



## Instructions for Use

# Dopamine High Sensitive ELISA

(high sensitivity and for small sample volume)


Enzyme Immunoassay for the  
Quantitative Determination of  
**Dopamine**

**RUO**

For Research Use Only  
Not for use in diagnostic procedures

**REF** EA634/96

 12 x 8

 2 – 8 °C












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## Symbols

 <b>RUO</b>	Research Use Only		
 <b>CONT</b>	Content		Expiry Date
 <b>LOT</b>	Lot Number		Store at
	Manufactured by		Sufficient for ... determinations
 <b>REF</b>	Catalogue Number		Consult Instructions for Use

## Hazard Pictograms



Danger



Warning

## 1 Introduction and Principle of the Test

The Dopamine High Sensitive ELISA provides materials for the quantitative measurement of dopamine in low concentrated samples and for small sample volumes. Dopamine is extracted using a cis-diol-specific boronate affinity gel and acylated to N-acyldopamine and then converted enzymatically into N-acyl-3-methoxytyramine.

The competitive Dopamine High Sensitive ELISA kit uses the microtiter plate format with Dopamine bound to the solid phase of the microtiter plate. Acylated catecholamine from the sample and solid phase bound catecholamine compete for a fixed number of antiserum binding sites. When the system is in equilibrium, free antigen and free antigen-antiserum complexes are removed by washing. The antibody bound to the solid phase catecholamine is detected by anti-rabbit IgG peroxidase conjugate. The peroxidase-induced conversion of the TMB substrate is monitored at 450 nm. The amount of antibody bound to the solid phase catecholamine is inversely proportional to the catecholamine concentration of the sample.

## 2 Precautions

- For research use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.
- Before carrying out this test, the instructions for use, as included in the kit, should be completely read and the content understood.
- Material of animal origin used in the preparation of the kit has been obtained from animals certified as healthy; however, these materials should be handled as potentially infectious.
- Individual components of different lots and test kits should not be interchanged. The expiration dates and storage conditions indicated on the packaging and labels of individual components must be observed.
- When handling reagents, controls, and samples, follow established laboratory safety guidelines and Good Laboratory Practice.
- Some of the components of this test kit contain hazardous substances. These components bear the corresponding hazard symbol on their label. Further information can be found in Contents of the kit and on the corresponding safety data sheets.
- Wear protection, such as lab coat, appropriate gloves and eye protection.
- Avoid any actions that could result in ingestion, inhalation or injection of the reagents. Never pipette by mouth.

- Avoid contact with individual reagents.
- Some components contain a small amount of sodium azide as a preservative. Prevent the formation of heavy metal azides in the drain system by flushing copiously with water.
- Discard waste according to state and local authorities.
- Broken glass can cause injury. Be cautious with glass vials.

### 3 Storage and Stability

This kit is shipped at ambient temperature. Upon arrival, store the kit at 2 - 8 °C. Once opened, the kit is stable until its expiry date.

For stability of prepared reagents refer to 6.1.

Do not use components beyond the expiration date shown on the labels.





Bring all reagents to room temperature before use and refrigerate immediately after use.


### 4 Contents of the Kit

#### 4.1 Reagents for Sample Preparation

<b>Extraction Plate</b> 48 wells coated with boronate affinity gel	<b>EX-PLATE</b>	2 plates
<b>Extraction Buffer</b> 6 ml, ready for use	<b>EX-BUFF</b>	2 vials
<b>HCl</b> 21 ml, ready for use 0.025 M HCl	<b>HCL</b>	1 vial
<b>Standards (A - F)</b> 4 ml each, ready for use Concentrations:	<b>CAL A - F</b>	6 vials

Standard	A	B	C	D	E	F
Dopamine (ng/ml)	0	0.3	1.25	5	20	100
Dopamine (nmol/l)	0	2.0	8.2	32.7	131	653

