

Oct4 Transcription Factor Assay Kit

Item No. 601080

www.caymanchem.com

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Materials Supplied

Kit components may be stored at -20°C prior to use. For long term storage, the Positive Control should be thawed on ice, aliquoted at 25 μ l/vial, and stored at -80°C. After opening the kit, we recommend each kit component be stored according to the temperature listed below.

Item Number	Item	Quantity/Size	Storage
10006880	Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (4X)	1 vial/3 ml	4°C
10007472	Transcription Factor Reagent A	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
601081	Transcription Factor Oct4 Positive Control	1 vial/ 150 μl	-80°C
10006882	Transcription Factor Antibody Binding Buffer (10X)	1 vial/3 ml	4°C
601082	Transcription Factor Oct4 Primary Antibody	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
400062	Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X)	1 vial/5 ml	RT
400035	Polysorbate 20	1 vial/3 ml	RT
601083	Transcription Factor Oct4 Competitor dsDNA	1 vial/ 120 μl	-20°C
10006884	Transcription Factor Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
601084	Transcription Factor Oct4 96-Well Strip Plate	1 plate	4°C
400012	96-Well Cover Sheet	1 cover	RT
10006888	Transcription Factor Developing Solution	1 vial/12 ml	4°C
10006889	Transcription Factor Stop Solution	1 vial/12 ml	RT

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 <u>must</u> review the <u>complete</u> Safety Data Sheet, which has been sent *via* email to your institution.

Precautions

Please read these instructions carefully before beginning this assay.

Kit components may be stored at -20°C prior to use. For long term storage, the Positive Control should be thawed on ice, aliquoted at 25 μ l/vial and stored at -80°C. If the assay will be used on multiple days, we recommend each kit component be stored according to the temperatures listed in the booklet.

If You Have Problems

Technical Service Contact Information

Phone:	888-526-5351 (USA and Canada only) or 734-975-3888
Fax:	734-971-3641
E-Mail:	techserv@caymanchem.com
Hours:	M-F 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM EST

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 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 at 450 nm
- 2. Adjustable pipettes and a repeating pipettor
- 3. A source of UltraPure water; glass Milli-Q or HPLC-grade water is acceptable
- 4. 300 mM Dithiothreitol (DTT)
- 5. Nuclear Extraction Kit available from Cayman (Item No. 10009277) or buffers for preparation of nuclear extracts (see pages 9-11)

NOTE: The components in each kit lot have been quality assured and warranted in this specific combination only; please do not mix them with components from other lots.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Octamer-binding transcription factor 4 (Oct4) is an essential regulator of embryonic stem cell pluripotency. The protein is predominantly expressed in undifferentiated embryonic stem cells; thus, it is used as a marker for undifferentiated cells.^{1,2} In fact, Oct4 is one of the four factors (Oct4, Sox2, cMyc, and Klf4) that, once engineered into adult cells, can reactivate embryonic stem cell-specific genes and convert the cells to pluripotent stem cells. Together with Sry-box containing gene 2 (Sox2), Oct4 plays a central role in a highly-regulated network involved in gene expression, DNA repair and/or replication, and signal transduction.³ Evidence shows that Oct4 is also expressed in adult stem cells which can be converted to cancer stem cells under pathological conditions.⁴

Since its discovery more than a decade ago, significant progress has been made in elucidating the characteristics and functions of Oct4. However, many fundamental questions remained unanswered. Its ability to help induce pluripotent stem cells and its possible roles in tumorigenesis makes Oct4 a potential drug target in stem cell therapy and cancer.

About This Assay

Cayman's Oct4 Transcription Factor Assay is a non-radioactive, sensitive method for detecting specific transcription factor-DNA binding activity in nuclear extracts. A 96-well enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) replaces the cumbersome radioactive electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA). A specific double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) sequence containing the Oct4 response element is immobilized onto the wells of a 96-well plate (see Figure 1 on page 8). Oct4, contained in a nuclear extract, binds specifically to the Oct4 response element. Oct4 is detected by the addition of a specific primary antibody directed against Oct4. A secondary antibody conjugated to HRP is added to provide a sensitive colorimetric readout at 450 nm.

