

Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S

cobas®

REF			SYSTEM
09289275190	09289275500	300	cobas e 402 cobas e 801

English

System information

Short name	ACN (application code number)
ACOV2S	10230

Intended use

Immunoassay for the in vitro quantitative determination of total antibodies to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) spike (S) protein receptor binding domain (RBD) in human serum and plasma. The test is intended as an aid to assess the adaptive humoral immune response, including neutralizing antibodies, to the SARS-CoV-2 S protein after natural infection with SARS-CoV-2 or in vaccine recipients.

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

Summary

SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), is an enveloped, single-stranded RNA Betacoronavirus. 7 coronaviruses have been identified as agents of human infection, causing disease ranging from mild common cold to severe respiratory failure.¹

SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted primarily from person-to-person through respiratory droplets and aerosols.^{2,3} The incubation period from infection to detectable viral load in the host commonly ranges from 2 to 14 days.^{4,5} Detection of viral load can be associated with the onset of clinical signs and symptoms, although a considerable proportion of individuals remains asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic.^{6,7,8} The interval during which an individual with COVID-19 is infectious has not yet been clearly established, however, transmission from symptomatic, asymptomatic, and pre-symptomatic individuals has been well described.^{9,10,11}

Coronavirus genomes encode 4 main structural proteins: spike (S), envelope (E), membrane (M), and nucleocapsid (N). The S protein is a very large transmembrane protein that assembles into trimers to form the distinctive surface spikes of coronaviruses. Each S monomer consists of an N-terminal S1 subunit and a membrane-proximal S2 subunit. The virus gains entry to the host cell through binding of the S protein to the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), which is present on the surface of numerous cell types including the alveolar type II cells of the lung and epithelial cells of the oral mucosa.^{12,13} Mechanistically, ACE2 acts as the virus receptor and is engaged by the receptor-binding domain (RBD) on the S1 subunit.^{14,15}

Upon infection with SARS-CoV-2, the host mounts an immune response against the virus, typically including production of specific antibodies against viral antigens. IgM and IgG antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 appear to arise nearly simultaneously in blood.¹⁶ There is significant inter-individual difference in the levels and chronological appearance of antibodies in COVID-19 patients, but median seroconversion has been observed at approximately 2 weeks.^{17,18,19,20,21} Also, titers after a resolved infection show considerable variance from patient to patient.²²

Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 with strong neutralizing capacity, especially potent if directed against the RBD, have been identified.^{21,23,24} Competition of antibodies with binding of the RBD to ACE2 has been established as a reliable correlate for the assessment of the presence of neutralizing antibodies.²⁵ Numerous vaccines for COVID-19 are in development, many of which focus on eliciting an immune response to the RBD.^{26,27,28}

Serologic assays can play an important role in understanding viral epidemiology in the general population and identifying individuals who are apparently naive and thus presumably susceptible to the virus.

The Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay uses a recombinant protein representing the RBD of the S antigen in a double-antigen sandwich assay format, which favors the quantitative determination of high affinity antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Quantification of the antibody response can help to determine the specific antibody titer and aid in longitudinal monitoring of the dynamics of the antibody response in individual patients. The Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay shows good agreement with direct and surrogate virus neutralization assays.

Test principle

Double-antigen sandwich principle. Total duration of assay: 18 minutes.

- 1st incubation: 12 µL of sample, biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 S-RBD-specific recombinant antigen and SARS-CoV-2 S-RBD-specific recombinant antigen labeled with a ruthenium complex^{a)} 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 II M. Application of a voltage to the electrode then induces chemiluminescent emission which is measured by a photomultiplier.
- Results are determined via a calibration curve which is instrument-specifically generated by 2-point calibration and a master curve provided via the **cobas** link.

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

Reagents - working solutions

The **cobas e** pack is labeled as ACOV2S.

- M Streptavidin-coated microparticles, 1 bottle, 16.0 mL:
Streptavidin-coated microparticles 0.72 mg/mL; preservative.
- R1 SARS-CoV-2 S-Ag~biotin, 1 bottle, 18.8 mL:
Biotinylated RBD domain of SARS-CoV-2 S as recombinant antigen < 0.4 mg/L; HEPES^{b)} buffer 50 mmol/L, pH 7.4; preservative.
- R2 SARS-CoV-2 S-Ag~Ru(bpy)₃²⁺, 1 bottle, 18.8 mL:
RBD domain of SARS-CoV-2 S as recombinant antigen labeled with ruthenium complex < 0.4 mg/L; HEPES buffer 50 mmol/L, pH 7.4; preservative.

b) HEPES = [4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazine]-ethane sulfonic acid

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:



Warning

H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.

Prevention:

P261 Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.

P272 Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.

P280 Wear protective gloves.