<b>Control 1 &amp; 2</b> 4 ml each, ready for use Concentrations: see QC Certificate	<b>CON 1 &amp; 2</b>		2 vials
<b>Acylation Reagent</b> 6 ml, ready for use Contains DMSO and DMF (please note that solvent reacts with many plastic materials including plastic trays; it does not react with normal pipette tips and with glass devices).	<b>ACYL-REAG</b>		1 vial Danger Warning
<b>Acylation Buffer</b> 20 ml, ready for use	<b>ACYL-BUFF</b>		1 vial
<b>Enzyme</b> 2 ml each, lyophilized Catechol-O-methyltransferase	<b>ENZYME</b>		3 vials
<b>Coenzyme</b> 1 ml, ready for use S-adenosyl-L-methionine	<b>COENZYME</b>		1 vial
<b>Enzyme Buffer</b> 3.5 ml, ready for use	<b>ENZYME-BUFF</b>		1 vial Warning
<b>Enzyme Plate</b> 96 wells, ready for use	<b>ENZYME-PLATE</b>		1 piece
<b>Sample Stabilizer</b> 20 ml, ready for use	<b>STABILIZER</b>		1 vial Warning
<b>4.2 Reagents for ELISA</b>			
<b>Dopamine-Antiserum</b> 2.5 ml, ready for use, rabbit colour coded green	<b>AS-DA</b>		1 vial Warning

<b>MT-STRIPS</b> 8 wells each, break apart, precoated with dopamine (12 strips)	<b>STRIPS-DA</b>		12 strips
<b>Enzyme Conjugate</b> 12 ml each, ready for use, Anti-rabbit-IgG-peroxidase	<b>CONJ</b>		1 vial Warning
<b>Wash Buffer</b> 20 ml, concentrate Dilute content with dist. water to 500 ml total volume	<b>WASH</b>		2 bottles
<b>Substrate</b> 12 ml TMB solution, ready for use	<b>SUB</b>		1 vial
<b>Stop Solution</b> 12 ml, ready for use Contains 0.3 M sulphuric acid	<b>STOP</b>		1 vial
<b>Adhesive Foil</b> Ready for use	<b>FOIL</b>		10 pieces

Additional materials and equipment required but not provided:

- Pipettes for pipetting 20, 50, 100, 150, 175, 280  $\mu$ l
- Repeating dispenser for 20, 25, 50, 100, 150  $\mu$ l and 1 ml
- Orbital shaker
- Multichannel pipette or Microplate washing device
- Microplate photometer
- Distilled water
- Heating cabinet with 37 °C (optional)
- Paper towels, pipette tips, timer

## 5 Sample Collection and Storage

### 5.1 Plasma

EDTA plasma samples are required for the assay. Physical and psychical stress usually causes a high increase of the catecholamine concentration. Therefore, it is recommended to let the patient rest for 20 to 30 minutes after the venipuncture and before collecting the blood sample.

Haemolytic and especially lipemic samples should not be used for the assay, otherwise false low values will be obtained with such samples.

Immediately after collection the plasma samples should be centrifuged (preferable at 2 - 8 °C) and frozen. The samples are stable up to 1 week at -20 °C.

To improve the stability each sample should be enriched with the Sample Stabilizer **STABILIZER** before freezing (add 20% of the sample volume), e.g.:

<b>Sample volume</b>	<b>+ Stabilizer volume</b>	<b>= Total volume</b>
20 µl	4 µl	24 µl
50 µl	10 µl	60 µl
100 µl	20 µl	120 µl
200 µl	40 µl	240 µl
300 µl	60 µl	360 µl
500 µl	100 µl	600 µl

Note: Multiply the achieved result of the sample by the factor 1.2.

## 5.2 Cell culture samples and various biological samples

The stability of such samples depends on the sample type and the way of collection. Therefore, a general procedure for collection and storage is not possible. However, it is recommended to freeze the samples immediately after collection. The samples should be stable at -20 °C for up to 1 week.

To improve the stability each sample should be enriched with the Sample Stabilizer **STABILIZER** before freezing (10% of the sample volume), e.g.:

Sample volume	+ Stabilizer volume	= Total volume
20 µl	2 µl	22 µl
50 µl	5 µl	55 µl
100 µl	10 µl	110 µl
200 µl	20 µl	220 µl
300 µl	30 µl	330 µl
500 µl	50 µl	550 µl

Note: Multiply the achieved result of the sample by the factor 1.1.

Acidified samples, which have a pH value of 5 or less must not be enriched with the Sample Stabilizer and have to be frozen immediately after collection.

