6 ml ELISA Buffer.

OR

**500 dtn PGE<sub>2</sub> AChE Tracer (480-well kit; Item No. 414010):** Reconstitute with 30 ml ELISA Buffer.

Store the reconstituted PGE<sub>2</sub> AChE Tracer at 4°C (*do not freeze!*) and use within four weeks. A 20% surplus of tracer has been included to account for any incidental losses.

#### Tracer Dye Instructions (optional)

This dye may be added to the tracer, if desired, to aid in visualization of tracer-containing wells. Add the dye to the reconstituted tracer at a final dilution of 1:100 (add 60 µl of dye to 6 ml tracer or add 300 µl of dye to 30 ml of tracer).

#### Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> Monoclonal Antibody

Reconstitute the PGE<sub>2</sub> Monoclonal Antibody as follows:

**100 dtn PGE<sub>2</sub> Monoclonal Antibody (96-well kit; Item No. 414013):** Reconstitute with 6 ml ELISA Buffer.

OR

**500 dtn PGE<sub>2</sub> Monoclonal Antibody (480-well kit; Item No. 414013):** Reconstitute with 30 ml ELISA Buffer.

Store the reconstituted PGE<sub>2</sub> Monoclonal Antibody at 4°C. It will be stable for at least four weeks. A 20% surplus of antibody has been included to account for any incidental losses.

#### Antiserum Dye Instructions (optional)

This dye may be added to the antibody, if desired, to aid in visualization of antibody-containing wells. Add the dye to the reconstituted antibody at a final dilution of 1:100 (add 60 µl of dye to 6 ml antibody or add 300 µl of dye to 30 ml of antibody).

## Plate Set Up

The 96-well plate(s) included with this kit is supplied ready to use. It is not necessary to rinse the plate(s) prior to adding the reagents. *NOTE: If you do not need to use all the strips at once, place the unused strips back in the plate packet and store at 4°C. Be sure the packet is sealed with the desiccant inside.*

Each plate or set of strips must contain a minimum of two blanks (Blk), two non-specific binding wells (NSB), two maximum binding wells ( $B_0$ ), and an eight point standard curve run in duplicate. *NOTE: Each assay must contain this minimum configuration in order to ensure accurate and reproducible results.* Each sample should be assayed at two dilutions and each dilution should be assayed in duplicate. For statistical purposes, we recommend assaying samples in triplicate.

A suggested plate format is shown in Figure 4, below. The user may vary the location and type of wells present as necessary for each particular experiment. The plate format provided below has been designed to allow for easy data analysis using a convenient spreadsheet offered by Cayman (see page 25, for more details). We suggest you record the contents of each well on the template sheet provided (see page 33).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	Blk	S1	S1	1	1	1	9	9	9	17	17	17
B	Blk	S2	S2	2	2	2	10	10	10	18	18	18
C	NSB	S3	S3	3	3	3	11	11	11	19	19	19
D	NSB	S4	S4	4	4	4	12	12	12	20	20	20
E	$B_0$	S5	S5	5	5	5	13	13	13	21	21	21
F	$B_0$	S6	S6	6	6	6	14	14	14	22	22	22
G	$B_0$	S7	S7	7	7	7	15	15	15	23	23	23
H	TA	S8	S8	8	8	8	16	16	16	24	24	24

Blk - Blank  
 TA - Total Activity  
 NSB - Non-Specific Binding  
 $B_0$  - Maximum Binding  
 S1-S8 - Standards 1-8  
 1-24 - Samples

Figure 4. Sample plate format

## Performing the Assay

### Pipetting Hints

- Use different tips to pipette each reagent.
- Before pipetting each reagent, equilibrate the pipette tip in that reagent (i.e., slowly fill the tip and gently expel the contents, repeat several times).
- Do not expose the pipette tip to the reagent(s) already in the well.

### Addition of the Reagents

#### 1. ELISA Buffer

Add 100  $\mu$ l ELISA Buffer to NSB wells. Add 50  $\mu$ l ELISA Buffer to  $B_0$  wells. If culture medium was used to dilute the standard curve, substitute 50  $\mu$ l of culture medium for ELISA Buffer in the NSB and  $B_0$  wells (i.e., add 50  $\mu$ l culture medium to NSB and  $B_0$  wells and 50  $\mu$ l ELISA Buffer to NSB wells).