Response:

P333 + P313 If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

P362 + P364 Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

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Disposal:

P501 Dispose of contents/container to an approved waste disposal plant.

Product safety labeling follows EU GHS guidance.

Contact phone: all countries: +49-621-7590

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

Reagent handling

For professional use.

The reagents in the kit have been assembled into a ready-for-use unit that cannot be separated.

All information required for correct operation is available via the **cobas** link.

Storage and stability

Store at 2-8 °C.

Do not freeze.

Store the **cobas e** pack **upright** in order to ensure complete availability of the microparticles during automatic mixing prior to use.

Stability:	
unopened at 2-8 °C	up to the stated expiration date
on the analyzers	16 weeks

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.

Li-heparin, K₂-EDTA, K₃-EDTA and sodium citrate plasma.

Li-heparin and K₂-EDTA plasma tubes containing separating gel can be used.

Capillary blood collected in serum, Li-heparin plasma or K₂-EDTA plasma sampling tubes.

Criterion: Slope 1.00 ± 0.10 + bias at 0.8 U/mL ± 20 %.

For native samples collected in sodium citrated plasma: Slope 0.84 ± 0.10 .

For capillary blood derived samples: negative samples: < 0.4 U/mL, reactive samples: recovery within 70-130 % of serum value.

Sampling devices containing liquid anticoagulants have a dilution effect resulting in lower values (U/mL) 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 15-25 °C, 14 days at 2-8 °C, 3 months at -20 °C (± 5 °C). The samples may be frozen 3 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.

Specimens should not be subsequently altered with additives (e.g. biocides, anti-oxidants or substances that could possibly change the pH or ionic strength of the sample) in order to avoid erroneous findings.

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

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

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

The performance of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay has not been established with cadaveric samples or body fluids other than serum and plasma.

Materials provided

See "Reagents – working solutions" section for reagents.

Materials required (but not provided)

- [REF] 09289291190, CalSet Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S, for 4 x 1.0 mL

- [REF] 09289313190, PreciControl Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S, 4 x 1.0 mL
- [REF] 07299001190, Diluent Universal, 36 mL sample diluent
- General laboratory equipment

- **cobas e** analyzer

Additional materials for **cobas e** 402 and **cobas e** 801 analyzers:

- [REF] 06908799190, ProCell II M, 2 x 2 L system solution
- [REF] 04880293190, CleanCell M, 2 x 2 L measuring cell cleaning solution
- [REF] 07485409001, Reservoir Cup, 8 cups to supply ProCell II M and CleanCell M
- [REF] 06908853190, PreClean II M, 2 x 2 L wash solution
- [REF] 05694302001, Assay Tip/Assay Cup tray, 6 magazines x 6 magazine stacks x 105 assay tips and 105 assay cups, 3 wasteliners
- [REF] 07485425001, Liquid Flow Cleaning Cup, 2 adaptor cups to supply ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean for Liquid Flow Cleaning Detection Unit
- [REF] 07485433001, PreWash Liquid Flow Cleaning Cup, 1 adaptor cup to supply ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean for Liquid Flow Cleaning PreWash Unit
- [REF] 11298500316, ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean, 5 x 100 mL system cleaning solution

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.

Place the cooled (stored at 2-8 °C) **cobas e** pack on the reagent manager. Avoid foam formation. The system automatically regulates the temperature of the reagents and the opening/closing of the **cobas e** pack.

Calibration

Traceability: This method has been standardized against the internal Roche standard for anti-SARS-CoV-2 S.

Subsequently, it could be shown that the First WHO International Standard for anti-SARS-CoV 2 immunoglobulin (human), NIBSC code: 20/136, behaves identically to the internal Roche standard, with a Pearson correlation coefficient $r = 0.9996$ between Limit of Quantitation and 1000 BAU/mL. Hence, the numeric results in U/mL of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay and BAU/mL are equivalent (e.g. 1 U/mL of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay corresponds to 1 BAU/mL).

Note: Although the defined unit for the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay is identical to the binding antibody unit (BAU) defined by the WHO standard, the defined unit for the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay must not be used interchangeably with units of other assays. See also the section "Interpretation of results".

Every Elecsys reagent set has a barcoded label containing specific information for calibration of the particular reagent lot. The predefined master curve is adapted to the analyzer using the relevant CalSet.

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Calibration frequency: Calibration must be performed once per reagent lot using fresh reagent (i.e. not more than 24 hours since the **cobas e** pack was registered on the analyzer).

Calibration interval may be extended based on acceptable verification of calibration by the laboratory.

Renewed calibration is recommended as follows:

- after 42 days when using the same reagent lot
- after 14 days when using the same **cobas e** pack on the analyzer
- as required: e.g. quality control findings outside the defined limits

Quality control

For quality control, use PreciControl Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S.