## 5.3 Tissue samples

Tissue samples can be homogenized in Sample Stabilizer **STABILIZER** diluted 1:20 (e.g. 19 ml dist. water + 1 ml Sample Stabilizer).

For all sample types, the following basic principles should be followed:

- Avoid excess of acid. This might exceed the buffer capacity of the extraction buffer. After adding the extraction buffer a pH value of 7 or above is mandatory. If the pH value is below 7 it is necessary to repeatedly add 50 µl of Extraction Buffer **EX-BUFF** until the pH value is at or above 7.  
Acidified samples, which have a pH value of 5 or less must not be enriched with the Sample Stabilizer.
- Avoid substances in the samples with a cis-diol-structure (boric acid, sorbitol, mannitol, etc.). These substances reduce the recovery of extraction.

## 6 Preparation of Reagents and Samples

### 6.1 Preparation of Reagents

#### 6.1.1 Wash Buffer

Dilute the contents (20 ml) of the bottle WASH (25x) with distilled water to a total volume of 500 ml.

For further use the diluted wash buffer must be stored at 2 - 8 °C for a maximum period of 4 weeks.

#### 6.1.2 Enzyme Mix

NOTE: The enzyme mix has to be prepared freshly prior to the assay (not longer than 10 - 15 minutes in advance). After use the reagent has to be discarded.

Reconstitute the content of one vial labelled ENZYME with 2 ml distilled water. Add 0.3 ml COENZYME and 0.7 ml ENZYME-BUFF, mix thoroughly (total volume: 3 ml).

The two additional bottles of ENZYME allow a second and a third run of the test. If the whole kit is to be used in one run, it is sufficient to prepare one vial of enzyme mix.

All other reagents are ready for use.

## 6.2 Preparation of Samples

Allow reagents to equilibrate to room temperature. Determinations in duplicates are recommended. Each 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of Standards and Control 1 & 2 are extracted. Each 1  $\mu\text{l}$  - 300  $\mu\text{l}$  of samples are extracted (alternatively: > 300  $\mu\text{l}$  up to 500  $\mu\text{l}$ ).

1. Pipette 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of each Standard A – F [CAL A] to [CAL F], 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of each Control 1 & 2 [CON 1] & [CON 2] and 1  $\mu\text{l}$  – 300  $\mu\text{l}$  of each Sample into the respective wells of the extraction plate [EX-PLATE].

Within a run the final volume has to be the same in all wells: 300  $\mu\text{l}$  or 500  $\mu\text{l}$ .

Correction of volume:

Pipette 280  $\mu\text{l}$  of distilled water into the wells of the standards and controls (final volume: 300  $\mu\text{l}$ ). Pipette as much distilled water into the wells of the samples to obtain a final volume of 300  $\mu\text{l}$ , e.g. 100  $\mu\text{l}$  sample + 200  $\mu\text{l}$  distilled water.

For sample volumes > 300  $\mu\text{l}$  up to 500  $\mu\text{l}$ : fill up all wells of the standards, controls and eventually samples to 500  $\mu\text{l}$  with distilled water.

2. Pipette 100  $\mu\text{l}$  Extraction Buffer [EX-BUFF] into each well.
3. Cover the plate with adhesive foil [FOIL] and incubate for 60 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker (high shaking rate).
4. Decant the plate and remove residual liquid by tapping the inverted plate on a paper towel.
5. Pipette 1 ml prepared Wash Buffer [WASH] into each well and incubate for 5 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker (slow shaking rate).
6. Decant the plate and remove residual liquid by tapping the inverted plate on a paper towel.
7. Pipette 150  $\mu\text{l}$  Acylation Buffer [ACYL-BUFF] into each well.
8. Add 50  $\mu\text{l}$  Acylation Reagent [ACYL-REAG] into each well and continue with step 9. immediately.  
(please note, that solvent reacts with many plastic materials including plastic trays; it does not react with normal pipette tips or glass devices)
9. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker (medium shaking rate).