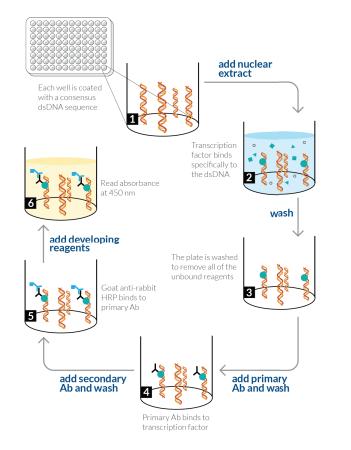


Figure 1. Schematic of the Transcription Factor Binding Assay

PRE-ASSAY PREPARATION

Sample Buffer Preparation

All buffers and reagents below are required for preparation of Nuclear Extracts and can be purchased directly from Cayman. Alternatively, Cayman's Nuclear Extraction Kit (Item No. 10009277) can be used to isolate Nuclear Proteins.

1. Nuclear Extraction PBS (10X)

1.71 M NaCl, 33.53 mM KCl, 126.8 mM $\rm Na_2HPO_4,$ 22.04 mM $\rm KH_2PO_4,$ pH 7.4

2. Nuclear Extraction PBS (1X)

Dilute 100 ml of 10X stock with 900 ml distilled H_2O .

Nuclear Extraction Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail (50X)
 0.5 M NaF
 0.05 M β-glycerophosphate

0.05 M Na₃OV₄

Store at -80°C.

4. Nuclear Extraction PBS/Phosphatase Inhibitor Solution (1X)

Add 200 μl of 50X Phosphatase Inhibitor Solution to 10 ml of 1X Nuclear Extraction PBS, mix well, and keep on ice. Make fresh daily.

5. Nuclear Extraction Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (100X)

10 mM AEBSF

0.5 mM Bestatin

0.2 mM Leupeptin Hemisulfate Salt

0.15 mM E-64

0.1 mM Pepstatin A

0.008 mM Aprotinin from Bovine Lung

Made in DMSO, store at -20°C.

6. Nuclear Extraction Hypotonic Buffer (10X)

100 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, containing 40 mM NaF, 100 μM $Na_2 MoO_4,$ and 1 mM EDTA

Store at 4°C.

7. Complete Hypotonic Buffer (1X)

Prepare as outlined in Table 1. The phosphatase and protease inhibitors lose activity shortly after dilution; therefore any unused 1X Complete Hypotonic Buffer should be discarded.

Reagent	150 mm plate ~1.5 x 10 ⁷ cells
Hypotonic Buffer (10X)	100 μl
Phosphatase Inhibitors (50X)	20 µl
Protease Inhibitors (100X)	10 µl
Distilled Water	870 μl
Total Volume	1,000 µl

Table 1. Preparation of Complete Hypotonic Buffer

8. Nonidet P-40 Assay Reagent (10%)

Nonidet P-40 or suitable substitute at a concentration of 10% (v/v) in $\rm H_2O$ Store at room temperature.

9. Nuclear Extraction Buffer (2X)

20 mM HEPES, pH 7.9, containing, 0.2 mM EDTA, 3 mM ${\rm MgCl}_2$, 840 mM NaCl, and 20% glycerol (v/v)

Store at 4°C.

10. Complete Nuclear Extraction Buffer (1X)

Prepare as outlined in Table 2. Some of the phosphatase and protease inhibitors lose activity shortly after dilution; therefore any remaining 1X Extraction Buffer should be discarded.

Reagent	150 mm plate ~1.5 x 10 ⁷ cells
Nuclear Extraction Buffer (2X)	75 μl
Protease Inhibitors (100X)	1.5 μl
Phosphatase Inhibitors (50X)	3.0 μl
DTT (10 mM)	15 μl
Distilled Water	55.5 μl
Total Volume	150 μl

Table 2. Preparation of Complete Nuclear Extraction Buffer

Purification of Cellular Nuclear Extracts

Cayman's Nuclear Extraction Kit (Item No. 10009277) can be used to isolate nuclear proteins. Alternatively, the procedure described below can be used for a 15 ml cell suspension grown in a T75 flask or adherent cells (100 mm dish 80-90% confluent) where 10^7 cells yields approximately 50 µg of nuclear protein.

