

Syphilis

Total antibodies to *Treponema pallidum* (T. pallidum, TP)

cobas[®]

REF		SYSTEM
06923348 190	100	Elecsys 2010 MODULAR ANALYTICS E170 cobas e 411 cobas e 601 cobas e 602

English

Intended use

Immunoassay for the in vitro qualitative determination of total antibodies to *Treponema pallidum* in human serum and plasma. The test is intended as an aid in the diagnosis of syphilis infection.

The electrochemiluminescence immunoassay "ECLIA" is intended for use on Elecsys and **cobas e** immunoassay analyzers.

Summary

Syphilis is caused by the intracellular gram-negative spirochete bacterium *Treponema pallidum* (TP) subspecies *pallidum*.¹

Syphilis is mainly transmitted sexually, but also can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy or birth. The global incidence of syphilis infection was 5.1 cases per 100000 men and 0.9 cases per 100000 women in 2005.² In the USA, since 2005, syphilis has increased by 59 %,³ and some European countries have seen increases⁴ and large localized outbreaks.⁵ Each year, globally, an estimated 2 million pregnancies are affected.⁶

Congenital syphilis in the new born is still common in the developing world, as many women do not receive antenatal care or the scheme does not include syphilis screening.⁷ Up to 80 % of syphilis infected pregnant women show adverse pregnancy outcomes⁶ resulting in an overall perinatal mortality rate of 40 %.⁸ Septicemia, abortion, or neonatal death can occur, and congenital syphilis is associated with significant morbidity. The World Health Organization recommends all women to be tested at their first antenatal visit and again in the third trimester.⁹ If they are positive, they recommend their partners also be tested.⁹ Syphilis infection facilitates HIV infection.¹⁰

In the early stage of infection, the clinical diagnosis of syphilis can be very difficult.¹ After the window period, blood tests using dark-field or fluorescence microscopy offer a more sensitive and easier alternative to visual inspection of the patient.¹ Typically, the symptoms start with a painless ulcer at the site of entry to the body (primary syphilis) followed by a widespread rash as the bacteria disseminate (secondary syphilis). A lengthy latent (asymptomatic) period follows. Eventually, tertiary syphilis ensues, characterized by the development of granulomatous dermal lesions, neurosyphilis, and/or cardiovascular syphilis (which can be fatal).

The immune response to *T. pallidum* is the main driver of lesion development.¹¹ The antibody response is directed not only against antigens specific to *T. pallidum* (treponemal antibodies) but also against antigens that are not specific to *T. pallidum* (non-treponemal antibodies), for example, antigens released during the cellular damage caused by the organism.

Therefore, non-treponemal and treponemal tests are existing for the diagnosis of Syphilis.

Non-treponemal tests use antigens comprising lecithin, cholesterol, and purified cardiolipin to detect antibodies against cardiolipin, which are present in many syphilis patients. Treponemal tests detect antibodies directed against *T. pallidum* proteins. A positive treponemal antibody test result indicates prior exposure to syphilis. Non-treponemal assays are useful for monitoring the progression of disease and response to therapy. Both tests are necessary as an aid of the diagnosis.¹

Test principle

Sandwich principle. Total duration of assay: 18 minutes.

- 1st incubation: 10 µL of sample, biotinylated TP-specific recombinant antigens and TP-specific recombinant antigens labeled with a ruthenium complex^{a)} react to form a sandwich complex.
- 2nd incubation: After addition of streptavidin-coated microparticles, the complex becomes bound to the solid phase via interaction of biotin and streptavidin.

- The reaction mixture is aspirated into the measuring cell where the microparticles are magnetically captured onto the surface of the electrode. Unbound substances are then removed with ProCell/ProCell M. Application of a voltage to the electrode then induces chemiluminescent emission which is measured by a photomultiplier.
- Results are determined automatically by the software by comparing the electrochemiluminescence signal obtained from the reaction product of the sample with the signal of the cutoff value previously obtained by calibration.

a) Tris(2,2'-bipyridyl)ruthenium(II)-complex (Ru(bpy)₃²⁺)

Reagents - working solutions

The reagent rackpack (M, R1, R2) is labeled as Syphilis.

