SIGMA-ALDRICH®

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# **Product Information**

Bilirubin Assay Kit

Catalog Number MAK126 Storage Temperature 2–8 °C

# **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

# **Product Description**

Bilirubin, also known as hematoidin, is a degradation product formed as a result of heme catabolism in the liver. Bilirubin circulates in the blood stream as either the unconjugated insoluble form (indirect bilirubin) or the soluble glucuronide-conjugated form (direct bilirubin). Conjugated bilirubin moves from the bile canaliculi of the liver to the gall bladder where it is excreted into the small intestine during digestion. High levels of bilirubin can result in jaundice and may indicate liver disease, blood disorders, or blockage of the bile ducts.

The Bilirubin Assay kit provides a simple and direct procedure for measuring bilirubin in serum. This assay, based on the Jendrassik-Grof method, utilizes the reaction of bilirubin with diazotized sulfanilic acid resulting in a colorimetric product measured at 530 nm, proportionate to the bilirubin present in the sample. This assay kit measures both total and conjugated bilirubin.

#### Components

The kit is sufficient for 180 assays in 96 well plates.

| Reagent A<br>Catalog Number MAK126A | 30 mL |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Reagent B<br>Catalog Number MAK126B | 10 mL |

| Reagent C                            | 30 mL |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Catalog Number MAK126C               |       |
| Saline<br>Catalog Number MAK126D     | 50 mL |
| Calibrator<br>Catalog Number MAK126E | 2 mL  |

Reagents and Equipment Required but Not Provided.

- Spectrophotometric multiwell plate reader
- Clear 96 well flat-bottom plate

#### **Precautions and Disclaimer**

For R&D use only. Not for drug, household, or other uses. Please consult the Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling practices.

#### Storage/Stability

This kit is shipped at room temperature. Storage at 2–8 °C, protected from light, is recommended.

# Procedure

Sample Preparation

Hemolysis interferes with this assay. Samples should be protected from light to prevent photodegradation of bilirubin in the sample. Samples can be stored at -20 °C for up to 3 months or 2–8 °C for 4 days. If turbidity is observed in the samples, samples can be centrifuged and the cleared supernatant used for assays.

#### Assay Reaction for 96 well plate

 Prepare at least 200 µL of Working Reagents (Total, Direct, and Blank) for each well as indicated in Table 1. Working Reagents should be prepared fresh for each assay. Total Bilirubin is determined by the addition of Reagent C containing caffeine benzoate which splits bilirubin from the unconjugated bilirubin-protein complex. Prepare enough of the Total, Direct, and Blank Working Reagents for each sample tested.

# Table 1.

Working Reagents for 96 well plate

|        | Α     | В     | С      | Saline | Water |
|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Total  | 50 μL | 20 μL | 130 μL | -      | -     |
| Direct | 50 μL | 20 μL | -      | 130 μL | -     |
| Blank  | 50 μL | -     | -      | 130 μL | 20 μL |

- 2. Transfer 50  $\mu$ L of calibrator and 50  $\mu$ L of water into separate wells of a 96 well plate. Add 200  $\mu$ L of water into each well for a final volume of 250  $\mu$ L.
- Transfer 50 μL of samples into separate wells of the plate for the total, direct, and blank measurement. Transfer 200 μL of the appropriate Working Reagent to each of the sample wells.
- 4. Incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes.
- 5. Measure the absorbance at 530 nm (A<sub>530</sub>).

#### Assay Reaction for Cuvette

 Prepare at least 800 μL of Working Reagents (Total, Direct, and Blank) for assay as indicated in Table 2. Prepare enough of the Total, Direct, and Blank Working Reagent for each sample tested.

# Table 2.

Working Reagents for Cuvette

|        | Α      | В     | С      | Saline | Water |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Total  | 200 μL | 80 μL | 520 μL | -      | -     |
| Direct | 200 μL | 80 μL | -      | 520 μL | -     |
| Blank  | 200 μL | -     | -      | 520 μL | 80 μL |

- 2. Transfer 200  $\mu$ L of calibrator and 200  $\mu$ L of water into two cuvettes. Add 800  $\mu$ L of water into each cuvette for a final volume of 1,000  $\mu$ L.
- Transfer 200 μL of sample into cuvettes (one each for Total, Direct, and Blank measurement). Transfer 800 μL of the appropriate Working Reagent to each of the cuvettes.
- 4. Incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes.
- 5. Measure the absorbance at 530 nm (A<sub>530</sub>).

# **Calculations**

Bilirubin concentration

 $= \frac{(A_{530})_{\text{sample}} - (A_{530})_{\text{blank}}}{(A_{530})_{\text{calibrator}} - (A_{530})_{\text{water}}} \times (5 \text{ mg/dL})$ 

### where:

(A<sub>530</sub>)<sub>sample</sub> = value of the sample (Total or Direct) (A<sub>530</sub>)<sub>Blank</sub> = value of the sample Blank (A<sub>530</sub>)<sub>calibrator</sub> = value of the calibrator (A<sub>530</sub>)<sub>water</sub> = value of the water control

5 mg/dL = equivalent bilirubin concentration of the calibrator when assay performed as indicated

# **Troubleshooting Guide**

| Problem                       | Possible Cause                                       | Suggested Solution   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
|                               | Omission of step in procedure                        | Refer and follow Technical Bulletin precisely              |
| Assay not working             | Plate reader at incorrect wavelength                 | Check filter settings of instrument                        |
|                               | Type of 96 well plate used                           | For colorimetric assays, use clear plates                  |
|                               | Samples underwent hemolysis or were exposed to light | Prepare fresh samples                                      |
| Samples with erratic readings | Samples used after multiple freeze-thaw cycles       | Aliquot and freeze samples if needed to use multiple times |
|                               | Use of old or inappropriately stored                 | Use fresh samples and store correctly until                |
|                               | samples  | use  |
| Unanticipated results         | Samples measured at incorrect wavelength             | Check the equipment and filter settings                    |

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