- 1. Collect $\sim 10^7$ cells in pre-chilled 15 ml tubes.
- 2. Centrifuge suspended cells at 300 x g for five minutes at 4°C.
- 3. Discard the supernatant. Resuspend cell pellet in 5 ml of ice-cold Nuclear Extraction PBS/Phosphatase Inhibitor Solution and centrifuge at 300 x g for five minutes at 4°C. Repeat one time.
- 4. Discard the supernatant. Add 500 μ l ice-cold 1X Complete Hypotonic Buffer. Mix gently by pipetting and transfer resuspended pellet to a pre-chilled 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube.
- 5. Incubate cells on ice for 15 minutes allowing cells to swell.
- 6. Add 100 μl of 10% Nonidet P-40 (or suitable substitute). Mix gently by pipetting.
- 7. Centrifuge for 30 seconds (pulse spin) at 4°C in a microcentrifuge. Transfer the supernatant which contains the cytosolic fraction to a new tube and store at -80°C.
- Resuspend the pellet in 50 μl ice-cold Complete Nuclear Extraction Buffer (1X) (with protease and phosphatase inhibitors). Vortex 15 seconds at highest setting then gently rock the tube on ice for 15 minutes using a shaking platform. Vortex sample for 30 seconds at highest setting and gently rock for an additional 15 minutes.
- 9. Centrifuge at 14,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant contains the nuclear fraction. Aliquot to clean chilled tubes, flash freeze, and store at -80°C. Avoid freeze/thaw cycles. The extracts are ready to use in the assay.
- 10. Keep a small aliquot of the nuclear extract to quantitate the protein concentration.

Reagent Preparation

1. Transcription Factor Antibody Binding Buffer (10X)

One vial (Item No. 10006882) contains 3 ml of a 10X stock of Transcription Factor Antibody Binding Buffer (ABB) to be used for diluting the primary and secondary antibodies. To prepare a 1X ABB, dilute 1:10 by adding 27 ml of UltraPure water. Store at 4°C for up to six months.

2. Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X)

One vial (Item No. 400062) contains 5 ml of 400X Wash Buffer. Dilute the contents of the vial to a total volume of 2 liters with UltraPure water and add 1 ml of Polysorbate 20 (Item No. 400035). NOTE: Polysorbate 20 is a viscous liquid and cannot be measured by a pipette. A positive displacement device such as a syringe should be used to deliver small quantities accurately. A smaller volume of Wash Buffer Concentrate can be prepared by diluting the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:400 and adding Polysorbate 20 (0.5 ml/liter of Wash Buffer). Store at 4°C for up to two months.

3. Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (4X)

One vial (Item No. 10006880) contains 3 ml of a 4X stock of Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (TFB). Prepare Complete TFB Assay Buffer (CTFB) immediately prior to use in 1.5 ml centrifuge tubes or 15 ml conical tubes as outlined below in Table 3. This buffer is now referred to as CTFB. It is recommended that the CTFB be used the same day it is prepared.

Component	Volume/ Well	Volume/ Strip	Volume/ 96-well plate
UltraPure Water	73 µl	584 µl	7,008 μl
4X Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer	25 μl	200 µl	2,400 μl
Reagent A (Item No. 10007472)	1 µl	8 µl	96 μl
300 mM DTT	1 µl	8 µl	96 μl
Total Required	100 µl	800 μl	9,600 μl

Table 3. Preparation of Complete Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer

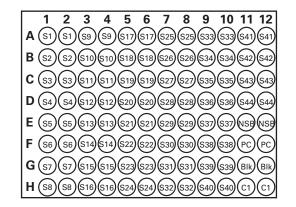
4. Transcription Factor Oct4 Positive Control

One vial (Item No. 601081) contains 150 μ l of nuclear extract of untreated P19 cells. This nuclear extract solution is provided as a positive control for Oct4 activation; it is not intended for plate to plate comparisons. The protein solution provided is sufficient for 15 reactions and will provide a strong signal (>0.5 AU at 450 nm) when used at 10 μ l/well. When using this control, a decrease in signal may occur with repeated freeze/thaw cycles. It is recommended that the nuclear extract be aliquoted at 25 μ l per vial and stored at -80°C to avoid loss in signal from repeated freeze/thaw cycles.

