

## Technical Bulletin

# $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate Quantitation Kit

**Catalogue number MAK541**

## Product Description

Alpha-ketoglutarate ( $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate) is a key molecule in the Krebs cycle determining the overall rate of the citric acid cycle of the organism. As a precursor of glutamate and glutamine,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate is a central metabolic fuel for cells of the gastrointestinal tract as well. It can decrease protein catabolism and increase protein synthesis to enhance bone tissue formation in the skeletal muscles and can be used in clinical applications.

The  $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate Quantitation Kit offers a sensitive colorimetric assay for quantifying  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate in biological samples. It utilizes an enzyme coupled reaction that releases hydrogen peroxide, which can be detected by the peroxidase substrate at an absorbance of 570 nm.

## Components

The kit is sufficient for 200 colorimetric assays in 96-well plates.

- Peroxidase Substrate 1 Vial  
Catalogue Number MAK541A
- Enzyme Mix 1 1 Vial  
Catalogue Number MAK541B
- Enzyme Mix 2 1 Vial  
Catalogue Number MAK541C
- Assay Buffer 10 mL  
Catalogue Number MAK541D
- $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate Standard (10 mM) 100 $\mu$ L  
Catalogue Number MAK541E
- DMSO 100  $\mu$ L  
Catalogue Number MAK541F

## Reagents and Equipment Required but Not Provided

- Pipetting devices and accessories.
- Spectrophotometric multiwell plate reader
- Clear flat-bottom 96-well plates and 96-well plate absorbance (590nm) reader for procedure using 96-well plate. Cell culture or tissue culture treated plates are not recommended.
- 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes
- PBS Buffer (Catalogue Number PPB006 or equivalent)

## Precautions and Disclaimer

For R&D use only. Not for drug, household, or other uses. Please consult the Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling practices.

## Storage/Stability

The kit is shipped on wet ice. Store components at -20 °C.

## Preparation Instructions

Briefly centrifuge small vials prior to opening.  
Equilibrate to room temperature prior use.

### Procedure

All samples and standards should be run in duplicate.

#### Reagent Preparation

##### Preparation of Stock Solution

1. Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of DMSO into the vial of Peroxidase Substrate to make 200X stock solution.

##### Preparation of AKG Standard Solution

**Note:** Fresh reconstitution of the Standard is recommended.

1.  $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate (AKG) standard: Add 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of 10 mM  $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate Standard into 990  $\mu\text{L}$  of PBS to make a 100  $\mu\text{M}$   $\alpha$  ketoglutarate standard solution (AKG1).
2. Perform 1:2 serial dilutions to get the diluted  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate standards (AKG2 – AKG7) as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
Serial dilution of AKG Standard Solutions

Dilution	AKG Standard Volume ( $\mu\text{L}$ )	Serial Dilution Source	PBS Volume( $\mu\text{L}$ )	Conc. ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
AKG1	300	-	0	100
AKG2	150	From AKG1	150	50
AKG3	150	From AKG2	150	25
AKG4	150	From AKG3	150	12.5
AKG5	150	From AKG4	150	6.25
AKG6	150	From AKG5	150	3.12
AKG7	150	From AKG6	150	1.56

##### Preparation of Working Solution

**Note:** Prepare immediately before use in assay reaction. The working solution is enough for one 96-well plate.

1. Add 5 mL of Assay Buffer into one Enzyme Mix 1 vial then mix well.
2. Add 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of purified water into one Enzyme Mix 2 vial and mix well.
3. Transfer entire vial (100  $\mu\text{L}$ ) of Enzyme Mix 2 and 25  $\mu\text{L}$  of the 200x Peroxidase Substrate stock solution into the vial of Enzyme Mix 1 and mix well.

#### Assay Reaction

1. Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of samples, standards, and blanks to separate wells.
2. Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of the Working Solution to each well containing a sample, standard, and blank.
3. Incubate the reaction mixture at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 60 - 90 minutes.

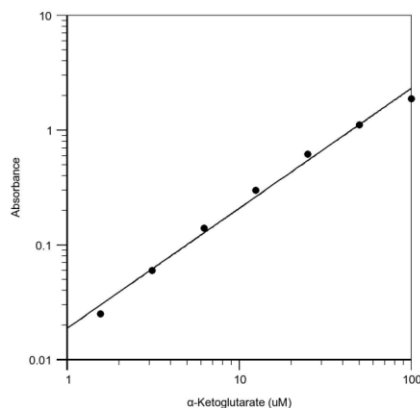
#### Measurement

1. Monitor the absorbance increase with an absorbance plate reader with path check on at OD of 570 nm.

## Results

1. The reading (Absorbance) obtained from the blank standard well is used as a negative control.
2. Subtract this value from the other standards readings to obtain the base-line corrected values.
3. Plot the standards readings to obtain the standard curve.
4. Use linear regression to calculate the  $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate concentration.

**Figure 1.**  
Typical  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate Standard Curve



---

## Notice

We provide information and advice to our customers on application technologies and regulatory matters to the best of our knowledge and ability, but without obligation or liability. Existing laws and regulations are to be observed in all cases by our customers. This also applies in respect to any rights of third parties. Our information and advice do not relieve our customers of their own responsibility for checking the suitability of our products for the envisaged purpose.

The information in this document is subject to change without notice and should not be construed as a commitment by the manufacturing or selling entity, or an affiliate. We assume no responsibility for any errors that may appear in this document.

### Technical Assistance

Visit the tech service page at [SigmaAldrich.com/techservice](https://SigmaAldrich.com/techservice).

### Terms and Conditions of Sale

Warranty, use restrictions, and other conditions of sale may be found at [SigmaAldrich.com/terms](https://SigmaAldrich.com/terms).

### Contact Information

For the location of the office nearest you, go to [SigmaAldrich.com/offices](https://SigmaAldrich.com/offices).

The life science business of Merck operates  
as MilliporeSigma in the U.S. and Canada.

Merck and Sigma-Aldrich are trademarks of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany or its affiliates.  
All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Detailed information on  
trademarks is available via publicly accessible resources.

© 2022 Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and/or its affiliates. All Rights Reserved.  
mak541pis Rev 11/23

