The Gliadin/Gluten quantitative test is based on the principle of the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. An antibody directed against gliadin—the soluble fraction of gluten—bound on the surface of a microtiter plate. Gliadin containing samples or standards are given into the wells of the microtiter plate. After 20 minutes of incubation at room temperature, the wells are washed with diluted washing solution to remove unbound material. A peroxidase conjugated second antibody directed against gliadin is given into the wells and after 20 minutes of incubation, the plate is washed again. A substrate solution is added and incubated for 20 minutes, resulting in the development of a blue colour. The colour development is inhibited by the addition of a stop solution, and the colour turns yellow. The yellow colour is measured photometrically at 450 nm. The concentration of gliadin is directly proportional to the colour intensity of the test sample. Because of the equal amounts of gliadin and gluten in wheat gluten, the gluten concentration of the sample is calculated by multiplication with the factor 2.

**INTENDED USE**

Enzyme Immunoassay for the Quantitative Determination of Gliadin/Gluten in Food

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Gluten is the main part of the protein fraction of cereals and consists of nearly the equal amount of the protein compounds prolamin (gliadin) and glutenin. Because of its special physico-chemical attributes and its low price, gluten is not only contained in cereal products, but also in other food as sausage products and ice cream or in drugs and cosmetics as binder and filler. For some persons, gluten has a pathological effect (coeliac disease). These people need to have a strict gluten free diet. In the European Union a maximum level of 20 ppm gluten is allowed for products declared as “gluten-free”, and 100 ppm gluten for products declared as “very low gluten” respectively. Sensitive detection systems are required to determine gluten residues in foodstuff. The Gliadin/Gluten ELISA represents a highly sensitive detection system and is particularly capable of the quantification of gliadin/gluten residues in bakery products, baby food, meat and chocolate.

**PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST**

The Gliadin/Gluten quantitative test is based on the principle of the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. An antibody directed against gliadin—the soluble fraction of gluten—is bound on the surface of a microtiter plate. Gliadin containing samples or standards are given into the wells of the microtiter plate. After 20 minutes of incubation at room temperature, the wells are washed with diluted washing solution to remove unbound material. A peroxidase conjugated second antibody directed against gliadin is given into the wells and after 20 minutes of incubation, the plate is washed again. A substrate solution is added and incubated for 20 minutes, resulting in the development of a blue colour. The colour development is inhibited by the addition of a stop solution, and the colour turns yellow. The yellow colour is measured photometrically at 450 nm. The concentration of gliadin is directly proportional to the colour intensity of the test sample. Because of the equal amounts of gliadin and gluten in wheat gluten, the gluten concentration of the sample is calculated by multiplication with the factor 2.

**REAGENTS PROVIDED**

The kit contains reagents for 96 determinations. They have to be stored at 2-8°C. Expiry data are found on the labels of the bottles and the outer package.

1. Microtiter plate consisting of 12 strips with 8 breakable wells each, coated with anti-gliadin.
2. Gliadin Standards (0, 2, 6, 20, 60 ppm Gliadin): 1 x 5 vials with 1.0 mL each, dyed red, ready-to-use.
5. Stop Solution (0.5 M H₂SO₄): 15 mL, ready-to-use.
6. Sample dilution buffer (Tris): 1 x 60 mL as 10x concentrate, dyed red. Dilute 1+9 with distilled water.
7. Washing Solution (PBS + Tween 20): 60 mL as 10x concentrate, dyed blue. Dilute 1+9 with distilled water.
8. Two plastic foils to cover the strips during the incubation.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED**

**Instrumentation**

1. 5-1000 μL micropipets
2. ELISA reader (450 nm)
3. Ultra-Turrax or mixer
4. Centrifuge

**Reagents**

1. Ethanol (40%)
2. distilled water
3. Skimmed milk powder when indicated

**ASSAY PROCEDURE**

1. **Reagent And Sample Preparation**

Due to the high risk of cross-contamination all applied instruments like applicator, mortar, glass vials etc. have to be cleaned thoroughly before and after each sample. To identify possible crosscontamination caused by previous extractions it is strongly recommended to note the sequence of the extractions.
The following sample preparation should be applied for all kinds of samples:

1) To maximize homogeneity and representativeness of the sample collection, a minimum of 5 g sample should be pul- verized finely in a mortar, impact mill etc.
2) 1 g of the homogenized mixture is suspended in 10 mL of 40% ethanol. If tannin-containing food like chocolate is ex- tracted, 1 g of skimmed milk powder is added before suspension. Afterwards the suspension is mixed for further 5 min to ensure good homogeneity.
3) The samples are centrifuged for 10 minutes at 2000 g. If it is not possible to separate the supernatant from the precipi- tate completely, the suspension should be filtrated if neces- sary.
4) Afterwards the particle-free solution is diluted 1:50 in pre- diluted sample dilution buffer (for example 20 μL of solution in 980 μL of sample dilution buffer). If the results of a sample are out of the measuring range, further dilution with the prediluted extraction and sample dilution buffer is necessary. The additional dilution has to be considered when calculating the concen- tration.