ASSAY PROTOCOL

Plate Set Up

There is no specific pattern for using the wells on the plate. A typical layout of Oct4 Positive Control (PC), Competitor dsDNA (C1), and samples of nuclear extracts (S1-S44) to be measured in duplicate is given below in Figure 2. We suggest you record the contents of each well on the template sheet provided (see page 26).



S1-S44 - Sample Wells NSB - Non-specific Binding Wells PC - Positive Control Wells Blk - Blank Wells C1 - Competitor dsDNA Wells

Figure 2. Sample plate format

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.

General Information

- It is not necessary to use all the wells on the plate at one time; however a Positive Control should be run every time.
- For each plate or set of strips it is recommended that two Blk, two NSB, and two PC wells be included.

Performing the Assay

Binding of active Oct4 to the consensus sequence

1. Equilibrate the plate and buffers to room temperature prior to opening. Remove the plate from the foil and select the number of strips needed. The 96-well plate supplied with this kit is ready to use.

NOTE: If you are not using all of the strips at once, place the unused strips back in the plate packet and store at 2-4 °C. Be sure that the packet is sealed with the desiccant inside.

2. Prepare the CTFB as outlined in Table 3, on page 14.

3. Add appropriate amount of reagent(s) listed below to the designated wells as follows:

Blk - add 100 μ l of CTFB to designated wells.

 \mbox{NSB} - add 100 μl of CTFB to designated wells. Do not add samples or Positive Control to these wells.

C1 - Add 80 μl of CTFB prior to adding 10 μl of Transcription Factor Oct4 Competitor dsDNA (Item No. 601083) to designated wells. Add 10 μl of control cell lysate or sample.

NOTE: Competitor dsDNA must be added prior to adding the positive control or nuclear extracts.

S1-S44 - Add 90 μ l of CTFB followed by 10 μ l of Nuclear Extract to designated wells. A protocol for isolation of nuclear extracts is given on page 12.

PC - Add 90 μl of CTFB followed by 10 μl of Positive Control to appropriate wells.

- 4. Use the cover provided to seal the plate. Incubate overnight at 4°C or one hour at room temperature without agitation (incubation for one hour will result in a less sensitive assay).
- 5. Empty the wells and wash five times with 200 μ l of 1X Wash Buffer. After each wash empty the wells in the sink. After the final wash (wash #5), tap the plate on a paper towel to remove any residual Wash Buffer.

Addition of Transcription Factor Oct4 Primary Antibody

 Dilute the Transcription Factor Oct4 Primary Antibody (Item No. 601082) 1:100 in 1X ABB as outlined in Table 4 below. Add 100 μl of diluted Oct4 Primary Antibody to each well except the Blk wells.

Component	Volume/ Well	Volume/ Strip	Volume/ 96-well plate
1X ABB	99 µl	792 μl	9,504 μl
Oct4 Primary Antibody	1 µl	8 µl	96 μl
Total required	100 µl	800 μl	9,600 μl

Table 4. Dilution of Primary Antibody

- 2. Use the adhesive cover provided to seal the plate.
- 3. Incubate the plate for one hour at room temperature without agitation.
- 4. Empty the wells and wash each well five times with 200 μl of 1X Wash Buffer. After each wash, empty the contents of the plate into the sink. After the final wash (wash #5), tap the plate three to five times on a paper towel to remove any residual Wash Buffer.

Addition of the Transcription Factor Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate

1. Dilute the Transcription Factor Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate (Item No. 10006884) 1:100 in 1X ABB as outlined in Table 5 below. Add 100 μ l of diluted secondary antibody to each well except the Blk wells.

