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Mouse IL-21 ELISPOT Ready-SET-Go!®

Catalog Number: 88-7210
Also Known As: Interleukin-21, IL21
RUO: For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

Product Information

Contents: Mouse IL-21 ELISPOT Ready-SET-Go!®
REF **Catalog Number:** 88-7210

Temperature Limitation: Store at 2-8°C.
LOT **Batch Code:** Refer to Vial
Use By: Refer to Vial

Description

IL-21 is a 17 kDa immunomodulatory cytokine produced mainly by NKT, T helper (Th) 17 and T follicular helper (T_{FH}) cells. In T_{FH} cells, IL-21 expression leads to autocrine signaling through the IL-21 receptor (IL-21R) and STAT3, which leads to additional transcriptional activation by Bcl6. As with IFNγ for Th1, IL-4 for Th2 cells, and IL-17A for Th17 cells, IL-21 is critical for T_{FH} effector function. This cytokine plays a role in T cell-dependent B cell differentiation into plasma cells and memory cells, stimulation of IgG production and induction of apoptotic signaling in naïve B cells.

In Th17 cells, IL-21 expression and autocrine feedback through STAT3, IRF4 and RORγt lead to upregulation of the IL-23R, thereby preparing Th17 cells for maturation and maintenance by the inflammatory cytokine IL-23. While upregulating IRF4 and RORγt, IL-21 also mediates the downregulation of Foxp3. High levels of IL-21 are present in chemically-induced colitis models. IL-21-deficient mice are protected from developing colitis upon chemical treatment by their inability to upregulate Th17-associated molecules.

Components

Capture Antibody. Pre-titrated, Functional Grade (low endotoxin) purified antibody
Detection Antibody. Pre-titrated, biotin-conjugated antibody
ELISA/ELISPOT Coating Buffer. This Ready-Set-Go! ELISPOT Set may contain ELISA/ELISPOT Coating Buffer Powder (Reconstitute to 1L with dH20 and filter (0.22 uM)) or 10X PBS ELISPOT Coating Buffer (Dilute 1 part 10X Buffer into 9 parts dH20 and filter with 0.22 uM).
Assay Diluent. 5X Concentrated
Detection Enzyme. Pre-titrated Avidin-HRP
Certificate of Analysis. Lot-specific instructions for the dilution of antibodies and enzyme

Applications Reported

This ELISPOT set is for the high resolution frequency analysis of IL-21 secreting cells.

Applications Tested

This mouse IL-21 ELISPOT Ready-SET-Go! set contains all of the necessary reagents for performing enzyme-linked immunosorbent spot (ELISPOT) assays for high resolution frequency analysis of IL-21 secreting cells. The reagents in this set have been pre-titrated for optimal spot development. Millipore Multiscreen HTS 96-well filtration plates are recommended, but not included, for use in this assay.

This assay has been validated for the detection of endogenous IL-21 using Th17-polarized Balb/c splenocytes. Splenocytes were cultured in the presence of Anti-Mouse CD3e Functional Grade Purified (cat. 16-0031), Anti-Mouse CD28 Functional Grade Purified (cat. 16-0281), Anti-Mouse IL-2 Functional Grade Purified (cat. 16-7022), Anti-Mouse IL-4 Functional Grade Purified (cat. 16-7041), Anti-Mouse IFN gamma Functional Grade Purified (cat. 16-7311), Human TGF beta 1 Recombinant Protein (cat. 14-8348), and Mouse IL-6 Recombinant Protein (cat. 14-8061) for three days to induce Th17 polarization. The cells were then stimulated with PMA and Ionomycin and transferred to coated plates for the analysis of IL-21 secretion.

References

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Elsaesser H, Sauer K, Brooks DG. IL-21 is required to control chronic viral infection. Science. 2009 Jun 19;324(5934):1569-72.