10. Decant the plate and remove residual liquid by tapping the inverted plate on a paper towel.
11. Pipette 1 ml prepared Wash Buffer **WASH** into each well and incubate for 5 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker (slow shaking rate).
12. Decant the plate and remove residual liquid by tapping the inverted plate on a paper towel.
13. Repeat the wash steps 11. and 12.
14. Pipette 125  $\mu$ l HCl **HCl** (0.025 M) for elution into each well.
15. Cover the plate with adhesive foil **FOIL** and incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker (medium shaking rate).  
Caution: Do not decant the supernatant.
16. Transfer 100  $\mu$ l from each well of the extraction plate **EX-PLATE** into the respective wells of the enzyme plate **ENZYME-PLATE**.  
(do not discard extraction plate, seal and keep for second or third assay run)
17. Add 20  $\mu$ l of freshly prepared Enzyme Mix (s. 6.1.2) into each well. Colour changes to red.
18. Cover the plate with adhesive foil **FOIL** and incubate for 1 minute at room temperature on an orbital shaker (medium shaking rate).
19. Incubate the plate for 90 minutes at 37°C without shaking.  
(Alternatively: 120 minutes at room temperature (20 - 25°C) on an orbital shaker at medium shaking rate).  
Caution: Do not decant the supernatant.

## 7 Test Procedure ELISA

1. Transfer 100 µl each of prepared Standards, Controls and Samples from the enzyme plate **ENZYME-PLATE** into the respective wells of the MT-Strips **STRIPS-DA**.  
(do not discard enzyme plate, seal and keep for second or third assay run)
2. Add 20 µl Dopamine-Antiserum **AS-DA** (colour coded green) into each well.
3. Cover the plate with adhesive foil **FOIL**, shake briefly and incubate for 15-20 hours (overnight) at 2-6 °C.
4. Discard or aspirate the contents of the wells and wash thoroughly with 250 µl prepared Wash Buffer **WASH** per well. Remove residual liquid by tapping the inverted plate on clean absorbent paper. Repeat the washing procedure 3 times.
5. Pipette 100 µl Enzyme Conjugate **CONJ** into each well.
6. Incubate for 60 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker (medium shaking rate).
7. Wash according to step 4.
8. Pipette 100 µl Substrate **SUB** into each well.
9. Incubate for 40 ± 5 minutes at room temperature (20 – 25 °C) on an orbital shaker (medium shaking rate). Avoid exposure to direct sun light.
10. Add 100 µl Stop Solution **STOP** into each well. **Mix for 10 seconds on an orbital shaker.**
11. Read the optical density at 450 nm (reference wavelength between 570 nm and 650 nm) in a microplate photometer within 15 minutes.

## 8 Calculation of Results

The concentration of the standards (x-axis, logarithmic) are plotted against their corresponding optical density (y-axis, linear). Alternatively, the optical density of each standard and sample can be related to the optical density of the zero standard, expressed as the ratio  $OD/OD_{max}$ , and then plotted on the y-axis. A good fit is provided with 4 Parameter Logistic (alternatively Log-Logit or Cubic Spline).

The concentration of the controls can be read off the standard curve directly without any further conversion.

The read concentrations of the samples have to be divided by a correction factor due to the use of 1  $\mu$ l – 300  $\mu$ l sample volume in relation to 20  $\mu$ l standard.

$$\text{Correction factor} = \frac{\text{Sample volume for extraction } [\mu\text{l}]}{20 \mu\text{l (Standard volume)}}$$

Example:

300  $\mu$ l sample were extracted and the concentration read off from the standard curve is 0.6 ng/ml.