Component	Volume/ Well	Volume/ Strip	Volume/ 96-well plate
1X ABB	99 µl	792 μl	9,504 μl
Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate	1 µl	8 µl	96 μl
Total required	100 µl	800 µl	9,600 μl

Table 5. Dilution of Secondary Antibody

- 2. Use the adhesive cover provided to seal the plate.
- 3. Incubate for one hour at room temperature without agitation.
- 4. Empty the wells and wash five times with 200 μ l of 1X Wash Buffer. After each wash, empty the contents of the plate into the sink. After the final wash (wash #5), tap the plate three to five times on a paper towel to remove any residual Wash Buffer.

Develop and Read the Plate

- 1. To each well being used add 100 μl of Transcription Factor Developing Solution (Item No. 10006888), which has been equilibrated to room temperature.
- 2. Incubate the plate for 15 to 45 minutes at room temperature with gentle agitation protected from light. Allow the wells to turn medium to dark blue prior to adding Transcription Factor Stop Solution (Item No. 10006889). (This reaction can be monitored by taking absorbance measurements at 655 nm prior to stopping the reactions; An OD_{655} of 0.4-0.5 yields an OD_{450} of approximately 1). Monitor development of sample wells to ensure adequate color development prior to stopping the reaction. NOTE: Do not overdevelop; however PC wells may need to overdevelop to allow adequate color development in sample wells.
- 3. Add 100 μ l of Stop Solution per well being used. The solution within the wells will change from blue to yellow after adding the Stop Solution.
- 4. Read absorbance at 450 nm within five minutes of adding the Stop Solution. Blank the plate reader according to the manufacturer's requirements using the blank wells.

Assay Procedure Summary

NOTE: This procedure is provided as a quick reference for experienced users. Follow the detailed procedure when initially performing the assay.

- 1. Prepare CTFB as described in the **Pre-Assay Preparation** section, Table 3 on page 14.
- 2. Add 90 μl CTFB per sample well (80 μl if adding Competitor dsDNA), 100 μl to Blk and NSB wells).
- 3. Add 10 µl of Competitor dsDNA (optional) to appropriate wells.
- 4. Add 10 µl of Positive Control to appropriate wells.
- 5. Add 10 µl of Sample containing Oct4 to appropriate wells.
- 6. Incubate overnight at 4°C or one hour at room temperature without agitation.
- 7. Wash each well five times with 200 μl of 1X Wash Buffer.
- 8. Add 100 µl of diluted Oct4 Primary Antibody per well (except Blk wells).
- 9. Incubate one hour at room temperature without agitation.
- 10. Wash each well five times with 200 μl of 1X Wash Buffer.
- 11. Add 100 µl of diluted Secondary Antibody (except Blk wells).
- 12. Incubate one hour at room temperature without agitation.
- 13. Wash each well five times with 200 μl of 1X Wash Buffer.
- 14. Add 100 μ l of Developing Solution per well.
- 15. Incubate 15 to 45 minutes with gentle agitation.
- 16. Add 100 μ l of Stop Solution per well.
- 17. Measure the absorbance at 450 nm.

Steps	Reagent	Blk	NSB	PC	C1	S1-S44
1. Add reagents	CTFB	100 μl	100 μl	90 μl	80 µl	90 μl
	Competitor dsDNA				10 µl	
	Positive Control			10 µl	10 µl	
	Samples					10 µl
2. Incubate	Cover plate and incubate of	overnight a	4°C or on	e hour at R	RT without	agitation
3. Wash		Wash all w	ells five tir	nes		
4. Add reagents	Primary Antibody		100 μl	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl
5. Incubate	Cover plate and	incubate o	ne hour at l	RT without	agitation	
6. Wash		Wash all w	ells five tin	nes		
7. Add reagents	Secondary Antibody 100 μl 100 μl 100 μl 100 μl				100 μl	
8. Incubate	Cover plate and incubate one hour at RT without agitation					
9. Wash	Wash all wells five times					
10. Add reagents	Developer Solution	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl
11. Incubate	Monitor development in wells					
12. Add reagents	Stop Solution	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl	100 μl
13. Read	Read plate at wavelength of 450 nm					

