

AESKULISA sn-RNP-C

REF 3105

Instruction manual

Contents

1. Intended Use.....	1
2. Clinical Applications and Principle of the Assay.....	1
3. Kit Contents.....	2
4. Storage and Shelf Life.....	2
5. Precautions of Use.....	3
6. Sample Collection, Handling and Storage.....	3
7. Assay Procedure.....	4
8. Quantitative and Qualitative Interpretation.....	5
9. Technical Data.....	6
10. Performance Data.....	6-7
11. Literature.....	7
A : Pipetting scheme.....	8
B : Test Procedure.....	9

1. Intended Use

AESKULISA snRNP-C is a solid phase enzyme immunoassay for the quantitative and qualitative detection of antibodies against the snRNP complex in human serum.

The assay employs native human U1-snRNP complex highly purified from the cell-line HeLa. The U1-snRNP complex comprises the Smith antigen (Sm) and RNPs, the 70kDa U1-specific protein plus protein A and C. The assay is a tool for the diagnosis of mixed connective tissue diseases (MCTD) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

2. Clinical Application and Principle of the Assay

The U1-snRNP complex (for short snRNP) is a **small nuclear ribonucleoprotein** particle composed of uridine rich (thus U) small nuclear RNA and a set of proteins, the 70 kDa U1-specific protein plus protein A and C (all formerly summarized as RNPs) and the Sm (Smith) antigen. Sm comprises eight proteins (B, B', D1, D2, D3, E, F, and G). Because of its components Sm and RNPs the complex has been often called RNP/Sm complex. U1-snRNP is a part of the splicosomal complex, facilitating the processing of pre-mRNA to mature mRNA in the nucleus.

Antibodies against snRNP belong to the heterogenous group of anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA), which are associated with various autoimmune diseases. They are directed against proteins of the nucleus. Indirect immunofluorescence test (IFT) on eucaryotic cells has been the established method for the detection of ANAs. Single antibody specificities are distinguished by fluorescence patterns but more specific testing by ELISA employing the target antigen has been established for simple and reliable differentiation of ANAs.

Antibodies against the snRNP complex are directed against Sm as well as the 70 kDa U1-specific protein plus protein A and C. They typically occur in SLE and mixed connective tissue diseases (MCTD), but are also found in Sjögren's syndrome, scleroderma and polymyositis.

The differentiation of the autoantibodies by ELISA employing the specific antigen is an aid for the diagnosis of SLE and MCTD. Antibodies against the 70 kDa U1 RNP protein are found in 95% of MCTD and in 40% of SLE, whilst isolated occurrence of anti-U1 RNP 70 kDa antibodies is typical for the Sharp syndrome.

In contrast antibodies against Sm are highly specific for SLE and thus are included in diagnostic and classification criteria for SLE. 20-30% of patients with SLE display antibodies against Sm.

Principle of the test

Serum samples diluted 1:101 are incubated in the microplates coated with the specific antigen. Patient's antibodies, if present in the specimen, bind to the antigen. The unbound fraction is washed off in the following step. Afterwards anti-human immunoglobulins conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (conjugate) are incubated and react with the antigen-antibody complex of the samples in the microplates. Unbound conjugate is washed off in the following step. Addition of TMB-substrate generates an enzymatic colorimetric (blue) reaction, which is stopped by diluted acid (color changes to yellow). The rate of color formation from the chromogen is a function of the amount of conjugate bound to the antigen-antibody complex and this is proportional to the initial concentration of the respective antibodies in the patient sample.

3. Kit Contents

To be reconstituted:

5x Sample Buffer 1 vial, 20 ml - 5x concentrated (capped white: yellow solution)
Containing: Tris, NaCl, BSA, sodium azide < 0.1% (preservative)

50x Wash Buffer 1 vial, 20 ml - 50x concentrated (capped white: green solution)
Containing: Tris, NaCl, Tween 20, sodium azide < 0.1% (preservative)

Ready to use:

Negative Control 1 vial, 1.5 ml (capped green: colorless solution)
Containing: Human serum (diluted), sodium azide < 0.1% (preservative)

Positive Control 1 vial, 1.5 ml (capped red: yellow solution)
Containing: Human serum (diluted), sodium azide < 0.1% (preservative)

Cut-off Calibrator 1 vial, 1.5 ml (capped blue: yellow solution)
Containing: Human serum (diluted), sodium azide < 0.1% (preservative)