#### 2. Prostaglandin $E_2$ ELISA Standard

Add 50  $\mu$ l from tube #8 to both of the lowest standard wells (S8). Add 50  $\mu$ l from tube #7 to each of the next two standard wells (S7). Continue with this procedure until all the standards are aliquoted. The same pipette tip should be used to aliquot all the standards. Before pipetting each standard, be sure to equilibrate the pipette tip in that standard.

#### 3. Samples

Add 50  $\mu$ l of sample per well. Each sample should be assayed at a minimum of two dilutions. Each dilution should be assayed in duplicate (triplicate recommended).

#### 4. Prostaglandin $E_2$ AChE Tracer

Add 50  $\mu$ l to each well *except* the TA and the Blk wells.

#### 5. Prostaglandin $E_2$ Monoclonal Antibody

Add 50  $\mu$ l to each well *except* the TA, the NSB, and the Blk wells.

Well	ELISA Buffer	Standard/Sample	Tracer	Antibody
Blk	-	-	-	-
TA	-	-	5 µl (at devl. step)	-
NSB	100 µl	-	50 µl	-
B <sub>0</sub>	50 µl	-	50 µl	50 µl
Std/Sample	-	50 µl	50 µl	50 µl

**Table 2. Pipetting summary**

### Incubation of the Plate

Cover each plate with plastic film (Item No. 400012) and incubate 18 hours at 4°C.

### Development of the Plate

1. Reconstitute Ellman's Reagent immediately before use (20 ml of reagent is sufficient to develop 100 wells):

**100 dtn vial Ellman's Reagent (96-well kit; Item No. 400050):** Reconstitute with 20 ml of UltraPure water.

OR

**250 dtn vial Ellman's Reagent (480-well kit; Item No. 400050):** Reconstitute with 50 ml of UltraPure water.

*NOTE: Reconstituted Ellman's Reagent is unstable and should be used the same day it is prepared; protect the Ellman's Reagent from light when not in use. Extra vials of the reagent have been provided should a plate need to be re-developed or multiple assays run on different days.*

2. Empty the wells and rinse five times with Wash Buffer.
3. Add 200 µl of Ellman's Reagent to each well.
4. Add 5 µl of tracer to the TA wells.
5. Cover the plate with plastic film. Optimum development is obtained by using an orbital shaker equipped with a large, flat cover to allow the plate(s) to develop in the dark. This assay typically develops (*i.e.*, B<sub>0</sub> wells ≥0.3 A.U. (blank subtracted)) in 60-90 minutes.

## Reading the Plate

1. Wipe the bottom of the plate with a clean tissue to remove fingerprints, dirt, etc.
2. Remove the plate cover being careful to keep Ellman's Reagent from splashing on the cover. *NOTE: Any loss of Ellman's Reagent will affect the absorbance readings. If Ellman's Reagent is present on the cover, use a pipette to transfer the Ellman's Reagent into the well. If too much Ellman's Reagent has splashed on the cover to easily redistribute back into the wells, wash the plate three times with wash buffer and repeat the development with fresh Ellman's Reagent.*
3. Read the plate at a wavelength between 405 and 420 nm. The absorbance may be checked periodically until the  $B_0$  wells have reached a minimum of 0.3 A.U. (blank subtracted). The plate should be read when the absorbance of the  $B_0$  wells are in the range of 0.3-2.0 A.U. (blank subtracted). If the absorbance of the wells exceeds 2.0, wash the plate, add fresh Ellman's Reagent and let it develop again.

## ANALYSIS

Many plate readers come with data reduction software that plot data automatically. Alternatively a spreadsheet program can be used. The data should be plotted as either  $\%B/B_0$  versus log concentration using a four-parameter logistic fit or as logit  $B/B_0$  versus log concentration using a linear fit. *NOTE: Cayman has a computer spreadsheet available for data analysis. Please contact Technical Service or visit our website ([www.caymanchem.com/analysis/elisa](http://www.caymanchem.com/analysis/elisa)) to obtain a free copy of this convenient data analysis tool.*

## Calculations

### Preparation of the Data

The following procedure is recommended for preparation of the data prior to graphical analysis.