- M Streptavidin-coated microparticles (transparent cap), 1 bottle, 6.5 mL:
Streptavidin-coated microparticles 0.72 mg/mL; preservative.
- R1 TP-specific recombinant antigens (*E. coli*)-biotin (gray cap), 1 bottle, 9 mL:
Biotinylated TP-specific recombinant antigens (*E. coli*), 0.7 mg/L;
MES^{b)} buffer 50 mmol/L, pH 6.5; preservative.
- R2 TP-specific recombinant antigens (*E. coli*)-Ru(bpy)₃²⁺ (black cap), 1 bottle, 9 mL:
TP-specific recombinant antigens labeled with ruthenium complex 0.7 mg/L; MES buffer 50 mmol/L, pH 6.5; preservative.

b) MES = 2-morpholino-ethane sulfonic acid

- Syphilis Cal1 Negative calibrator (white cap), 2 bottles (lyophilized) for 1.0 mL each:
Human serum, non reactive for anti-TP; preservative.
- Syphilis Cal2 Positive calibrator (black cap), 2 bottles (lyophilized) for 1.0 mL each:
Human serum, reactive for anti-syphilis antibodies; preservative.

Precautions and warnings

For in vitro diagnostic use.

Exercise the normal precautions required for handling all laboratory reagents.

Disposal of all waste material should be in accordance with local guidelines. Safety data sheet available for professional user on request.

This kit contains components classified as follows in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008:

2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one hydrochloride

EUH 208 May produce an allergic reaction.

Product safety labeling primarily follows EU GHS guidance.

All human material should be considered potentially infectious. All products derived from human blood are prepared exclusively from the blood of donors tested individually and shown to be free from HBsAg and antibodies to HCV and HIV. The testing methods applied were FDA-approved or cleared in compliance with the European Directive 98/79/EC, Annex II, List A.

However, as no testing method can rule out the potential risk of infection with absolute certainty, the material should be handled with the same level of care as a patient specimen. In the event of exposure, the directives of the responsible health authorities should be followed.^{12,13}

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Avoid foam formation in all reagents and sample types (specimens, calibrators and controls).

Reagent handling

The reagents in the kit are ready for use (except for Syphilis Cal1 and Syphilis Cal2) and are supplied in bottles compatible with the system.

Syphilis Cal1 and Syphilis Cal2: Carefully dissolve the contents of one bottle by adding exactly 1.0 mL of distilled or deionized water and allow to stand closed for 15 minutes to reconstitute. Mix carefully, avoiding foam formation.

Transfer the reconstituted calibrators into the supplied empty labeled snap-cap bottles.

Elecsys 2010 and **cobas e 411** analyzers: The reconstituted calibrators should only be left on the analyzers during calibration at 20-25 °C. After use, close the bottles as soon as possible and store upright at 2-8 °C.

Due to possible evaporation effects, not more than 5 calibration procedures per calibrator bottle set should be performed.

If necessary, freeze in aliquots; see section on MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, **cobas e 601** and **cobas e 602** analyzers.

MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, **cobas e 601** and **cobas e 602** analyzers: Unless the entire volume is necessary for calibration on the analyzers, transfer aliquots of the reconstituted calibrators into empty snap-cap bottles (CalSet Vials). Attach the supplied labels to these additional bottles. Store the aliquots at -20 °C for later use.

Perform **only one** calibration procedure per aliquot.

All information required for correct operation is read in from the respective reagent barcodes.

Please note: Both the vial labels, and the additional labels (if available) contain 2 different barcodes. The barcode between the yellow markers is for **cobas** 8000 systems only. If using a **cobas** 8000 system, please turn the vial cap 180° into the correct position so the barcode can be read by the system. Place the vial on the instrument as usual.

Storage and stability

Store at 2-8 °C.

Do not freeze.

Store the Elecsys reagent kit **upright** in order to ensure complete availability of the microparticles during automatic mixing prior to use.

Stability of the reagent rackpack	
unopened at 2-8 °C	up to the stated expiration date
after opening at 2-8 °C	56 days
on the analyzers	28 days

The lyophilized calibrators are stable up to the stated expiration date.

Stability of the reconstituted calibrators	
either at -20 °C	6 months (3 freeze/thaw cycles possible)
or at 2-8 °C	28 days
on Elecsys 2010 and cobas e 411 at 20-25 °C	up to 6 hours
on MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, cobas e 601 and cobas e 602 at 20-25 °C	use only once

Store calibrators **upright** in order to prevent the calibrator solution from adhering to the snap-cap.

Specimen collection and preparation

Only the specimens listed below were tested and found acceptable.

Serum collected using standard sampling tubes or tubes containing separating gel.

K₂-EDTA, K₃-EDTA, Na-citrate, CPDA (Citrate Phosphate Dextrose Adenine) plasma as well as Li-heparin plasma tubes containing separating gel.

Criterion: Mean recovery of positive samples within ± 20 % of serum value. Absolute deviation of samples with COI values from 0.00-1.0 within ± 0.2 COI.