$$\text{Correction factor} = 300 \mu\text{l} / 20 \mu\text{l} = 15$$

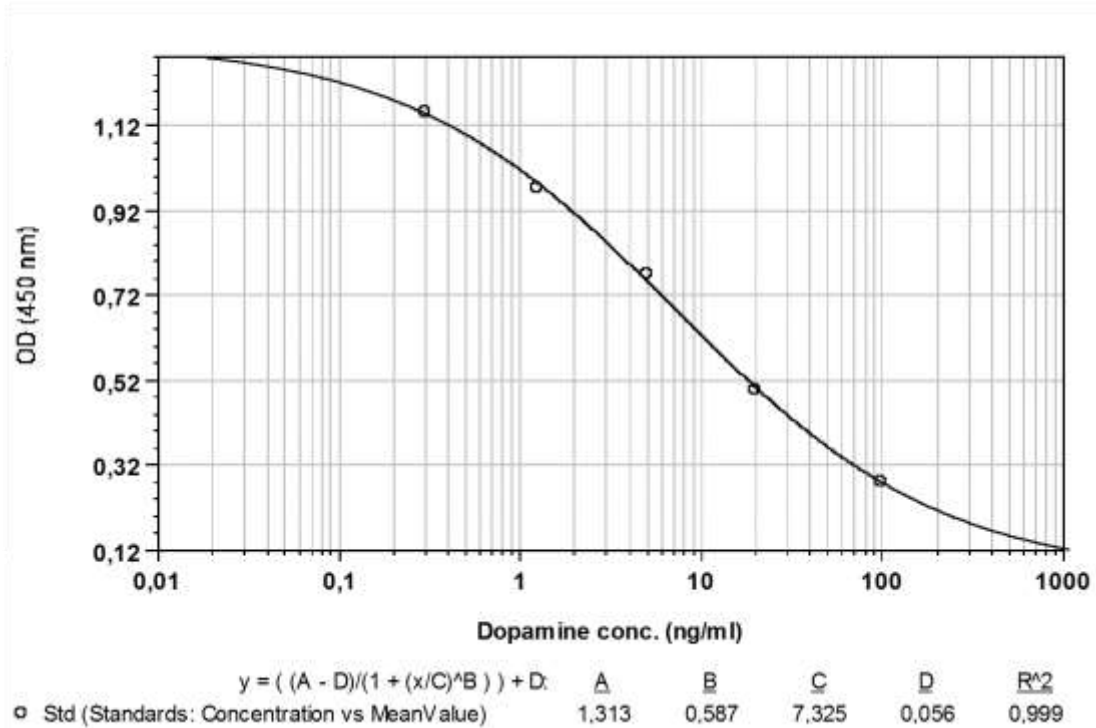
$$\text{Concentration of the sample} = 0.6 \text{ ng/ml} / 15 = 0.040 \text{ ng/ml} = 40 \text{ pg/ml}$$

Conversion to pmol/l:

$$\text{Dopamine: } 1 \text{ pg/ml} = 6.53 \text{ pmol/l}$$

Should the samples have been enriched with Sample Stabilizer, multiply the result with the appropriate dilution factor indicated in section 5.

Below an example of a typical standard curve for the Dopamine High Sensitive ELISA is shown:



Quality Control: Test results are valid only if the kit controls are within the ranges specified on the QC Certificate. Otherwise, the test should be repeated.

## 9 Assay Characteristics

### 9.1 Analytical Sensitivity

The lower limit of detection was determined by taking the 2-fold standard deviation of the absorbance of the Zero Reference and reading the corresponding value from the standard curve. The sensitivity depends on the sample volume and can be calculated with the corresponding correction factor (see 8. Calculation of Results)

	<b>Dopamine</b>
<b>Sensitivity:</b>	$\frac{89 \text{ pg/ml (581 pmol/l)}}{\text{Correction factor}}$
<b>Example for 300 µl Sample (Correction factor 15):</b>	$\frac{89 \text{ pg/ml}}{15} = 5.9 \text{ pg/ml (39 pmol/l)}$

### 9.2 Analytical Specificity (Cross Reactivity)

Structural related components were tested for possible interference with the antisera against dopamine used in the ELISA method.

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Cross Reactivity (%) Dopamine-Ab</b>
Dopamine	100
Adrenaline	< 0.020
Noradrenaline	0.23
Metanephrine	< 0.020
Normetanephrine	< 0.020
3-Methoxytyramine	0.28
L-Dopa	< 0.01
Tyramine	0.011
Tyrosine	< 0.01
Homovanillic acid	< 0.01
Vanilmandelic acid	< 0.01

### 9.3 Recovery

Increasing amounts of dopamine were added to an EDTA plasma sample and to a cell culture medium (RPMI 1640). Each spiked sample was assayed. The analytical recovery was estimated at different concentrations by using the theoretically expected and the actually measured values.