*NOTE: If the plate reader has not subtracted the absorbance readings of the blank wells from the absorbance readings of the rest of the plate, be sure to do that now.*

1. Average the absorbance readings from the NSB wells.
2. Average the absorbance readings from the  $B_0$  wells.
3. Subtract the NSB average from the  $B_0$  average. This is the corrected  $B_0$  or corrected maximum binding.
4. Calculate the  $B/B_0$  (Sample or Standard Bound/Maximum Bound) for the remaining wells. To do this, subtract the average NSB absorbance from the S1 absorbance and divide by the corrected  $B_0$  (from Step 3). Repeat for S2-S8 and all sample wells. (To obtain  $\%B/B_0$  for a logistic four-parameter fit, multiply these values by 100.)

*NOTE: The TA values are not used in the standard curve calculations. Rather, they are used as a diagnostic tool. Low or no absorbance from a TA well could indicate a dysfunction in the enzyme-substrate system.*

Plot the Standard Curve

Plot %B/B<sub>0</sub> for standards S1-S8 *versus* PGE<sub>2</sub> concentration using linear (y) and log (x) axes and perform a 4-parameter logistic fit.

Alternative Plot - The data can also be linerized using a logit transformation. The equation for this conversion is shown below. *NOTE: Do not use %B/B<sub>0</sub> in this calculation.*

$$\text{logit (B/B}_0\text{)} = \ln \text{ [B/B}_0\text{/(1 - B/B}_0\text{)]}$$

Plot the data as logit (B/B<sub>0</sub>) *versus* log concentrations and perform a linear regression fit.

Determine the Sample Concentration

Calculate the B/B<sub>0</sub> (or %B/B<sub>0</sub>) value for each sample. Determine the concentration of each sample using the equation obtained from the standard curve plot. *NOTE: Remember to account for any concentration or dilution of the sample prior to the addition to the well.* Samples with %B/B<sub>0</sub> values greater than 80% or less than 20% should be re-assayed as they generally fall out of the linear range of the standard curve. A 20% or greater disparity between the apparent concentration of two different dilutions of the same sample indicates interference which could be eliminated by purification.

Performance Characteristics

Sample Data

The standard curve presented here is an example of the data typically produced with this kit; however, your results will not be identical to these. You must run a new standard curve. Do not use the data below to determine the values of your samples. Your results could differ substantially.

	Raw Data		Average	Corrected		
Total Activity	0.689	0.692	0.691			
NSB	0.004	0.002	0.003			
B <sub>0</sub>	0.871	0.830				
	0.856	0.821	0.845	0.842		

Dose (pg/ml)	Raw Data		Corrected		%B/B <sub>0</sub>	
1,000	0.021	0.017	0.018	0.014	2.1	1.7
500	0.058	0.060	0.055	0.057	6.5	6.8
250	0.106	0.107	0.103	0.104	12.2	12.4
125	0.207	0.210	0.204	0.207	24.2	24.6
62.5	0.358	0.342	0.355	0.339	42.2	40.3
31.3	0.541	0.521	0.538	0.518	63.9	61.5
15.6	0.691	0.656	0.688	0.653	81.7	77.6
7.8	0.793	0.767	0.790	0.764	93.8	90.7