Sampling devices containing liquid anticoagulants have a dilution effect resulting in lower COI values for individual patient specimens. In order to minimize dilution effects it is essential that respective sampling devices are filled completely according to manufacturer's instructions.

Stable for 14 days at 2-8 °C, 5 days at 25 °C, 6 months at -20 °C.^{c)} The samples may be frozen 5 times.

The sample types listed were tested with a selection of sample collection tubes that were commercially available at the time of testing, i.e. not all available tubes of all manufacturers were tested. Sample collection systems from various manufacturers may contain differing materials which could affect the test results in some cases. When processing samples in primary tubes (sample collection systems), follow the instructions of the tube manufacturer.

Centrifuge samples containing precipitates and frozen samples before performing the assay.

Do not use heat-inactivated samples.

Do not use samples and controls stabilized with azide.

Ensure the samples, calibrators and controls are at 20-25 °C prior to measurement.

Due to possible evaporation effects, samples, calibrators and controls on the analyzers should be analyzed/measured within 2 hours.

c) Stability measurements ongoing

Materials provided

See "Reagents – working solutions" section for reagents.

- 2 x 6 bottle labels
- 4 empty labeled snap-cap bottles

Materials required (but not provided)

- [REF](#) 06923364190, PreciControl Syphilis, for 2 x 2 mL each of PreciControl Syphilis 1 and 2
- [REF](#) 11776576322, CalSet Vials, 2 x 56 empty snap-cap bottles
- General laboratory equipment
- Elecsys 2010, MODULAR ANALYTICS E170 or **cobas e** analyzer
- Distilled or deionized water

Accessories for Elecsys 2010 and **cobas e 411** analyzers:

- [REF](#) 11662988122, ProCell, 6 x 380 mL system buffer
- [REF](#) 11662970122, CleanCell, 6 x 380 mL measuring cell cleaning solution
- [REF](#) 11930346122, Elecsys SysWash, 1 x 500 mL washwater additive
- [REF](#) 11933159001, Adapter for SysClean
- [REF](#) 11706802001, Elecsys 2010 AssayCup, 60 x 60 reaction vessels
- [REF](#) 11706799001, Elecsys 2010 AssayTip, 30 x 120 pipette tips

Accessories for MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, **cobas e 601** and **cobas e 602** analyzers:

- [REF](#) 04880340190, ProCell M, 2 x 2 L system buffer
- [REF](#) 04880293190, CleanCell M, 2 x 2 L measuring cell cleaning solution
- [REF](#) 03023141001, PC/CC-Cups, 12 cups to prewarm ProCell M and CleanCell M before use
- [REF](#) 03005712190, ProbeWash M, 12 x 70 mL cleaning solution for run finalization and rinsing during reagent change
- [REF](#) 03004899190, PreClean M, 5 x 600 mL detection cleaning solution
- [REF](#) 12102137001, AssayTip/AssayCup Combimagazine M, 48 magazines x 84 reaction vessels or pipette tips, waste bags
- [REF](#) 03023150001, WasteLiner, waste bags
- [REF](#) 03027651001, SysClean Adapter M

Accessories for all analyzers:

- [REF](#) 11298500316, ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean, 5 x 100 mL system cleaning solution

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Assay

For optimum performance of the assay follow the directions given in this document for the analyzer concerned. Refer to the appropriate operator's manual for analyzer-specific assay instructions.

Resuspension of the microparticles takes place automatically prior to use. Read in the test-specific parameters via the reagent barcode. If in exceptional cases the barcode cannot be read, enter the 15-digit sequence of numbers.

MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, **cobas e 601** and **cobas e 602** analyzers: PreClean M solution is necessary.

Bring the cooled reagents to approximately 20 °C and place on the reagent disk (20 °C) of the analyzer. Avoid foam formation. The system automatically regulates the temperature of the reagents and the opening/closing of the bottles.

Place the reconstituted calibrators in the sample zone.

All the information necessary for calibrating the assay is automatically read into the analyzer.

After calibration has been performed, store the calibrators at 2-8 °C or discard (MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, **cobas e 601** and **cobas e 602** analyzers).

Calibration

Calibration frequency: Calibration must be performed once per reagent lot using Syphilis Cal1, Syphilis Cal2 and fresh reagent (i.e. not more than 24 hours since the reagent kit was registered on the analyzer). Renewed calibration is recommended as follows:

- after 1 month (28 days) when using the same reagent lot
- after 7 days (when using the same reagent kit on the analyzer)
- as required: e.g. quality control findings with PreciControl Syphilis outside the defined limits

Range for the electrochemiluminescence signals (counts) for the calibrators:

Negative calibrator (Syphilis Cal1): 450-4000,
positive calibrator (Syphilis Cal2): 22000-140000.

