# Malate Dehydrogenase (MDH) Assay Kit (Colorimetric)

LS-K273-100 (100 Tests) • Store at -20°C



### Introduction

Malate dehydrogenase (MDH) (EC 1.1.1.37) is an enzyme which reversibly catalyzes the oxidation of L-malate to oxaloacetate in the presence of NAD. There are 2 isoforms in eukaryotic cells: MDH1 and MDH2. MDH1 found in the cytoplasm and plays a key part in the malate-aspartate shuttle for transporting malate into the mitochondria. MDH2 is a mitochondrial enzyme which participates in the TCA cycle that reversibly converts L-malate into oxaloacetate. Higher MDH activities are found in some neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. This non-radioactive, colorimetric MDH assay is based on the reduction of the tetrazolium salt MTT in a NADH-coupled enzymatic reaction to a reduced form of MTT which exhibits an absorption maximum at 565 nm. The increase in absorbance at 565 nm is proportional to the enzyme activity.

## **Key Features**

- Fast and sensitive. Linear detection range (20 µL sample): 0.5 to 65 U/L for 20 min reaction at 37°C.
- Convenient and high-throughput. Homogeneous "mix-incubate-measure" type assay. Can be readily automated on HTS liquid handling systems for processing thousands of samples per day.

### **Applications**

• MDH activity determination in biological samples (e.g. plasma, serum, erythrocytes, tissue and culture media.)

#### Components

	K273-100
Component	100 Tests
Assay Buffer	10 mL
NAD/MTT	1 mL
Substrate	600 μL
Enzyme A	120 μL
Enzyme B	120 μL
Calibrator	1.5 mL

### **Materials Not Supplied**

Pipetting devices and accessories (e.g. multi-channel pipettor), clear flat-bottom 96-well plates (e.g. VWR cat# 82050-760), centrifuge tubes and plate reader.

### Storage

The kit is shipped on ice. Store all components at -20°C upon receiving. Shelf life: 6 months after receipt.

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## **Assay Procedure**

This assay is based on a kinetic reaction. To ensure identical incubation time, addition of Working Reagent to samples should be quick and mixing should be brief but thorough. Use of a multi-channel pipettor is recommended. Assays can be executed at any desired temperature (e.g. 25°C or 37°C).

#### **Sample Preparation**

Serum and plasma are assayed directly.

Tissue: prior to dissection, rinse tissue in phosphate buffered saline (pH 7.4) to remove blood. Homogenize tissue (50 mg) in  $\sim$ 200 µL cold 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5. Centrifuge at 14,000 × g for 10 min at 4°C. Remove supernatant for assay.

Cell Lysate: collect cells by centrifugation at 2,000 x g for 5 min at 4°C. For adherent cells, do not harvest cells using proteolytic enzymes; rather use a rubber policeman. Homogenize or sonicate cells in an appropriate volume of cold buffer containing 50 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.5). Centrifuge at 14,000 × g for 10 min at 4°C. Remove supernatant for assay.

All samples can be stored at -20 to -80°C for at least one month.

#### **Reagent Preparation**

Equilibrate reagents to desired reaction temperature (37°C is recommended). Briefly centrifuge tubes before use.

#### Procedure

- 1. Transfer 100 μL H<sub>2</sub>O (OD<sub>H2O</sub>) and 100 μL Calibrator (OD<sub>CAL</sub>) solution into wells of a clear flat bottom 96-well plate.
- 2. Transfer 20 µL H<sub>2</sub>O into one well, this will be the blank. Transfer 20 µL of each sample into separate wells.
- 3. Prepare enough Working Reagent (WR) for all reaction wells by mixing, for each 96-well assay, 74 μL Assay Buffer, 8 μL NAD/MTT, 5 μL Substrate, 1 μL Enzyme A, 1 μL Enzyme B.

Add 80  $\mu$ L WR to all samples and blank wells. Tap plate briefly to mix.

4. Read OD<sub>565nm</sub> at time 10 min (OD<sub>10</sub>) and time 30 min (OD<sub>30</sub>) on a plate reader.

#### Calculations

Subtract the OD<sub>10</sub> from OD<sub>30</sub> for each sample to compute the  $\Delta$ OD<sub>5</sub> values, do the same for the blank to compute  $\Delta$ OD<sub>8</sub>. MDH activity can then be calculated as follows:

 $\begin{aligned} \text{MDH Activity} &= \frac{\Delta \text{OD}_8 - \Delta \text{OD}_B}{\epsilon_{\text{mtt}} \cdot l} \times \frac{\text{Reaction Vol } (\mu\text{L})}{t \text{ (min)}} \cdot \text{Sample Vol } (\mu\text{L}) \\ &= \frac{273}{t \text{ (min)}} \times \frac{\Delta \text{OD}_8 - \Delta \text{OD}_B}{\text{OD}_{\text{CAL}} - \text{OD}_{\text{H2O}}} \times n \quad (U/L) \end{aligned}$ 

where  $\varepsilon_{mtt}$  is the molar absorption coefficient of reduced MTT. *I* is the light path length which is calculated from the calibrator. OD<sub>CAL</sub> and OD<sub>H20</sub> are OD<sub>565nm</sub> (OD<sub>10</sub>) values of the Calibrator and water. *t* is the difference in time between readings (20 min is the recommended time at 37°C). Reaction Vol and Sample Vol are 100 µL and 20 µL, respectively. *n* is the dilution factor if the sample needed to be diluted.

Unit definition: 1 Unit (U) of MDH will catalyze the conversion of 1  $\mu$ mole of oxaloacetate and NADH per minute at pH 7.5.

Note: If sample MDH activity exceeds 65 U/L, dilute samples in water and repeat the assay. For samples with MDH activity < 1 U/L, the incubation time can be extended to 2 hours.

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## Sample Data



Version: V.08.09.2018

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