Table 3. Typical results

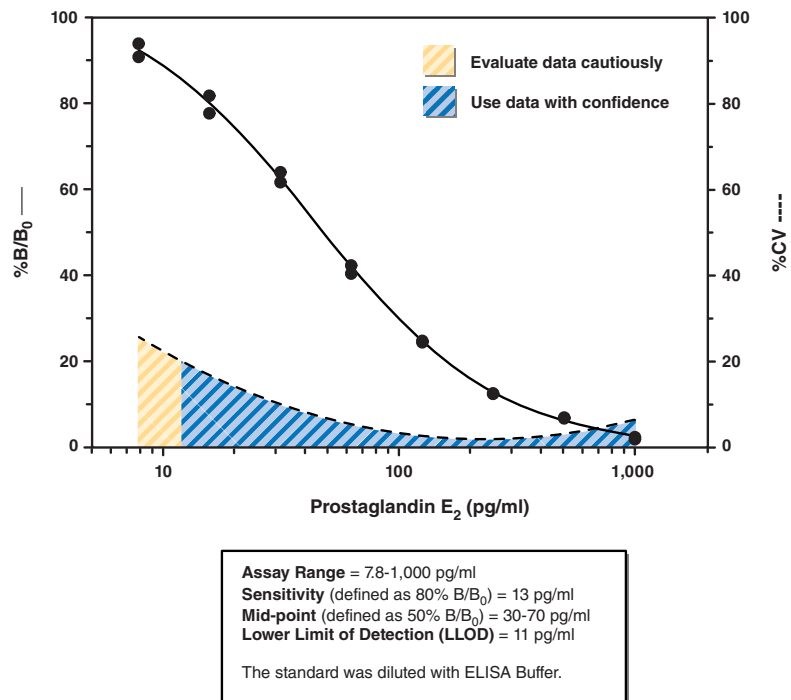


Figure 5. Typical standard curve

### Precision:

The intra- and inter-assay CVs have been determined at multiple points on the standard curve.

Dose (pg/ml)	%CV* Intra-assay variation	%CV* Inter-assay variation
1,000	4.2	12.4
500	3.9	6.4
250	3.8	7.8
125	3.7	11.6
62.5	6.6	15.5
31.3	7.8	15.0
15.6	10.1	20.9
7.8	30.4	35.0

Table 4. Intra- and inter-assay variation

\*%CV represents the variation in concentration (not absorbance) as determined using a reference standard curve.

## Cross Reactivity:

Compound	Cross Reactivity	Compound	Cross Reactivity
Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	100%	tetranor-PGEM	<0.01%
Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub> Ethanolamide	100%	tetranor-PGFM	<0.01%
Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub> -1-glyceryl ester	100%	Prostaglandin A <sub>1</sub>	<0.01%
Prostaglandin E <sub>3</sub>	43%	8-iso Prostaglandin A <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
Prostaglandin E <sub>1</sub>	18.7%	Prostaglandin A <sub>3</sub>	<0.01%
8-iso Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	2.5%	Prostaglandin B <sub>1</sub>	<0.01%
Sulprostone	1.25%	Prostaglandin B <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
6-keto Prostaglandin F <sub>1α</sub>	1%	Prostaglandin D <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
8-iso Prostaglandin F <sub>2α</sub>	0.25%	11-deoxy Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
Prostaglandin A <sub>2</sub>	0.04%	16,16-dimethyl Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
13,14-dihydro-15-keto Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	0.02%	19(R)-hydroxy Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
Arachidonic Acid	<0.01%	20-hydroxy Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
Arachidonoyl Ethanolamide	<0.01%	15-keto Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
O-Arachidonoyl Ethanolamide	<0.01%	Prostaglandin F <sub>1α</sub>	<0.01%
Butaprost	<0.01%	Prostaglandin F <sub>2α</sub>	<0.01%
Conjugated Linoleic Acid (10E,12Z)	<0.01%	13,14-dihydro-15-keto Prostaglandin F <sub>2α</sub>	<0.01%
8(S),15(S)-DiHETE	<0.01%	Prostaglandin F <sub>3α</sub>	<0.01%
Leukotriene B <sub>4</sub>	<0.01%	Prostaglandin J <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
Misoprostol	<0.01%	15-deoxy-Δ <sup>12,14</sup> -Prostaglandin J <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%
Misoprostol (free acid)	<0.01%	Thromboxane B <sub>2</sub>	<0.01%

Table 5. Cross Reactivity of the PGE<sub>2</sub> ELISA

## RESOURCES

### Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Causes	Recommended Solutions
Erratic values; dispersion of duplicates	A. Trace organic contaminants in the water source B. Poor pipetting/technique	A. Replace activated carbon filter or change source of UltraPure water
High NSB (>10% of B <sub>0</sub> )	A. Poor washing B. Exposure of NSB wells to specific antibody	A. Rewash plate and redevelop
Very low B <sub>0</sub>	A. Trace organic contaminants in the water source B. Plate requires additional development time C. Dilution error in preparing reagents	A. Replace activated carbon filter or change source of UltraPure water B. Return plate to shaker and re-read later
Low sensitivity (shift in dose response curve)	Standard is degraded	Replace standard
Analyses of two dilutions of a biological sample do not agree (i.e., more than 20% difference)	Interfering substances are present	Purify sample prior to analysis by ELISA <sup>9</sup>
Only Total Activity (TA) wells develop	Trace organic contaminants in the water source	Replace activated carbon filter or change source of UltraPure water



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