Quality control

For quality control, use PreciControl Syphilis.

Controls for the various concentration ranges should be run individually at least once every 24 hours when the test is in use, once per reagent kit, and following each calibration.

The control intervals and limits should be adapted to each laboratory's individual requirements. Values obtained should fall within the defined limits. Each laboratory should establish corrective measures to be taken if values fall outside the defined limits.

If necessary, repeat the measurement of the samples concerned.

Follow the applicable government regulations and local guidelines for quality control.

Note: The controls are not barcode-labeled and therefore have to be run like external controls. All values and ranges have to be entered manually. Please refer to the section "QC" in the operator's manual or to the online help of the instrument software.

Non-barcode labeled controls: Only one target value and range for each control level can be entered in the analyzer. The reagent lot-specific target values have to be re-entered each time a specific reagent lot with different control target values and ranges is used. Two reagent lots with different control target values and ranges cannot be used in parallel in the same run.

The exact lot-specific target values and ranges are printed on the enclosed (or electronically available) value sheet in the reagent kit or PreciControl kit.

Please make sure that the correct values are used.

Calculation

The analyzer automatically calculates the cutoff based on the measurement of Syphilis Cal1 and Syphilis Cal2.

The result of a sample is given either as reactive or non-reactive as well as in the form of a cutoff index (signal sample/cutoff).

Interpretation of the results

Samples with a cutoff index < 1.00 are non-reactive in the Elecsys Syphilis assay. These samples are considered negative for syphilis-specific antibodies and do not need further testing.

Samples with a cutoff index ≥ 1.00 are considered reactive in the Elecsys Syphilis assay.

All initially reactive samples should be redetermined in duplicate with the Elecsys Syphilis assay. If cutoff index values < 1.00 are found in both cases, the samples are considered negative for syphilis-specific antibodies.

Initially reactive samples giving cutoff index values of ≥ 1.00 in either of the redeterminations are considered repeatedly reactive. Repeatedly reactive samples must be confirmed according to recommended confirmatory algorithms.

Limitations - interference

The assay is unaffected by icterus (bilirubin $\leq 1129 \mu\text{mol/L}$ or $\leq 66 \text{ mg/dL}$), hemolysis (Hb $\leq 0.310 \text{ mmol/L}$ or $\leq 0.5 \text{ g/dL}$), lipemia (Intralipid $\leq 2000 \text{ mg/dL}$), human serum albumin $\leq 10 \text{ g/dL}$, human IgG $\leq 32 \text{ g/L}$, human IgM $\leq 10 \text{ g/L}$, human IgA $\leq 2.8 \text{ g/dL}$ and biotin ($\leq 246 \text{ nmol/L}$ or $\leq 60 \text{ ng/mL}$).

Criterion: Mean recovery of positive samples within $\pm 15 \%$. Absolute deviation of samples with COI values from 0.00-1.0 within $\pm 0.2 \text{ COI}$.

Samples should not be taken from patients receiving therapy with high biotin doses (i.e. > 5 mg/day) until at least 8 hours following the last biotin administration.

No interference was observed from rheumatoid factors up to a concentration of 1500 IU/mL.

No false negative result due to high-dose hook effect was found with the Elecsys Syphilis assay.

In vitro tests were performed on 16 commonly used pharmaceuticals. No interference with the assay was found.

In rare cases, interference due to extremely high titers of antibodies to analyte-specific antibodies, streptavidin or ruthenium can occur. These effects are minimized by suitable test design.

For diagnostic purposes, the results should always be assessed in conjunction with the patient's medical history, clinical examination and other findings.

A negative test result does not completely rule out the possibility of an infection with syphilis. Serum or plasma samples from the very early (pre-seroconversion) phase or the late phase of a syphilis infection can occasionally yield negative findings.

Specific performance data

Representative performance data on the analyzers are given below. Results obtained in individual laboratories may differ.