Table 6. Quick Protocol Guide

ANALYSIS

Performance Characteristics

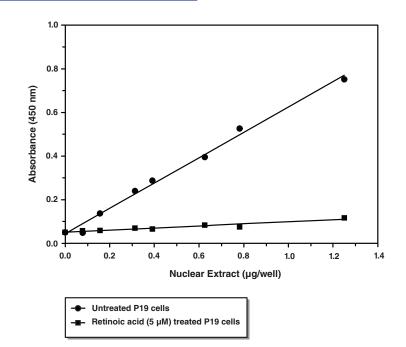


Figure 3. Retinoic acid significantly reduces Oct4 levels in P19 cells. Mouse P19 cells were grown in MEM culture medium containing 10% FBS. Cells were treated with vehicles or 5 μ M all-trans retinoic acid for 48 hours. Nuclear extract was prepared using the protocol described in the Nuclear Extraction Kit (Item No. 10009277). Levels of Oct4 in the P19 cells treated with vehicles or retinoic acid were measured according to the protocol described in the booklet.

RESOURCES

Interferences

The following reagents were tested for interference in the assay.

Reagent	Will Interfere (Yes or No)
EGTA (≤1 mM)	No
EDTA (≤0.5 mM)	No
ZnCl (any concentration)	Yes
DTT (between 1 and 5 mM)	No
Dimethylsulfoxide (≤1.5%)	No

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Causes	Recommended Solutions
No signal or weak signal in all wells	 A. Omission of key reagent B. Plate reader settings not correct C. Reagent/reagents expired D. Salt concentrations affected binding between DNA and protein E. Developing reagent used cold F. Developing reagent not added to correct volume 	 A. Check that all reagents have been added and in the correct order; perform the assay using the Positive Control B. Check wavelength setting on plate reader and change to 450 nm C. Check expiration date on reagents D. Reduce the amount of nuclear extract used in the assay, or reduce the amount of salt in the nuclear extracts (alternatively can perform buffer exchange) E. Prewarm the Developing Solution to room temperature prior to use F. Check pipettes to ensure correct amount of Developing Solution was added to wells

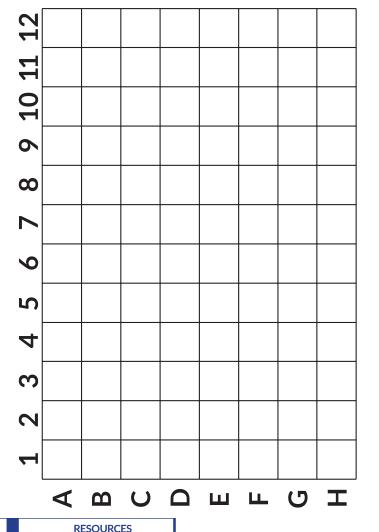
Problem	Possible Causes	Recommended Solutions
High signal in all wells	 A. Incorrect dilution of antibody (too high) B. Improper/ inadequate washing of wells C. Over-developing 	 A. Check antibody dilutions and use amounts outlined in instructions B. Follow the protocol for washing wells using the correct number of times and volumes C. Decrease the incubation time when using the developing reagent
High background (NSB)	Incorrect dilution of antibody (too high)	Check antibody dilutions and use amounts outlined in the instructions
Weak signal in sample wells	 A. Sample concentration is too low B. Incorrect dilution of antibody C. Salt concentrations affecting binding between DNA and protein 	 A. Increase the amount of nuclear extract used; loss of signal can occur with multiple freeze/thaw cycles of the sample; prepare fresh nuclear extracts and aliquot as outlined in product insert B. Check antibody dilutions and use amounts outlined in the instructions C. Reduce the amount of nuclear extract used in the assay or reduce the amount of salt in the nuclear extracts (alternatively can perform buffer exchange)

References

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- 3. Rizzino, A. Stem Cells 31(6), 1033-1039 (2013).
- 4. Trosko, J.E. Vet. Pathol. 46(2), 176-193 (2009).

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NOTES

Warranty and Limitation of Remedy

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