Calibrators 6 vials, 1.5 ml each 0, 3, 10, 30, 100, 300 U/ml
(color increasing with concentration: yellow solutions)
Containing: Human serum (diluted), sodium azide < 0.1% (preservative)

Conjugate 1 vial, 15 ml IgG (capped blue: blue solution)
Containing: Anti-human immunoglobulins conjugated to horseradish peroxidase

TMB Substrate 1 vial, 15 ml (capped black)
Containing: Stabilized TMB/H₂O₂

Stop Solution 1 vial, 15 ml (capped white: colorless solution)
Containing: 1M Hydrochloric Acid

Microtiterplate 12x8 well strips with breakaway microwells
Coating see paragraph 1

Material required but not provided:

Microtiter plate reader 450 nm reading filter and optional 620 nm reference filter (600-690 nm). Glass ware(cylinder 100-1000ml), test tubes for dilutions. Vortex mixer, precision pipettes (10, 100, 200, 500, 1000 µl) or adjustable multipipette (100-1000ml). Microplate washing device (300 µl repeating or multi-channel pipette or automated system), adsorbent paper.

Our tests are designed to be used with purified water according to the definition of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP 26 - NF 21) and the European Pharmacopeia (Eur.Ph. 4th ed.).

4. Storage and Shelf Life

Store all reagents and the microplate at 2-8°C/35-46°F, in their original containers. Once prepared, reconstituted solutions are stable for 1 month at 4°C/39°F, at least. **Reagents and the microplate shall be used within the expiry date indicated on each component, only. Avoid intense exposure of TMB solution to light. Store microplates in designated foil, including the desiccant, and seal tightly.**

5. Precautions of Use

5.1 Health hazard data

THIS PRODUCT IS FOR IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC USE ONLY. Thus, only staff trained and specially advised in methods of in vitro diagnostics may perform the kit. Although this product is not considered particularly toxic or dangerous in conditions of normal use, refer to the following for maximum safety :

Recommendations and precautions

This kit contains potentially hazardous components. Though kit reagents are not classified being irritant to eyes and skin we recommend to avoid contact with eyes and skin and wear disposable gloves.

WARNING ! Calibrators, Controls and Buffers contain sodium azide (NaN_3) as a preservative. NaN_3 may be toxic if ingested or adsorbed by skin or eyes. NaN_3 may react with lead and copper plumbing to form highly explosive metal azides. On disposal, flush with a large volume of water to prevent azide build-up. Please refer to decontamination procedures as outlined by CDC or other local/national guidelines.

Do not smoke, eat or drink when manipulating the kit.

Do not pipette by mouth.

All human source material used for some reagents of this kit (controls, standards e.g.) has been tested by approved methods and found negative for HbsAg, Hepatitis C and HIV 1. However, no test can guarantee the absence of viral agents in such material completely. Thus handle kit controls, standards and patient samples as if capable of transmitting infectious diseases and according to national requirements.

5.2 General directions for use

Do not mix or substitute reagents or microplates from different lot numbers. This may lead to variations in the results.

Allow all components to reach room temperature (20-32°C/68-89.6°F) before use, mix well and follow the recommended incubation scheme for an optimum performance of the test.

Incubation: We recommend test performance at 30°C/86°F for automated systems.

Never expose components to higher temperature than 37°C/ 98.6 °F.

Always pipette substrate solution with brand new tips only. Protect this reagent from light. Never pipette conjugate with tips used with other reagents prior.

A definite clinical diagnosis should not be based on the results of the performed test only, but should be made by the physician after all clinical and laboratory findings have been evaluated. The diagnosis is to be verified using different diagnostic methods.

6. Sample Collection, Handling and Storage

Use preferentially freshly collected serum samples. Blood withdrawal must follow national requirements.

Do not use icteric, lipemic, hemolysed or bacterially contaminated samples. Sera with particles should be cleared by low speed centrifugation (<1000 x g). Blood samples should be collected in clean, dry and empty tubes. After separation, the serum samples should be used immediately, respectively stored tightly closed at 2-8°C/35-46°F up to three days, or frozen at -20°C/-4°F for longer periods.

7. Assay Procedure

7.1 Preparations prior to pipetting

Dilute concentrated reagents:

Dilute the concentrated sample buffer 1:5 with distilled water (e.g. 20 ml plus 80 ml).

Dilute the concentrated wash buffer 1:50 with distilled water (e.g. 20 ml plus 980 ml).

Samples:

Dilute serum samples 1:101 with sample buffer (1x)

e.g. 1000 µl sample buffer (1x) + 10 µl serum. Mix well !