In addition, other suitable control material can be used.

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

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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.

Calculation

The analyzer automatically calculates the analyte concentration of each sample in U/mL.

Interpretation of the results

Result	Interpretation
< 0.80 U/mL	Negative for anti-SARS-CoV-2-S
≥ 0.80 U/mL	Positive for anti-SARS-CoV-2-S

Duplicate repeat results in cobas e flow ACOV2S DR	Interpretation
Both of the duplicate repeat tests < 0.80 U/mL	Negative for anti-SARS-CoV-2-S
One or both of the duplicate repeat tests ≥ 0.80 U/mL	Repeatedly reactive, positive for anti-SARS-CoV-2-S

Note: Due to the diversity of the antibodies, the measured anti-SARS-CoV-2-S value can vary depending on the testing procedure used and the applied standard. Results obtained from a single sample using tests from different manufacturers can therefore differ. If there is a change in the assay procedure used during the monitoring of antibody titers, then the anti-SARS-CoV-2-S values obtained upon changing over to the new procedure must be confirmed by parallel measurements with both methods. For citrated plasma (1 part citrate solution + 9 parts blood), the dilution effect must be taken into account.

Limitations - interference

The effect of the following endogenous substances and pharmaceutical compounds on assay performance was tested. Interferences were tested up to the listed concentrations and no impact on results was observed.

Endogenous substances

Compound	Concentration tested
Bilirubin	≤ 1129 μmol/L or ≤ 66 mg/dL
Hemoglobin	≤ 1000 mg/dL or ≤ 10 g/L
Intralipid	≤ 2000 mg/dL
Biotin	≤ 4912 nmol/L or ≤ 1200 ng/mL
Rheumatoid factors	≤ 1200 IU/mL
IgG	≤ 7.0 g/dL or ≤ 70 g/L
IgA	≤ 1.6 g/dL or ≤ 16 g/L
IgM	≤ 1.0 g/dL or ≤ 10 g/L

Criterion: For concentrations of 1.0-20 U/mL, the deviation is ≤ 20 %. For concentrations > 20 U/mL, the deviation is ≤ 30 %. For concentrations < 1.0 U/mL, the deviation is ≤ 0.2 U/mL.

No false negative results due to a high-dose hook effect were found with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay but occurrence of high-dose hook effect cannot be completely excluded.

Pharmaceutical substances

In vitro tests were performed on 17 commonly used pharmaceuticals. No interference with the assay was found.

Interference of itraconazole was tested up to the listed concentration and no impact on results was observed.

Drug	Concentration tested
Itraconazole	15 mg/L

In addition, the following special drugs were tested. No interference with the assay was found.

Antivirals

Drug	Concentration tested
Interferon-alpha-2a	14400 IU/mL
Interferon-alpha-2b	1000 IU/mL
Zanamivir	0.002 mg/mL
Ribavirin	0.247 mg/mL
Oseltamivir	0.030 mg/mL
Peramivir	0.120 mg/mL
Lopinavir	0.240 mg/mL
Ritonavir	0.160 mg/mL
Arbidol	0.040 mg/mL
Remdesivir	0.040 mg/mL
Actemra (Tocilizumab)	0.128 mg/mL

Antibiotics

Drug	Concentration tested
Levofloxacin	0.1 mg/mL
Azithromycin	0.1 mg/mL
Ceftriaxone	0.8 mg/mL
Meropenem	1.20 mg/mL
Tobramycin	0.120 mg/mL

Others

Drug	Concentration tested
Hydroxychloroquine	0.16 mg/mL

Drug interferences are measured based on recommendations given in CLSI guidelines EP07 and EP37 and other published literature. Effects of concentrations exceeding these recommendations have not been characterized.

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 SARS-CoV-2. Serum or plasma samples from the very early (pre-seroconversion) phase can yield negative findings. Therefore, this test cannot be used to diagnose an acute infection. It has also been reported that certain patients with confirmed infection do not develop SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.²¹ Furthermore, waning of antibody titer has been reported in some individuals within a range of months after infection, a feature which has also been reported for other coronaviruses.^{29,30,31}

Limits and ranges

Measuring range

0.40-250 U/mL (defined by the Limit of Quantitation and the maximum of the master curve). Values below the Limit of Quantitation are reported as < 0.40 U/mL. Values above the measuring range are reported as > 250 U/mL (or up to 2500 U/mL for 10-fold diluted samples).

Lower limits of measurement

Limit of Blank, Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation

Limit of Blank = 0.30 U/mL

Limit of Detection = 0.35 U/mL

Limit of Quantitation = 0.40 U/mL

The Limit of Blank, Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation were determined in accordance with the CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute) EP17-A2 requirements.