Precision

Precision was determined using Elecsys reagents, samples and controls in a protocol (EP5-A2) of the CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute): 2 runs per day in duplication each for 21 days (n = 84). The following results were obtained:

Elecsys 2010 and cobas e 411 analyzers					
Sample	Mean COI	Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
		SD COI	CV %	SD COI	CV %
HS ^{d)} , negative	0.103	0.002	1.6	0.003	3.2
HS, positive 1	1.01	0.028	2.8	0.033	3.2
HS, positive 2	1.12	0.018	1.6	0.022	1.9
HS, positive 3	9.99	0.171	1.7	0.262	2.6
HS, positive 4	50.2	0.986	2.0	1.24	2.5
PreciControl Syphilis1	0.106	0.003	2.4	0.004	4.1
PreciControl Syphilis2	4.95	0.101	2.1	0.161	3.2

d) HS = human serum

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MODULAR ANALYTICS E170, cobas e 601 and cobas e 602 analyzers					
		Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
Sample	Mean COI	SD COI	CV %	SD COI	CV %
HS, negative	0.062	0.001	2.0	0.002	3.6
HS, positive 1	1.10	0.017	1.5	0.055	5.0
HS, positive 2	1.19	0.014	1.2	0.055	4.6
HS, positive 3	11.1	0.146	1.3	0.508	4.6
HS, positive 4	54.6	0.910	1.7	2.69	4.9
PreciControl Syphilis1	0.064	0.001	1.8	0.002	2.5
PreciControl Syphilis2	5.36	0.082	1.5	0.138	2.6

Analytical specificity

236 samples containing antibodies against Borrelia, EBV, Rubella, HAV, HBV, HCV, HIV, CMV, HSV, E. coli, Toxoplasma gondii, ANA and rheumatoid factor, respectively, were tested with the Elecsys Syphilis assay. 227 samples were tested negative, 9 samples were tested positive for anti-syphilis antibodies (confirmed by Western Blot and other anti-syphilis assays). No cross-reactivity was found.

Clinical sensitivity

A total of 924 samples from patients with suspected syphilis infection (diagnostic routine and blood screening) from Europe and Asia were tested with the Elecsys Syphilis assay. Four additional samples were excluded due to probable handling errors with banked samples. 922 samples were found to be positive for anti-syphilis antibodies (either clinically defined or confirmed by FTA-Abs^{g)} and other anti-syphilis assays). Two samples were found to be indeterminate. Overall, 922 samples were found to be repeatedly reactive (RR) with the Elecsys Syphilis assay. The two indeterminate samples were found to be non-reactive with the Elecsys Syphilis assay. The resulting sensitivity of confirmed positive samples is 100 %. The 95 % lower confidence limit was 99.60 %.

Cohort	N	Confirmed positive samples	Indeterminate samples	False negative samples ^{f)}	Sensitivity ^{g)} %
Primary syphilis	101	101	0	0	100
Secondary syphilis	124	124	0	0	100
Latent syphilis	470	470	0	0	100
Syphilis, stage of the disease unknown	229	227	2	0	100
Total^{h)}	924	922	2	0	100

f) Elecsys Syphilis assay (RR)

g) Sensitivity of confirmed positive samples

h) Four additional samples were excluded due to probable handling errors with banked samples.

e) FTA (Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody) - Abs (absorption)

Clinical specificity

A total of 8079 samples (diagnostic routine and blood screening) from Europe and Asia were tested with the Elecsys Syphilis assay. 14 samples were found to be positive for anti-syphilis antibodies (confirmed by FTA-Abs and other anti-syphilis assays), 8063 samples were found to be negative and 10 samples were found to be repeatedly false reactive with the Elecsys Syphilis assay (negative in FTA-Abs and other anti-syphilis assays). The resulting specificity in the study is 99.88 %. The 95 % lower confidence limit was 99.77 %.

Cohort	N	Confirmed positive samples	Confirmed negative samples	False positive samples ⁱ⁾	Specificity %
Diagnostic routine samples	3500	14	3486	7	99.80
Blood donor samples	4579	0	4577*	3	99.93
Overall specificity for all samples (routine cohorts and blood donations)	8079	14	8063*	10	99.88

i) Elecsys Syphilis assay (RR)

* Two samples were excluded due to indeterminate confirmation results.

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- Lafond RE, Lukehart SA. Biological basis for syphilis. Clin Microbiol Rev 2006;19(1):29-49.
- Occupational Safety and Health Standards: bloodborne pathogens. (29 CFR Part 1910.1030). Fed. Register.
- Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work.

For further information, please refer to the appropriate operator's manual for the analyzer concerned, the respective application sheets, the product information and the Method Sheets of all necessary components (if available in your country).

A point (period/stop) is always used in this Method Sheet as the decimal separator to mark the border between the integral and the fractional parts of a decimal numeral. Separators for thousands are not used.

Symbols

Roche Diagnostics uses the following symbols and signs in addition to those listed in the ISO 15223-1 standard.

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CONTENT	Contents of kit
SYSTEM	Analyzers/Instruments on which reagents can be used
REAGENT	Reagent
CALIBRATOR	Calibrator
→	Volume after reconstitution or mixing
GTIN	Global Trade Item Number

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