Washing:

Prepare 20 ml of diluted wash buffer (1x) per 8 wells or 200 ml for 96 wells

e.g. 4 ml concentrate plus 196 ml distilled water.

Automated washing:

Consider excess volumes required for setting up the instrument and dead volume of robot pipette.

Manual washing:

Discard liquid from wells by inverting the plate. Knock the microwell frame with wells downside vigorously on clean adsorbent paper. Pipette 300 µl of diluted wash buffer into each well, wait for 20 seconds. Repeat the whole procedure twice again.

Microplates:

Calculate the number of wells required for the test. Remove unused wells from the frame, replace and store in the provided plastic bag, together with desiccant, seal tightly (2-8°C/35-46°F).

7.2 Work flow

For pipetting scheme see Annex A, for the test procedure see Annex B

We recommend pipetting samples and calibrators in duplicate.

Cut-off calibrator should be used for qualitative testing only.

- Pipette 100 µl of each patient's diluted serum into the designated microwells.
- Pipette 100 µl calibrators OR cut-off calibrator and negative and positive controls into the designated wells.
- Incubate for 30 minutes at 20-32°C/68-89.6°F.
- Wash 3x with 300 µl washing buffer (diluted 1:50).
- Pipette 100 µl conjugate into each well.
- Incubate for 30 minutes at 20-32°C/68-89.6°F.
- Wash 3x with 300 µl washing buffer (diluted 1:50).
- Pipette 100 µl TMB substrate into each well.
- Incubate for 30 minutes at 20-32°C/68-89.6°F, protected from intense light.
- Pipette 100 µl stop solution into each well, using the same order as pipetting the substrate.
- Incubate 5 minutes minimum.
- Agitate plate carefully for 5 sec.
- Read absorbance at 450 nm (optionally 450/620 nm) within 30 minutes.

8. Quantitative and Qualitative Interpretation

For **quantitative interpretation** establish the standard curve by plotting the **optical density (OD) of each calibrator (y-axis)** with respect to the corresponding concentration values in **U/ml (x-axis)**. For best results we recommend log/lin coordinates and 4-Parameter Fit. From the OD of each sample, read the corresponding antibody concentrations expressed in **U/ml**.

Normal Range	Equivocal Range	Positive Results
< 12 U/ml	12 - 18 U/ml	>18 U/ml

Example of a standard curve

We recommend pipetting calibrators in parallel for each run.

Calibrators IgG	OD 450/620 nm	CV % (Variation)
0 U/ml	0.018	2.7
3 U/ml	0.127	1.1
10 U/ml	0.265	0.3
30 U/ml	0.598	2.9
100 U/ml	1.214	1.1
300 U/ml	2.223	1.3

Example of calculation

Patient	Replicate (OD)	Mean (OD)	Result (U/ml)
P 01	0.831/0.855	0.843	52.8
P 02	1.060/1.069	1.065	76.0

For lot specific data, see enclosed quality control leaflet. Medical laboratories might perform an in-house Quality Control by using own controls and/or internal pooled sera, as foreseen by EU regulations.

Do not use this example for interpreting patients results!

Each laboratory should establish its own normal range based upon its own techniques, controls, equipment and patient population according to their own established procedures.

For qualitative interpretation read the optical density of the cut-off calibrator and the patient samples. Compare patient's OD with the OD of the cut-off calibrator. For qualitative interpretation we recommend to consider sera within a range of 20% around the cut-off value as equivocal. All samples with higher ODs are considered positive, samples with lower ODs are considered negative.

Negative: $OD_{\text{patient}} < 0.8 \times OD_{\text{cut-off}}$

Equivocal: $0.8 \times OD_{\text{cut-off}} \leq OD_{\text{patient}} \leq 1.2 \times OD_{\text{cut-off}}$

Positive $OD_{\text{patient}} > 1.2 \times OD_{\text{cut-off}}$

9. Technical Data

Sample material:	serum
Sample volume:	10 µl of sample diluted 1:101 with 1x sample buffer
Total incubation time:	90 minutes at 20-32°C/68-89.6°F
Calibration range:	0-300 U/ml
Analytical sensitivity:	1.0 U/ml
Storage:	at 2-8°C/35-46°F use original vials, only
Number of determinations:	96 tests

10. Performance Data

10.1 Analytical sensitivity

Testing sample buffer 30 times on *AESKULISA sn-RNP-C (REF7105)* gave an analytical sensitivity of 1.0 U/ml.