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The Limit of Blank is the 95th percentile value from $n \geq 60$ measurements of analyte-free samples over several independent series. The Limit of Blank corresponds to the concentration below which analyte-free samples are found with a probability of 95 %.

The Limit of Detection is determined based on the Limit of Blank and the standard deviation of low concentration samples. The Limit of Detection corresponds to the lowest analyte concentration which can be detected (value above the Limit of Blank with a probability of 95 %).

The Limit of Quantitation is defined as the lowest amount of analyte in a sample that can be accurately quantified with a $CV \leq 20$ %. It has been determined using samples with low concentration of anti-SARS-CoV-2-S.

Dilution

Samples with anti-SARS-CoV-2-S concentrations above the measuring range can be diluted with Diluent Universal. The recommended dilution range is 1:10 up to 1:100.

After dilution by the analyzers, the software automatically takes the dilution into account when calculating the sample concentration.

Note: Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 are heterogeneous. In some isolated cases, this may lead to non-linear dilution behavior.

An optimized dilution algorithm can be performed automatically (see section "cobas e flows").

cobas e flows

cobas e flows are procedures programmed into the system to enable a fully automated sequence of measurements and the calculation of assay combinations to perform decision algorithms.

The **cobas e flow "ACOV2S D"** is available to automatically perform an initial 1:30 sample dilution. If the result of this measurement is within the extended measuring range (12-7500 U/mL), the result is reported.

In case the initial result is found above the extended measuring range, another dilution (1:400) of the sample is automatically carried out to resolve titers up to 100000 U/mL. Results > 100000 U/mL are assigned the result message "above measuring range" with the numeric result set to 100000 U/mL.

In case the initial result is found below the measuring range associated with 1:30 dilution, another measurement is carried out without dilution of the sample and the result is reported.

The **cobas e flow "ACOV2S DR"** is available to measure a sample with the same automated dilution algorithm as in the **cobas e flow "ACOV2S D"**, followed by duplicate repeat measurement for samples with an initially "reactive" result (≥ 0.8 U/mL). Confirmation of the reactive status by one or both of the repeat measurements leads to the main result "repeatedly reactive". Lack of confirmation with both of the repeats leads to the qualitative interpretation of the sample being "non-reactive" reported as the main result. Relevant results of the individual determinations are provided as sub-results in addition to the main result.

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 (EP05-A3) of the CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute): 1 run per day with 5 replicates of each sample for 5 days ($n = 25$). The following results were obtained:

cobas e 402 and cobas e 801 analyzers					
		Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
Sample	Mean U/mL	SD U/mL	CV %	SD U/mL	CV %
HSP ^{c)} 1	0.483	0.014	2.9	0.014	2.9
HSP 2	0.826	0.015	1.9	0.015	1.9
HSP 3	5.69	0.121	2.1	0.136	2.4
HSP 4	12.0	0.159	1.3	0.191	1.6
HSP 5	54.8	0.743	1.4	0.770	1.4
HSP 6	77.3	1.23	1.6	1.54	2.0

cobas e 402 and cobas e 801 analyzers					
		Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
Sample	Mean U/mL	SD U/mL	CV %	SD U/mL	CV %
HSP 7	184	1.69	0.9	2.63	1.4
PC ^{d)} ACOV2S 1	< 0.40	-	-	-	-
PC ACOV2S 2	10.4	0.139	1.3	0.206	2.0

c) HSP = human specimen (serum/plasma)

d) PC = PreciControl: PC ACOV2S 1 is free of analyte and therefore consistently resulted below measuring range (< 0.40 U/mL) throughout the experiment, standard deviation and coefficient of variance could therefore not be determined.

Method comparison

A comparison of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay, [REF] 09289275190 (**cobas e 402** analyzer; y), with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay, [REF] 09289275190 (**cobas e 801** analyzer; x), gave the following correlations (U/mL):

Number of samples measured: 141

Passing/Bablok³²

$y = 0.950x - 0.056$

$r = 0.998$

The sample concentrations were between 0.047 and 241 U/mL.

Analytical specificity

1468 samples containing potentially cross-reacting analytes were tested with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay. All samples were obtained before October 2019. No cross-reactivity was found. The resulting overall specificity was 100 %. Results are shown in the following tables:

SARS-CoV-2 related

Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
MERS CoV (anti-S1 IgG+)	51	0	100
Common Coronavirus panel ^{e)}	151	0	100

e) Pre-pandemic samples which showed serologic reactivity to at least 1 of the endemic Coronaviruses HKU1, NL63, 229E or OC43.

