This kit is designed for the measurement of Factor XI (FXI) in human plasma. Plasma is treated with acetone to destroy inhibitors of αFXIIa and FXIa. The contact system is then activated with Kaolin, during which FXIIa converts FXI to FXIa. Following the activation step, FXIIa and Kallikrein are inhibited, and the FXIa level is determined by its ability to cleave a chromogenic substrate and releases p-nitroaniline (pNA). This can be measured photometrically, and is proportional to the FXI concentration.

**REAGENTS**
The reagents should be stored at 2-8°C until reconstituted.

1. **Chromogenic Factor XIa Substrate, 10 mL** 1 vial
   10 µmol/vial 2AcOH.H-D-Lys(Cbo)-Pro-Arg-pNA. Reconstitute with 10 mL sterile distilled water. Stable for at least 6 months at 2-8°C if kept free from contamination. It may also be stored in aliquots at below -20°C.

2. **Kaolin, 10 mL** 1 vial Suspend in 10 mL assay buffer, shake well before use. Stable for 6 months at 2-8°C.

3. **Buffer Concentrate, 10 mL** 2 vials Dilute the buffer concentrate 1+9 with distilled water. This gives an assay buffer of 0.02M Tris-HCl, 0.15M NaCl, 0.001M Na₂EDTA, pH 7.4. Store at 2-8°C. Diluted buffer (“assay buffer”) should be used within 24 hours.

4. **Kallikrein Inhibitor, 10 mL** 1 vial Reconstitute with 10 mL distilled water and dilute 1 mL with 99 mL assay buffer. Stable for 8 hours at 2-8°C or 6 months at -20°C.

5. **Corn Trypsin Inhibitor, 10 mL** 1 vial Reconstitute with 10 mL distilled water. Stable for 8 hours at 2-8°C or 6 months at -20°C.

6. **Standard Plasma, 1 mL** 1 vial Add 1.0 mL distilled water, leave for 5 minutes at room temperature and then mix gently until completely dissolved. Stable for 8 hours at 2-8°C.

**Reagents required, but not provided**
20% Acetic acid or 2% Citric acid, Acetone.

**BLOOD COLLECTION AND PLASMA PREPARATION**
Blood (9 mL) is mixed with 0.106M Tri-sodium citrate (1 mL) and centrifuged at 2000g for 15 minutes at room temperature. The plasma samples should be removed with plastic pipettes within two hours of blood collection and should be assayed immediately or stored frozen at -20°C.

**ACETONE TREATMENT OF PLASMA**
600 µL Standard plasma (or 300 µL test plasma) and 200 µL acetone (100 µL acetone for test plasmas) are pipetted into siliconised glass test tubes (80x10mm), or plastic tubes, mixed well and left for 15 minutes at 2-8°C, then kept on ice until assayed.

**PREPARATION OF THE STANDARD CURVE**
The acetone treated standard plasma is diluted with buffer as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard %</th>
<th>Plasma</th>
<th>Buffer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>150 µL</td>
<td>850 µL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>200 µL</td>
<td>1800 µL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**From the 100% Standard prepare:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Plasma</th>
<th>Buffer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>600 µL</td>
<td>200 µL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>400 µL</td>
<td>400 µL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>200 µL</td>
<td>600 µL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Use buffer alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dilute 100 µL of each acetone treated test plasma with 900 µL assay buffer.

**ASSAY METHOD**
*Have the Substrate at 37°C, shake the Kaolin well*
before use. Into siliconised semi-micro cuvettes, siliconised glass or plastic tubes pipette:

- Plasma dilution or buffer: 200 μL
- Kallikrein Inhibitor: 200 μL

Mix and incubate at 37 °C for 2 minutes, add:
- Kaolin: 200 μL

Mix well, incubate for 60 minutes at 37 °C, add:
- Corn Trypsin Inhibitor: 200 μL

Mix well, incubate for 10 minutes at 37 °C, add:
- FXIα Chromogenic Substrate: 200 μL

Mix and record the change in optical density per minute at 405nm (rate assay), or incubate for exactly 60 minutes at 37 °C, add:
- Acetic acid or Citric acid: 200 μL

Mix and read optical density at 405nm (end point assay).

MICROTITRE METHOD
Follow the manual method above, but pipette 30 μL volumes of each plasma dilution and reagent into the wells of a microtitre plate. Care must be taken to ensure adequate mixing after each reagent addition.

CALCULATION
With the end point assay, if the test plasmas have high Bilirubin levels, are lipaemic or have visible haemolysis, blanks must be performed. For the blanks add 200 μL of buffer instead of FXIα Substrate. The A_{405} values for the blanks are subtracted from the test values before reading the Factor XI values from the standard curve.
Plot the results as A_{405} against percentage FXI for the standard plasma dilutions and read the values for the test plasma from the standard curve. The values can be expressed either as a percentage or in units per ml (U/mL) by applying the formula:

\[
FXI \ (U/mL) = \frac{\% \ Activity \times \ Potency \ of \ Standard}{100}
\]

* value printed on the standard plasma vial label

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS
The standard curve should be linear up to 150%. Intra-assay CV: <5% at 1 U/mL. Detection limit: 5%.

HAZARD WARNING
All materials of human origin were tested and found negative for the presence of HBsAg, anti-HB core, HCV antibodies and anti-HIV antibody. However, as with all preparations of human origin, these products cannot be assumed to be free from infectious agents and suitable precautions should be taken in their use and disposal.

NOTE
The recommended standard and test sample dilutions may vary between different batches of this kit, owing to differences in the specific activity of some batches of reagents.

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