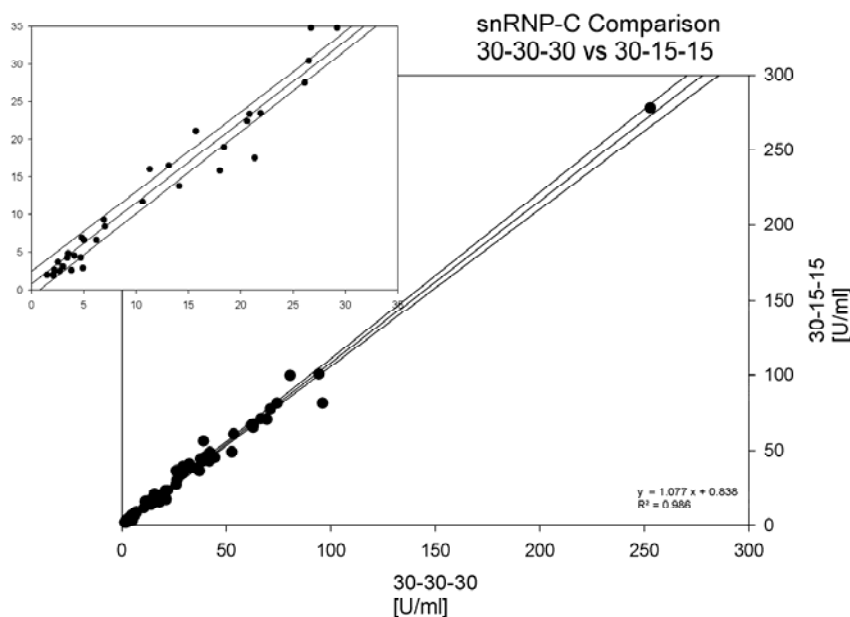
10.2 Specificity and sensitivity

The microplates are coated with native **human sn-RNP complex**.

No crossreactivities to other autoantigens have been found. Antibodies against anti-U1 snRNP are found in 40% of SLE and 95% of MCTD. 20-30% of patients with SLE display antibodies against Sm. The data has been acquired with the *AESKULISA sn-RNP-C (REF7105)*.

Correlation:

The comparability of performance data was assessed with 60 sera tested on both, *AESKULISA 7105* and *AESKULISA 3105*. A linear regression analysis of the two products showed that the two products are equivalent. Included in these sera are 34 sera close to cut-off.



10.3 Linearity

Chosen sera have been tested with this kit and found to dilute linearly. However, due to the heterogeneous nature of human autoantibodies there might be samples that do not follow this rule.

Sample No.	Dilution Factor	measured concentration (U/ml)	expected concentration (U/ml)	Recovery (%)
1	1 / 100	80.1	80.0	100.0
	1 / 200	39.0	40.0	97.5
	1 / 400	19.5	20.0	97.5
	1 / 800	9.7	10.0	97.0
2	1 / 100	47.4	45.0	105.3
	1 / 200	21.4	22.5	95.1
	1 / 400	10.3	11.3	91.2
	1 / 800	5.7	5.6	101.8

10.4 Precision

To determine the precision of the assay, the variability (intra and inter-assay) was assessed by examining its reproducibility on three serum samples selected to represent a range over the standard curve.

Intra-Assay		
Sample No.	Mean (U/ml)	CV (%)
1	19.1	1.0
2	50.5	3.3
3	85.1	6.2

Inter-Assay		
Sample No.	Mean (U/ml)	CV (%)
1	19.1	1.6
2	51.3	3.7
3	83.6	6.4

10.5 Calibration

Due the lack of international reference calibration this assay is calibrated in arbitrary units (U/ml).

11. Literature

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- Hackl W, Fischer U, Luhrmann R (1994).**
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- Klein Gunnewiek JMT, Van de Putte LBA, van Venrooij WJ (1997).**
The U1 snRNP complex: An autoantigen in connective tissue diseases: An update.
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- Von Mühlen CA, Tan EM (1995).**
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ANNEX A: Pipetting scheme

We suggest pipetting calibrators, controls and samples as follows:

For **quantitative interpretation** use calibrators to establish a standard curve.

