

Liquid Reagents – ready to use

α-AMYLASE CNP-G3

Single Reagent

Diagnostic reagent for quantitative in vitro determination of α-Amylase in human serum or plasma on photometric systems.

Ref.No.	Kit Size	Content
DIA010020	2 x 25 ml	Single Reagent
DIA010022	5 x 20 ml	Single Reagent
DIA010023	5 x 25 ml	Single Reagent

Additionally offered:

DIA040012	1 x 3 mL	Diacal Auto (Calibrator)
DIA030012	1 x 5 mL	Diacon N (Control Normal)
DIA030022	1 x 5 mL	Diacon P (Control Abnormal)

TEST PARAMETERS

Method:	Colorimetric, Kinetic, Increasing Reaction, CNP-G3
Wavelength:	Hg 405 nm
Temperature:	37°C
Sample:	Serum, heparinized plasma
Linearity:	up to 2000 U/L (on Hitachi 911)

SUMMARY

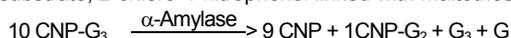
For many years, the levels of serum and plasma α-amylase in patients have provided needed evidence for the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis [1-3]. Early assay techniques were based on either a change in the absorption maxima of the complex between starch and iodine as the α-amylase degraded the starch; or a measurement of the increase in reducing groups as the starch was hydrolysed by the α-amylase [4]. These methods are not as reliable and easy to quantitate as spectrophotometric methods using a defined substrate [5].

Some methods are based on the production of NADH proportionate to the activity of the α-amylase. A defined substrate, such as maltotetraose, is degraded by α-amylase to produce glucose which can be measured in a coupled enzyme assay. However, this method necessitates the removal of endogenous glucose which would give a high background to the assay [5].

More recent methods are based on the production of p-nitrophenol from defined oligosaccharide substrates with blocking groups attached on the terminal sugar. The action of the α-amylase on the oligosaccharide yields a variety of chain lengths after hydrolysis. These methods then use a variety of coupling enzymes to hydrolyze the resulting short chain oligosaccharides to produce p-nitrophenol [6]. The coupling enzymes contain residual α-amylase activity that may significantly reduce the stability of the reagent.

TEST PRINCIPLE

The direct amylase assay involves the use of a chromogenic substrate, 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol linked with maltotriose⁷.



As shown above, α-amylase hydrolyzes the 2-chloro-4-nitrophenyl-α-D-maltotriose (CNP-G₃) to release 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol (CNP) and form 2-chloro-4-nitrophenyl-α-D-maltoside (CNP-G₂), maltotriose G₃ and glucose (G). The rate of formation of the 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol can be detected spectrophotometrically at 405 nm to give a direct measurement of α-amylase activity in the sample. The reaction is not readily inhibited by endogenous factors.

REAGENT PREPARATION

The reagent is ready to use.

REAGENT COMPOSITION

COMPONENTS	CONCENTRATION	
MES buffer, pH 6.00	100	mmol/L
Sodium Chloride	350	mmol/L
Calcium Acetate	6	mmol/L
Potassium Thiocyanate	900	mmol/L
CNP-G3	2.27	mmol/L

REAGENT STABILITY AND STORAGE

Conditions:	Protect from light Close immediately after use Do not freeze the reagent
Storage:	at 2 - 8°C
Stability:	up to the expiration date
After opening:	60 days
On board stability (Hitachi 911):	2 weeks
Maximum allowable absorbance measured at 405 nm against water as reference is 0.5 (in a 1 cm cuvette).	

SAMPLE PREPARATION

Serum, sodium heparinized plasma or lithium heparinized plasma are the recommended sample types. Other anti-coagulants such as EDTA or citrate should not be used. Specimens should be collected as per the national Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards Guidelines H4-A3 [8].