Infectious respiratory diseases

Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
Bordetella pertussis	39	0	100
Chlamydia pneumoniae	36	0	100
Common cold panel ^{f)}	21	0	100
Enterovirus	35	0	100
Haemophilus influenzae B	75	0	100
Influenza A	40	0	100
Influenza B	45	0	100
Influenza vaccinees	25	0	100
Mycoplasma pneumoniae	46	0	100
Parainfluenza	82	0	100
Respiratory syncytial virus	51	0	100

f) 21 potentially cross-reactive samples from individuals with common cold symptoms, collected before October 2019

Other infectious diseases

Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
Adenovirus	25	0	100

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Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
Borrelia	6	0	100
Candida albicans	13	0	100
Chlamydia trachomatis	12	0	100
CMV acute (IgM+, IgG+)	86	0	100
E. coli (anti-E. coli-reactive)	10	0	100
EBV acute (IgM+, VCA IgG+)	106	0	100
Gonorrhea (tripper)	5	0	100
HAV acute (IgM+)	10	0	100
HAV late (IgG+)	15	0	100
HAV vaccinees	15	0	100
HBV acute	12	0	100
HBV chronic	12	0	100
HBV vaccinees	15	0	100
HCV	50	0	100
HEV	12	0	100
HIV	10	0	100
HSV acute (IgM+)	24	0	100
HTLV	6	0	100
Legionella (IgGAM+)	7	0	100
Listeria	6	0	100
Measles	10	0	100
Mumps	14	0	100
Parvovirus B19	30	0	100
Plasmodium falciparum (malaria)	8	0	100
Rubella acute (IgM+, IgG+)	12	0	100
Toxoplasma gondii (IgM+, IgG+)	8	0	100
Treponema pallidum (syphilis)	62	0	100
VZV (varicella-zoster virus)	30	0	100

Autoimmune diseases

Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
AMA (anti-mitochondrial antibodies)	30	0	100
ANA (anti-nuclear antibodies)	17	0	100
Hemophiliacs	15	0	100
RA (rheumatoid arthritis)	10	0	100
SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus)	10	0	100

Hepatic diseases

Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
Alcohol induced hepatitis/cirrhosis	13	0	100
Drug induced hepatitis/cirrhosis	10	0	100
Fatty liver	10	0	100

Indication	N	Reactive	Specificity %
Liver cancer	10	0	100
Non-viral liver disease	15	0	100

Clinical specificity

A total of 5991 samples were tested with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay. All samples were obtained before October 2019. 1 false positive sample was detected.

The resulting overall specificity in the internal study was 99.98 %. The 95 % lower confidence limit was 99.91 %.

Cohort	N	Reactive	Specificity %	95 % lower confidence limit, %	95 % upper confidence limit, %
Diagnostic routine (Europe)	2528	0	100	99.85	100
Blood donors (USA)	2713	1	99.96	99.79	100
Blood donors (Africa)	750	0	100	99.51	100
Overall	5991	1	99.98	99.91	100

Sensitivity

A total of 1610 samples from 402 symptomatic patients (including 297 samples from 243 hospitalized patients) with a PCR confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were tested with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay. 1 or more sequential samples from these patients were collected at various time points after PCR confirmation.

1423 of the tested samples had a sampling date of 14 days or later after diagnosis with PCR. 1406 of these 1423 samples were determined with ≥ 0.8 U/mL in the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay and hence considered positive, resulting in a sensitivity of 98.8 % (95 % CI: 98.1-99.3 %) in this sample cohort.

U/mL	Days after diagnosis with positive PCR					
	0-6	7-13	14-20	21-27	28-34	> 35
< 0.4	4	16	7	3	0	0
0.4 - < 0.8	0	6	7	0	0	0
0.8 - < 1.5	2	3	4	1	0	0
1.5 - < 2.5	0	2	6	2	0	0
2.5 - < 5	3	10	9	12	10	40
5 - < 10	1	7	7	15	25	49
10 - < 20	0	11	19	32	25	62
20 - < 50	1	13	19	40	38	183
50 - < 100	3	9	11	34	48	232
100 - < 150	1	4	11	11	21	135
150 - < 200	2	4	2	5	11	95
200 - \leq 250	3	8	0	1	5	47
> 250	15	59	28	20	14	77
≥ 0.8	31	130	116	173	197	920
Total	35	152	130	176	197	920
Sensitivity, %	88.6	85.5	89.2	98.3	100	100
CS ^{g)} , %	86.1		98.8			
95 % CI ^{h)} , %	80.3 - 90.7		98.1 - 99.3			

g) CS = Cumulated sensitivity

h) CI = confidence interval

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Titer development was investigated with sequential samples from individual patients ranging up to 126 days following a reactive PCR result. None of the samples showed a decline of titer below the reactive range.

Titer development over time for patient samples ranging ≥ 100 days following a reactive PCR result is shown below.