For **qualitative interpretation** use cut-off calibrator.

	for quantitative interpretation use calibrators to establish a standard curve						for qualitative interpretation use cut-off calibrator					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	CalA	CalE	P1				NC	P2				
B	CalA	CalE	P1				NC	P2				
C	CalB	CalF	P2				CC	P3				
D	CalB	CalF	P2				CC	P3				
E	CalC	PC	P3				PC	...				
F	CalC	PC	P3				PC	...				
G	CalD	NC	...				P1	...				
H	CalD	NC	...				P1	...				

CalA: calibrator A, CalB: calibrator B, CalC: calibrator C, CalD: calibrator D, CalE: calibrator E, CalF: calibrator F

PC: positive control

NC: negative control

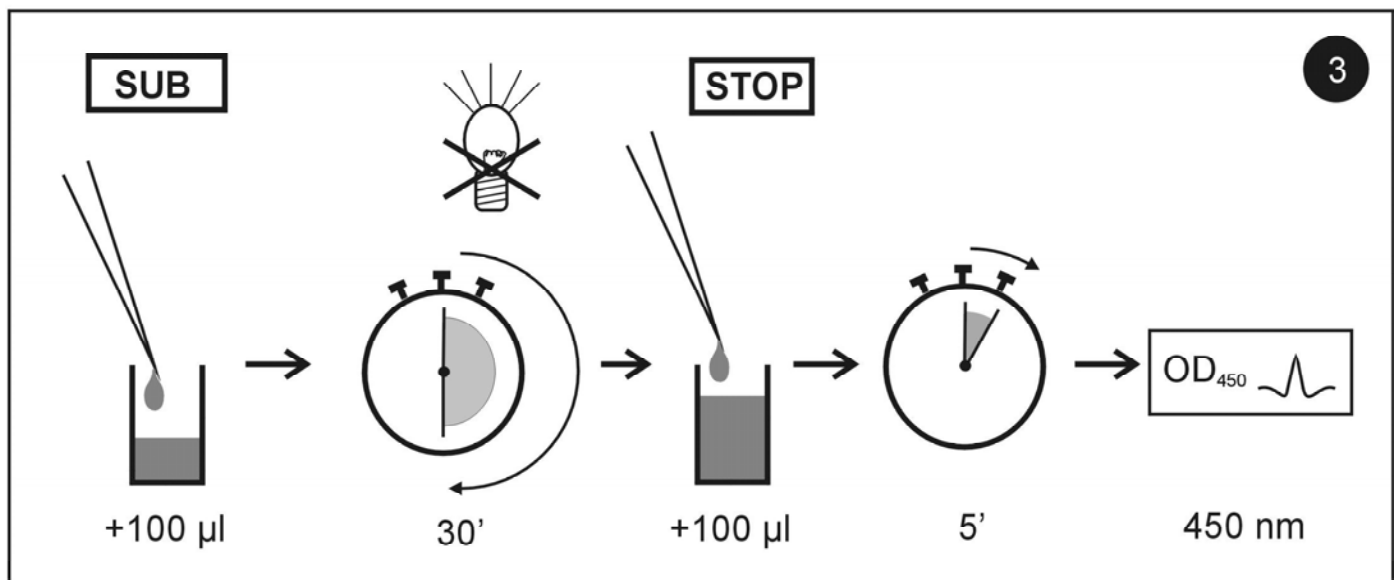