Concentrations in pg/ml

EDTA-Plasma				Cell culture medium			
added	measured	expected	% recovery	added	measured	expected	% recovery
0.0	26.6			0.0	30.6		
13.4	35.4	40.0	88	13.4	35.3	44.0	80
21.7	44.7	48.3	92	21.7	47.6	52.3	91
37.9	63.7	64.5	99	37.9	62.7	68.5	92
56.0	70.8	82.6	86	56.0	74.1	86.6	86
151.5	157.0	178.1	88	151.5	167.0	182.1	92
223.9	173.3	250.5	69	223.9	223.5	254.5	88
294.1	297.5	320.7	93	294.1	273.5	324.7	84
307.7	289.8	334.3	87	307.7	281.5	338.3	83
606.1	615.3	632.7	97	606.1	632.1	636.7	99
		mean:	89			mean:	88

### 9.4 Reproducibility

Intra-Assay

The reproducibility of the ELISA method was investigated by determining the intra-assay-coefficients of variation (cv) by repeated measurements for EDTA-Plasma and cell culture medium (DMEM) with different concentrations.

Concentrations in pg/ml

Sample	N =	mean value	sd	cv (%)
EDTA-Plasma	16	289	23.7	<b>8.2</b>
Cell culture medium	24	235	30.1	<b>12.8</b>

## **9.5 Calibration**

The calibration is carried out by weighing the pure substance.

## **9.6 Limitations of Method**

The results are for research use only. Samples measured above the highest standard must be diluted with the appropriate medium and reassayed. The values of diluted samples must be multiplied by the appropriate dilution factor.

## **9.7 Interferences**

See Preparation of samples.

## **10 Changes to declare**

Version \_10: Changes are highlighted in gray.

Version 8: Hazard symbol “Warning” was removed from POD Conjugate in section 4, as no longer required.

Version 7: IFU has been re-formatted. Parts of sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 and pipetting schemes have been rephrased to provide greater clarity.

No changes have been made to components or execution of protocols.

## Pipetting Scheme Sample Preparation

Use EX-PLATE

		Standards	Controls	Samples
CAL A – F	μl	20		
CON 1 & 2	μl		20	
Samples	μl			1 - 300
Dist. Water	μl	280	280	Fill up to 300
EX-BUFF	μl	100	100	100

Cover the plate with FOIL;  
Shake for 60 minutes at room temperature  
Decant plate and tap out residual liquid

WASH	ml	1	1	1
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Shake for 5 minutes at room temperature (slow shaking rate)  
Decant plate and tap out residual liquid

ACYL-BUFF	μl	150	150	150
ACYL-REAG	μl	50	50	50

**Immediately:** Shake for 20 minutes at room temperature  
Decant plate and tap out residual liquid

WASH	ml	1	1	1
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Shake for 5 minutes at room temperature (slow shaking rate)  
Decant plate and tap out residual liquid  
Repeat washing 1x, decant plate and tap out residual liquid

HCl	μl	125	125	125
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Cover the plate with FOIL;  
Shake for 20 minutes at room temperature  
**Caution: Do not decant the supernatant**

## Use ENZYME-PLATE

		Standards	Controls	Samples
Transfer from EX-PLATE to ENZYME-PLATE	μl	100	100	100
Enzyme mix (fresh)	μl	20	20	20

Cover the plate with FOIL;  
Shake for 1 minute at room temperature  
Incubate for 90 minutes at 37°C  
**Caution: Do not decant the supernatant**

**Pipetting Scheme ELISA**

Use STRIPS-DA

		Prepared Standards	Prepared Controls	Prepared Samples
Transfer from ENZYME-PLATE to STRIPS-DA	μl	100	100	100

AS-DA	μl	20	20	20
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Cover the plates with FOIL and shake briefly  
Incubate for 15 – 20 hours (overnight) at 2 - 6 °C  
Decant or aspirate plate

WASH	μl	250	250	250
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Decant or aspirate plate  
Repeat washing 3 x, decant plate and tap out residual liquid

CONJ	μl	100	100	100
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Shake for 60 minutes at room temperature (medium shaking rate)  
Discard or aspirate plate

WASH	μl	250	250	250
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Decant or aspirate plate  
Repeat washing 3 x, decant plate and tap out residual liquid

SUB	μl	100	100	100
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Shake for 40 ± 5 minutes at room temperature (medium shaking rate)

STOP	μl	100	100	100
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Shake plate for 10 seconds  
Read absorbance at 450 nm within 15 minutes