Serum: Collect whole blood by venepuncture and allow to clot. Centrifuge and remove the serum as soon as possible after collection. [8] (within 3 hours)

Plasma: Specimens may be collected in sodium or lithium heparin. Centrifuge and remove the plasma as soon as possible after collection. [8] (within 3 hours)

SAMPLE STABILITY AND STORAGE [13]

in serum / plasma:	at 20 – 25°C	7 days
	at 4 – 8°C	7 days
	at -20°C	1 year
	FREEZE ONLY ONCE!	

Discard contaminated specimens.

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

NaCl solution (9 g/L)
General laboratory equipment

MANUAL TEST PROCEDURE

Bring reagents and samples to room temperature.

Pipette into test tubes	Blank	Sample
Reagent	1000 µl	1000 µl
dist. water or saline	25 µl	
Sample		25 µl
Mix, incubate for 1 min. at 37°C and read absorbance. Read absorbance again after exactly 1, 2 and 3 min. Determine ΔA/min during the linear part of the assay. Calculate: ΔA/min = [ΔA/min Sample] – [ΔA/min Blank]		

CALCULATION (light path 1 cm)

α-Amylase (U/L) = ΔA/min x Factor

Factor (37 °C) at 405 nm: 3178

The factor is based on the millimolar extinction coefficient of 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol at 405 nm, pH 6.0 and 37°C: 12.9

UNIT CONVERSION

U/L x 0.01667 = µkatal/L

REFERENCE RANGE [12]*

serum / plasma 23 – 88 U/L

* It is recommended that each laboratory establishes the normal range for its population.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

LINEARITY

The assay is linear up to 2000 U/L on the Hitachi 911 Analyzer. If a sample exceeds 2000 U/L, it should be diluted 1+1 with normal saline (9 g/L) and re-assayed. Multiply the result by 2.

PRECISION:

Intra-assay n = 20	Mean [U/L]	SD [U/L]	CV [%]
Sample 1	61	0.82	1.34
Sample 2	272	1.66	0.61
Sample 3	902	4.60	0.51
Sample 4	1509	9.36	0.62



Inter-assay n = 40	Mean [U/L]	SD [U/L]	CV [%]
Sample 1	60	1.0	1.7
Sample 2	273	2.2	0.8
Sample 3	917	8.3	0.9
Sample 4	1507	9.0	0.6

SPECIFICITY/INTERFERENCES

no interference up to:

Ascorbic acid	50 mg/dL
Bilirubin	50 mg/dL
Hemoglobin	500 mg/dL
Triglycerides	3000 mg/dL
Glucose	2000 mg/dL

Refer to Young et al [9] for a review of drug effects on amylase levels.

METHOD COMPARISON / ACCURACY

A comparison between Diagnostica α -Amylase (y) and a commercial obtainable assay (x) using 50 samples (28 – 304 U/L) gave following results:

$$y = 0.90 x - 2.50 \text{ U/L}; r = 0.999.$$

QUALITY CONTROL

All control sera with Alpha Amylase values determined by this method can be used.

We recommend the Diagnostica serum controls **Diacon N** (control serum with values in the normal range) and **Diacon P** (control serum with values in the abnormal range).

Each laboratory should establish corrective action in case of deviations in control recovery.

CALIBRATION

The use of an Alpha Amylase Calibrator is optional.

We recommend the Diagnostica multi calibration serum **Diacal Auto**.

This method is traceable to the molar extinction coefficient of 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol.

AUTOMATION

Special applications for automated analyzers can be made on request.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. The reagent contains Potassium Thiocyanate. Avoid inhalation or contact with skin and eyes. Wash skin or eyes with water and consult physician if contact occurs. Potassium Thiocyanate is not compatible with strong acids.
2. The reagent contains sodium azide, which may react with lead or copper plumbing to form potentially explosive metal azide. On disposal, flush drain with a large volume of water to prevent build up.
3. Saliva and skin contain α -amylase. Therefore never pipete reagents by mouth and avoid skin contact with the reagents.
4. Please refer to the safety data sheets and take the necessary precautions for the use of laboratory reagents.
5. For diagnostic purposes, the results should always be assessed with the patient's medical history, clinical examinations and other findings.
6. For professional use only!

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Please refer to local legal requirements.