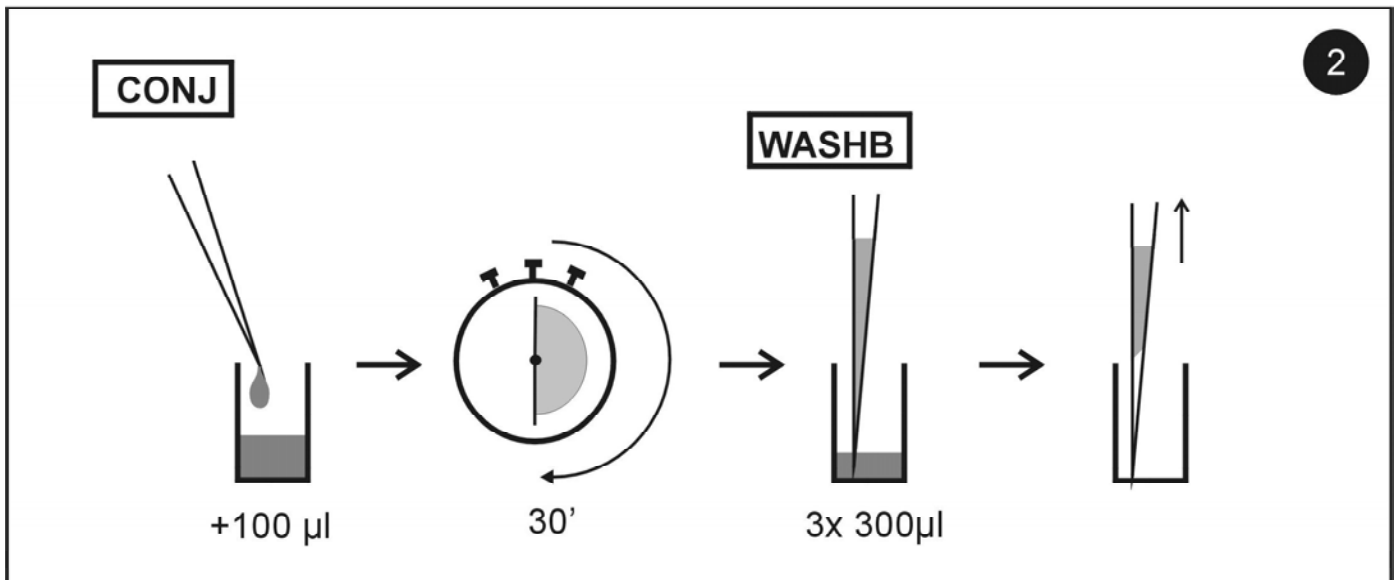
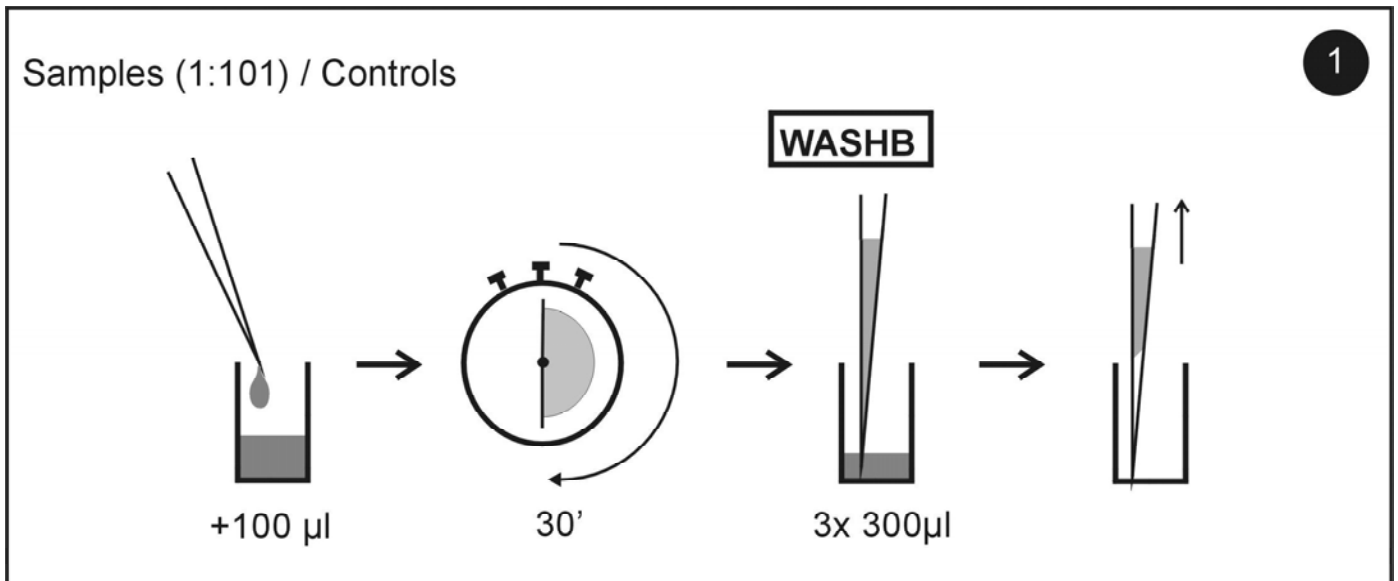
CC: Cut-off calibrator

P1: patient 1

P2: patient 2

P3: patient 3


















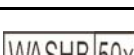


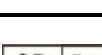
Annex B: Test Procedure



Assay/Test: _____ Incubation / Inkub. : 1. _____ min Date/ Datum: _____

Temperature/Temperatur: _____ °F _____ °C Signature/Unterschrift: _____
Name: _____ 2. _____ min
3. _____ min

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A												
B												
C												
D												
E												
F												
G												
H												

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