2. Assay Steps

The washing solution is supplied as 10x concentrate and has to be diluted 1+9 with double distilled water before use. In any case the ready-to-use standards provided should be de- termined twofold. When samples in great quantities are deter- mined, the standards should be pipetted once before the samples and once after the samples. For final interpretation the arithmetical mean is used for calculation. In consideration of GLP and quality management a duplicate measurement of samples is recommended. The procedure is according to the following scheme:

1) Prepare samples as described above.
2) Pipet 100 μL ready-to-use standards or prepared samples in duplicate into the appropriate wells of the microtiter plate.
3) Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
4) Wash the plate three times as follows: Discard the con- tents of the wells (dump or aspirate). Pipet 300 μL of diluted washing solution into each well. After the third repetition empty the wells again and remove residual liquid by striking the plate against a paper towel. The wash procedure is criti- cal. Insufficient washing will result in poor precision and falsely elevated absorbencies.
5) Pipet 100 μL of conjugate (anti-gliadin-peroxidase) into each well.
6) Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
7) Wash the plate as outlined in 4.
8) Pipet 100 μL of substrate solution into each well.
9) Allow the reaction to develop in the dark (e.g. cupboard or drawer; the chromogen is light-sensitive) for 20 minutes at room temperature.
10) Stop enzyme reaction by adding 100 μL of stop solution (0.5 M H₂SO₄) into each well. The blue colour will turn yellow upon addition.
11) After thorough mixing, measure absorbance at 450 nm (reference wavelength 620 nm), using an ELISA reader. The colour is stable for 30 minutes.

EVALUATION & CALCULATION

1. Evaluation

The following table contains an example for a typical standard curve. The binding is calculated as percent of the absorption of the 60 ppm standard. These values are only an example and should not be used instead of the standard curve which has to be measured in each new test.

2. Calculation

The ready-to-use standards are prepared for a direct determi- nation of sample concentrations. The dilution of samples in the extraction process as described in the above stated sam- ple preparation procedure is already considered. Additional dilution due to high sample concentration has to be ac- counted for.

1) Calculate the average optical density (OD 450 nm) for each set of reference standards or samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gliadin (ppm)</th>
<th>% binding of 60 ppm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Construct a standard curve by plotting the mean optical density obtained for each reference standard against its concen- tration in ppm on semi-log graph paper with the optical density on the vertical (y) axis and the concentration on the horizontal (x) axis. Alternatively the evaluation can be carried out by software. In this case the 4-parameter method should be preferred.

3) Using the mean optical density value for each sample, determine the corresponding concentration of gliadin in ppm from the standard curve. Depending on experience and/or the availability of computer capability, other methods of data re- duction may be employed.
4) For calculating the corresponding gluten concentration, the result of gliadin has to be multiplicatied with factor 2.

ASSAY CHARACTERISTICS

Sensitivity: The limit of detection (LOD) of the Gliadin/ Glu- ten test is 0.3 ppm Gliadin. The limit of quantification (LOQ) of the Gliadin/Gluten test is 2 ppm Gliadin. Due to the variety of sample matrices and their influence on the blank, results less than the LOQ should be treated as negative.

Recovery: Mean recovery was determined by spiking sam- ples with different amounts of gliadin:
Precision
Linearity: The serial dilution of spiked samples (rice wafer, corn semolina, dark chocolate, sausage and baby food) resulted in a dilution linearity of 95% - 115%.

- Intra-assay Precision 4 - 5%
- Inter-assay Precision 2 - 3%
- Inter-lot Precision 5 - 13%

Cross-reactivity
For the following foods no cross-reactivity could be detected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereals</th>
<th>Cross-reactivity [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triticale</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The gluten concentration in various foods may vary significantly. Additionally, the determined concentration of different cereals depends on the cross-reactivity of the prolamin towards the wheat-gliadin antibody. The following table will give guidelines for the cross-reactivity of different cereals.

REFERENCES