Donor	D*	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
	U/mL	U/mL	U/mL	U/mL	U/mL	U/mL	U/mL	U/mL
1	20 20.4	23 22.2	27 30.5	33 47.4	36 51.7	61 73.5	82 87.7	103 114
2	21 36.1	24 44.3	31 32.4	34 48.5	37 51.4	62 63.1	83 73.2	104 71.9
3	26 139	34 223	38 186	41 153	45 150	67 198	87 147	106 155
4	21 32.3	30 95.3	33 151	36 315	41 374	62 293	83 244	107 214
5	30 33.0	35 29.5	38 31.2	42 41.2	112 59.9			
6	20 7.88	30 32.6	38 26.6	62 39.2	71 35.7	76 40.3	86 36.0	107 42.1
7	19 20.7	22 40.4	25 101	29 149	39 115	48 97.7	59 115	104 175
8	15 22.1	22 14.2	30 37.1	37 166	40 136	55 226	79 124	107 96.9
9	34 181	41 148	45 148	52 165	67 152	74 154	87 125	106 119
10	26 4.42	29 4.79	32 4.83	35 5.21	42 4.67	52 5.95	73 7.28	103 7.69
11	16 305	42 296	78 371	106 408				
12	28 139	31 162	40 114	44 166	47 141	62 93.0	86 69.5	103 59.1
13	24 33.9	31 45.6	38 63.7	46 53.4	59 47.4	74 41.8	92 41.9	102 42.8
14	25 79.8	28 86.4	33 120	41 117	47 103	59 108	76 97.1	109 105
15	36 255	52 165	68 126	77 94.8	92 122	96 107	106 141	126 162
16	30 425	44 246	51 379	58 298	73 215	85 169	90 173	104 147
17	29 220	32 205	40 177	48 141	55 136	76 122	95 116	101 101
18	31 63.6	39 66.9	43 53.4	53 43.4	64 57.3	68 48.9	92 69.7	102 58.8
19	32 94.5	46 79.5	53 84.3	60 71.8	68 92.1	74 73.6	94 78.9	102 75.8
20	38 56.4	46 84.2	68 104	74 106	82 114	99 141	106 152	110 146
21	31 9.4	38 10.1	48 8.7	52 9.0	57 8.0	71 8.8	92 10.4	106 10.4
22	44 54.3	49 51.0	61 59.2	70 56.9	117 99.8			
23	35 524	42 451	55 416	74 386	81 392	109 345		
24	44 669	48 685	51 584	58 605	63 582	73 562	90 591	104 570
25	36 64.0	49 83.5	56 78.6	69 83.9	82 100	89 103	105 121	

* Days after initial positive PCR

Detection of antibodies induced by active immunization with vaccines against SARS-CoV-2

Vaccines comprising the RBD of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein as an immunogen are expected to induce antibodies in vaccinated individuals that can be quantified with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay. Roche performed internal studies using the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay to evaluate the determination of antibody titers induced by the Moderna vaccine Spikevax (mRNA-1273) and the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Comirnaty (BNT162b2) following the respectively approved 2-dose vaccination scheme.

Following vaccination with Spikevax or Comirnaty, seroconversion was observed for all participants that had been seronegative at baseline. Titer assessment at the 3 indicated time-points determined rapidly rising titers indicating a strong humoral immune response to vaccination.

Anti-RBD titers induced by Spikevax in seronegative individuals, results are given in U/mL as determined with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay.

ACOV2S results in U/mL = BAU/mL	Pre-Vaccination (baseline)	Pre 2nd vaccination (21 days post 1st vaccination)	14 days post 2nd vaccination*
Minimum	< 0.4	0.973	223
5. Percentile	n.a.**	0.978	269
25. Percentile (lower quartile)	n.a.**	14.15	2701
Median	< 0.4	95.55	6792
75. Percentile (upper quartile)	n.a.**	221	11044
95. Percentile	n.a.**	661	17755
Maximum	< 0.4	680	18169
Inter-quartile range	n.a.**	679	17946
Geometric mean (GM)	< 0.4	57.3	4559
95 % CI of GM	n.a.**	(25.4-129)	(2745-7574)
Number of values (n)	24	24	24

Anti-RBD titers induced by Comirnaty in seronegative individuals, results are given in U/mL as determined with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay.

ACOV2S results in U/mL = BAU/mL	Pre-Vaccination (baseline)	Pre 2nd vaccination (21 days post 1st vaccination)	14 days post 2nd vaccination*
Minimum	< 0.4	2.63	562
5. Percentile	n.a.**	9.28	1024
25. Percentile (lower quartile)	n.a.**	48.2	2064
Median	< 0.4	96.8	2728
75. Percentile (upper quartile)	n.a.**	147	3660
95. Percentile	n.a.**	790	8328
Maximum	< 0.4	1070	13491
Inter-quartile range	n.a.**	1067	12929
Geometric mean (GM)	< 0.4	80.9	2833

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ACOV2S results in U/mL = BAU/mL	Pre-Vaccination (baseline)	Pre 2nd vaccination (21 days post 1st vaccination)	14 days post 2nd vaccination*
95 % CI of GM	n.a.**	(56.2-116)	(2396-3350)
Number of values (n)	31	39	48

* indicates the blood draws from exactly 14 days post 2nd vaccination or the closest available time-point.

