

Name:	C3/C4-Depleted Serum
Catalog Number:	A340
Sizes Available:	1.0 mL/vial
Concentration:	>50 mg protein/mL (see Certificate of Analysis for actual conc.)
Form:	Frozen liquid
Activity:	>80% versus NHS standard when reconstituted with C3 and C4.
Buffer:	10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM NaCl, pH 7.3
Preservative:	None, 0.22 µm filtered
Storage:	-70°C or below. Minimize freeze/thaw cycles.
Source:	Normal human serum (shown by certified tests to be negative for HBsAg and for antibodies to HCV, HIV-1 and HIV-II).
Precautions:	Use normal precautions for handling human blood products.
Origin:	Manufactured in the USA.

General Description

C3/C4-Depleted Serum is normal human serum in which C3 and C4 have been functionally inactivated by chemically treating the serum with an amine. The product is tested for the absence of C3 and C4 activity by testing classical and alternative pathway function. It is certified to exhibit less than 2% classical pathway activity and less than 5% alternative pathway activity. After reconstitution with C3 (1.3 mg C3/mL), C3/C4-Depleted Serum is certified to possess a functional alternative pathway for complement activation (Morgan, B.P. (2000); Dodds, A.W. and Sim, R.B. (1997)). Similarly, a functional classical pathway can be reconstituted by addition of purified C4 protein (400 µg/mL) and C3 protein (1.3 mg/mL) indicating that all other complement components necessary for classical and alternative pathway activation are present. Although a functional lectin pathway should also be reconstituted by the addition of similar concentrations of C3 and C4, the function of this pathway is not tested.

Note that this C3/C4-Depleted Serum contains inactive C3 and C4 protein and will show the presence of the C3 and C3 antigens in ELISA, Western blot and similar assays. Also note that if only C4 is added there is a weak C3 by-pass mechanism whereby the convertase C4b,C2a is able to activate C5 (Rawal, N. & Pangburn, M.K. 2003) and form C5b-9 complexes capable of causing low grade lysis. This system of C5 activation is functional in both the classical and the lectin pathways and is approximately 1000-fold less active than in the presence of C3 and C4.

Physical Characteristics & Structure

C3/C4-Depleted Serum is supplied as a clear, straw-colored liquid containing all proteins of normal human serum as well as inactivated C3 and C4.

Function

C3/C4-Depleted Serum is tested for classical pathway activity by hemolytic assays using antibody-sensitized sheep erythrocytes (CompTech #B200) and for alternative pathway function using rabbit erythrocytes (CompTech #B300). The depleted serum is reconstituted with 1.3 mg/mL C3 (CompTech #A113c) and 400 µg/mL C4 (CompTech #A105c) and retested to verify that a functional classical and alternative pathways are restored. The Certificate of Analysis provided with each lot gives a description of the assays and specific titers for the depleted and reconstituted sera compared to normal human serum.

Assays

The unit of classical pathway activity is the CH50 and for the alternative pathway it is the AP50. A CH50 unit is the amount of complement needed to lyse 50% of 1×10^8 EA cells (antibody-sensitized sheep erythrocytes (CompTech #B200)) when that amount of serum is incubated with the EA in GVB⁺⁺ (CompTech #B100) in a total volume of 1.5 mL for 60 min at 37°C. See the Certificate of Analysis for lot specific values. An AP50 is defined as the amount of complement yielding 50% lysis of 1.5×10^7 rabbit erythrocytes (Er, CompTech #B300) when incubated for 30 min at 37°C in a total reaction volume of 100 μ L of GVB^o containing a final MgEGTA concentration of 5 mM. Lectin pathway activity of C3/C4-Depleted Serum is not tested, but it would be expected to be inactive due to the absence of C3 and C4.

Applications

C3/C4-Depleted Serum is used as a source of serum with minimal ability to activate any of the three pathways of complement. However, C1 can be activated as well as the lectin pathway complexes of the lectins and MASPs. These complexes will then activate C2, but further complement activation is impossible because C2 will have nothing to attach to due to the lack of C4.

Precautions/Toxicity/Hazards

The source is human serum, therefore precautions appropriate for handling any blood-derived product must be used even though the source was shown by certified tests to be negative for HBsAg and for antibodies to HCV, HIV-1 and HIV-II.

Hazard Code: B

MSDS is available upon request.

References

Dodds, A.W. and Sim, R.B. editors (1997) Complement. A Practical Approach (ISBN 019963539) Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Morgan, B.P. ed. (2000) Complement Methods and Protocols. (ISBN 0-89603-654-5) Humana Press, Inc., Totowa, New Jersey.

Rawal N, Pangburn MK. (2003) Formation of high affinity C5 convertase of the classical pathway of complement. J. Biol. Chem. 278: 38476-83.

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Complement Technology, Inc.
4801 Troup Hwy, Suite 701
Tyler, Texas 75703 USA
Phone: 903-581-8284
FAX: 903-581-0491
Email: contactCTI@complementtech.com
Web: www.ComplementTech.com