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Related Products
12-7211 Anti-Mouse IL-21 PE (FFA21)
16-7211 Anti-Mouse IL-21 Functional Grade Purified (FFA21)
88-8210 Mouse IL-21 ELISA Ready-SET-Go!®

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ELISPOT Ready-SET-Go! Protocol

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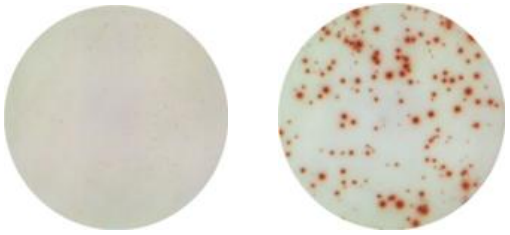
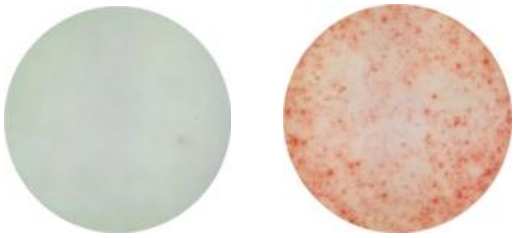
Introduction

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent spot (ELISPOT) assays were originally developed to enumerate B cells secreting antigen-specific antibodies, but subsequently the assay has been adapted for identification and enumeration of cytokine-producing cells at the single cell level. The method employs the sandwich assay approach of the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), with some variations. The ELISPOT capture antibody is coated aseptically onto a polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF)-backed microwell plate. After blocking the plate with serum proteins, cells of interest are plated out at varying densities, along with antigen or mitogen, and then incubated at 37°C. Cytokine secreted by activated cells is captured locally by the coated antibody on the high surface area PVDF membrane. The wells are washed to remove cells, debris, and media components and the final steps do not have to be performed in an aseptic environment. A second antibody (biotinylated) reactive with a distinct epitope of the target cytokine is employed to detect the captured cytokine. The detected cytokine is then visualized using avidin-HRP and a precipitating substrate (e.g., AEC). The colored end product (spot) represents an individual cytokine-producing cell. The spots can be counted manually (e.g., with a dissecting microscope) or using an automated reader to capture the microwell images and to analyze spot number and size.

The ELISPOT assay enables analysis of activated or responding cells at the single cell level. The sensitivity of the ELISPOT assay allows for frequency analysis of rare cell populations (e.g., antigen-specific responses) that is not possible using bulk assay methods. By virtue of exquisite sensitivity of the ELISPOT assay, frequency analysis of rare cell populations (e.g., antigen-specific responses) are possible. Limits of detection are below 1/100,000 rendering the assay useful for monitoring antigen-specific responses applicable to a wide range of areas of immunology research, including cancer, transplantation, infectious disease, and vaccine development.



Human IL-17 ELISPOT:
Left: Human PBMCs cultured for 24 hrs (no mitogen).
Right: Human PBMCs activated with PMA/Iono for 24 hrs



Human Granzyme B ELISPOT:
Left: Human PBMCs cultured for 24 hrs (no mitogen)
Right: Human PBMCs activated with PMA/Iono for 24 hrs

General Notes

Precautions:

1. To ensure optimal results, only use the components included in the particular set. Exchanging of components is not recommended, as changes in performance may occur.
2. Do not use components past expiration date. Refer to the Certificate of Analysis included with each set.
3. Be certain that the buffers used to dilute reagents do not contain sodium azide, as this will inactivate the HRP enzyme.