** result distribution not assessed, as all pre-vaccination results were non-reactive and below detection limit.

Correlation of assay results to detection of SARS-CoV-2 inhibitory antibodies

534 samples from patients with PCR confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection covering a range of 6 to 210 days post reactive PCR were used. The samples included cohorts from patients with severe disease requiring hospitalization (n = 122) and mild disease following quarantine at home (n = 412).

Assay results were compared to the result obtained with a commercially available qualitative IVD to detect SARS-CoV-2 inhibitory antibodies (cPass SARS-CoV-2 Neutralization Antibody Detection Kit, GenScript, China). 30 % or higher inhibition of RBD-ACE2 binding in this test indicates the presence of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies.³³

Application of the medical decision point of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay at 0.8 U/mL (differentiating non-reactive and reactive results) led to the following correlation:

		cPass SARS-CoV-2 Surrogate Virus Neutralization Test		
		Neutralizing (≥ 30 % inhibition)	Non-neutralizing (< 30 % inhibition)	Total
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 0.8 U/mL (reactive)	470	39	509
	< 0.8 U/mL (non-reactive)	2	23	25
	Total	472	62	534

	Point estimate	95 % CI ¹⁾
PPA (positive percent agreement)	99.58 %	98.48 - 99.95 %
NPA (negative percent agreement)	37.10 %	25.16 - 50.31 %
PPV (positive predictive value)	92.34 %	90.87 - 93.59 %
NPV (negative predictive value)*	n.a.	n.a.

i) CI = confidence interval

* The analysis focused on PPV only, all included samples were derived from patients with PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. Therefore, NPV is not applicable.

The application of a threshold of 15 U/mL to the results of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay further improved the PPV:

		SARS-CoV-2 Surrogate Virus Neutralization Test		
		Neutralizing (≥ 30 % inhibition)	Non-neutralizing (< 30 % inhibition)	Total
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 15 U/mL	430	13	443
	< 15 U/mL	42	49	91
	Total	472	62	534

	Point estimate	95 % CI
PPA	91.10 %	88.16 - 93.51 %
NPA	79.03 %	66.82 - 88.34 %
PPV	97.07 %	95.32 - 98.17 %

	Point estimate	95 % CI
NPV*	n.a.	n.a.

* The analysis focused on PPV only, all included samples were derived from patients with PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. Therefore, NPV is not applicable.

This study showed that samples with a result of ≥ 15 U/mL had a likelihood of 97.07 % to contain SARS-CoV-2 inhibitory antibodies as determined with the reference assay for detection of inhibitory antibodies.

Correlation of assay results to serum neutralization capacity

The Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay was compared to a VSV (Vesicular Stomatitis Virus)-based pseudo-neutralization assay.³⁴ The results for 15 clinical samples from individual patients are summarized in the following table:

		Pseudo-neutralization assay		
		Positive	Indeterminate	Negative
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 0.8 U/mL	12	0	0
	< 0.8 U/mL	1	1	1

Positive agreement rate: 92.3 %

Calculation of predictive values was not performed due to low sample numbers and resulting lack of statistical significance.

In a randomized, placebo controlled clinical trial on use of Tocilizumab in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia³⁵, samples were analyzed for virus neutralization capacity by a functional in vitro whole virus neutralization assay (Viroclinics, Netherlands) and antibody titers to the RBD of SARS-CoV-2 S1 (Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay). The obtained neutralization results were compared to the results of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay. The comparison was performed for the placebo group only to avoid any potential confounding with putative treatment effects.

The sample cohort comprised 206 samples from 111 hospitalized patients with PCR confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe COVID-19 pneumonia. Up to 3 samples were collected from each patient covering baseline visit (median 11 days from symptom onset, range 2 to 30 days) and 28 or 60 days after enrollment. Presence of 80 % neutralization (NT80) at a sample dilution of 1:8 or higher identified functional virus neutralization in vitro. Comparison to results of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay was realized by application of two different qualitative thresholds, one representing the decision point to identify presence of RBD specific antibodies (0.8 U/mL, medical decision point of the assay to define reactive results) and one based on optimized correlation with detection of inhibitory effects (15 U/mL).

		Whole virus NT		
		Neutralizing (NT80 ≥ 1:8)	Non-neutralizing	Total
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 0.8 U/mL (reactive)	187	1	188
	< 0.8 U/mL (non-reactive)	6	12	18
	Total	193	13	206

	Point estimate	95 % CI
PPA	96.9 %	93.4 - 98.9 %
NPA	92.3 %	64.0 - 98.8 %
PPV	99.5 %	97.1 - 100 %
NPV**	n.a.	n.a.

** Predicting absence of neutralization based on absence of RBD-specific antibodies is not recommended because neutralizing antibodies may also be directed to other proteins besides the RBD. Therefore, NPV is not applicable.

The application of a threshold of 15 U/mL to the results of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay resulted in a PPV of 100 %:

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		Whole virus NT		
		Neutralizing (NT80 ≥ 1:8)	Non-neutralizing	Total
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 15 U/mL	164	0	164
	< 15 U/mL	29	13	42
	Total	193	13	206

	Point estimate	95 % CI
PPA	85.0 %	79.1 - 89.7 %
NPA	100 %	75.3 - 100 %
PPV	100 %	97.8 - 100 %
NPV**	n.a.	n.a.

** Predicting absence of neutralization based on absence of RBD-specific antibodies is not recommended because neutralizing antibodies may also be directed to other proteins besides the RBD. Therefore, NPV is not applicable.

In this study, samples with a result of ≥ 15 U/mL had a likelihood of 100 % to confer in vitro neutralization to SARS-CoV-2 as determined with the applied whole virus NT method.

In a study of the Vitalant Research Institute (CA, USA) investigating COVID-19 convalescent plasma for neutralization capacity, plasma donations from convalescent donors after SARS-CoV-2 infection were analyzed for whole virus neutralizing potential in vitro (BROAD Institute plaque reducing neutralization assay (PRNT), USA). Presence of 50 % neutralization (NT50) at a sample dilution of > 1:20 identified functional virus neutralization in vitro.

390 donations, including cross-sectional and longitudinal sample panels, were analyzed and compared to the obtained Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay results. Comparison to results of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay was realized by application of two different thresholds, one representing the decision point to identify presence of RBD specific antibodies (0.8 U/mL, medical decision point of the assay to define reactive results) and one based on optimized correlation with detection of inhibitory effects (15 U/mL).

		BROAD PRNT		
		Neutralizing (NT50 ≥ 1:20)	Non-neutralizing	Total
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 0.8 U/mL (reactive)	356	4	360
	< 0.8 U/mL (non-reactive)	2	28	30
	Total	358	32	390

	Point estimate	95 % CI
PPA	99.4 %	98.0 - 99.9 %
NPA	87.5 %	71.0 - 96.5 %
PPV	98.9 %	97.2 - 99.7 %
NPV**	n.a.	n.a.

** Predicting absence of neutralization based on absence of RBD-specific antibodies is not recommended because neutralizing antibodies may also be directed to other proteins besides the RBD. Therefore, NPV is not applicable.

The application of a threshold of 15 U/mL to the results of the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay resulted in a PPV of 100 % (95 % CI: 98.9-100 %):

		BROAD PRNT		
		Neutralizing (NT50 ≥ 1:20)	Non-neutralizing	Total
Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay	≥ 15 U/mL	331	0	331
	< 15 U/mL	27	32	59
	Total	358	32	390

	Point estimate	95 % CI
PPA	92.5 %	89.2 - 95.0 %
NPA	100 %	89.1 - 100 %
PPV	100 %	98.9 - 100 %
NPV**	n.a.	n.a.

** Predicting absence of neutralization based on absence of RBD-specific antibodies is not recommended because neutralizing antibodies may also be directed to other proteins besides the RBD. Therefore, NPV is not applicable.

In this study on convalescent plasma, samples with a result of ≥ 15 U/mL had a likelihood of 100 % (95 % CI: 98.9-100 %) to confer in vitro neutralization to SARS-CoV-2 as determined with the applied PRNT method.

Screening for convalescent plasma for the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19

The Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S assay has been included in the emergency use approval (EUA) granted by US FDA for the emergency use of convalescent plasma for the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19.³⁶ The assay has been approved to be used for the purpose of qualifying high titer COVID-19 convalescent plasma in the manufacture of COVID-19 convalescent plasma. US FDA defined ≥ 132 U/mL as the titer cutoff for qualification of high titer COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

This EUA will be effective until the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of the emergency use of drugs and biological products during the COVID-19 pandemic is terminated under Section 564(b)(2) of the Act or the EUA is revoked under Section 564(g) of the Act. Please refer to the US FDA website for current status.

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- 36 FDA Updates Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma to Reflect New Data Convalescent Plasma EUA Letter of Authorization

For further information, please refer to the appropriate operator's manual for the analyzer concerned, the respective application sheets 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

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	Contents of kit
	Analyzers/instruments on which reagents can be used
	Reagent
	Calibrator
	Volume for reconstitution
	Global Trade Item Number

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