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Experimental Procedure

Materials

- Pre-titrated Functional Grade (low endotoxin) purified capture antibody
- Pre-titrated biotin-conjugated detection antibody
- 10X ELISA/ELISPOT coating buffer
- 5X Assay diluent
- Pre-titrated Avidin-HRP enzyme

Other Materials Required (See buffer recipes below)

- 96-Well PVDF membrane ELISPOT plates (e.g., Millipore Multi-Screen-HA 54510)
- AEC (3-amino-9-ethyl-carbazole) substrate
- 0.1 M acetate solution
- ELISPOT wash buffer (PBS + 0.05% Tween-20)
- PBS
- Complete tissue culture medium (e.g., RPMI-1640 + 10% FBS and other supplements)
- Cell stimulant (e.g., PMA + Ionomycin)

Instruments

- Pipettes and pipettors
- Refrigerator
- Incubator
- Laminar flow hood
- ELISPOT plate reader or microscope

Experiment Duration

- 1 overnight incubation to coat plate
- 24-48 hour cell activation
- 3-5 hour incubations for detection antibody, enzyme, and substrate

Experimental Procedure

Aseptic Procedures: Use sterile buffers and perform in a laminar flow hood

1. Dilute coating buffer to 1X with reagent-grade sterile water.
2. Dilute functional grade capture antibody in 1X coating buffer according to the instructions in the Certificate of Analysis included in the reagent set. Coat ELISPOT plate with 100 µl/well of antibody, cover, and incubate overnight at 4°C.
3. Decant or aspirate antibody from plate. Wash plate 2 times with 200 µl/well of coating buffer.
4. Block plate with 200 µl/well of tissue culture medium, cover, and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature.
5. Decant or aspirate medium from plate.
6. Aliquot mitogen, antigen, or controls diluted in tissue culture medium to the appropriate wells on the plate. Add prepared cells diluted to desired densities (e.g. $1x10^5$ – $2x10^6$/ml) at 100 µl/well and incubate for 24-48 hours in a 37°C incubator.

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Note: Kinetics and cell densities vary with target cytokine, treatment, and cell type, and must be empirically determined. Cells can be diluted in a sterile 96-well tissue culture plate starting at $2x10^6$/ml in triplicate wells with a series of 3- or 4-fold serial dilutions down the plate and then transferred to the ELISPOT plate.

Non-Aseptic Procedures: The following steps do not need to be performed under sterile conditions

7. Decant cells and medium from the plate and wash 3 times with ELISPOT wash buffer. Decanting can be done by flicking the solution out of the plate.
8. Dilute biotinylated detection antibody in assay diluent according to the instructions in the Certificate of Analysis. Add 100 µl/well to the plate, cover, and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C.
9. Decant antibody solution. Wash plate 4 times with wash buffer, allowing the buffer to soak for 1 minute in between each wash.
10. Dilute Avidin-HRP in assay diluent according to the instructions in the Certificate of Analysis. Add 100 µl/well, cover, and incubate at room temperature for 45 minutes.
11. Decant Avidin-HRP solution. Wash plate 3 times with wash buffer, and then 2 times with 1X PBS without Tween-20.
12. Add 100 µl/well of freshly-prepared AEC substrate solution and develop at room temperature for 10-60 minutes.
13. When spots have reached the desired intensity, stop the reaction by washing the plate 3 times with 200 µl/well reagent grade water.
14. Allow plate to air-dry overnight. Count spots using a microscope or automated ELISPOT reader. Store plate in the dark prior to reading to prevent the fading of spots.

Buffer Recipes

1X PBS: Add the following reagents to 1 L of DI H_2O and adjust pH to 7.0

- 80.0 g NaCl
- 11.6 g Na_2HPO_2
- 2.0 g KH_2PO_4
- 2.0 g KCl

ELISPOT Wash Buffer:

- 1 L of 1X PBS
- 0.5 ml Tween-20
- Alternately, powdered ELISA/ELISPOT wash buffer can be purchased (eBio cat. # 00-0400) and reconstituted with 1 L DI H_2O

AEC (3-amino-9-ethyl-carbazole) Substrate Solution:

- Prepare AEC stock solution by dissolving 100 mg of AEC in 10 ml of N,N Dimethylformamide (DMF)
- Add 333 µl of AEC stock solution to 10 ml of 0.1 M Acetate Solution (see below for recipe). Allow to stand 5-10 minutes, and then filter with a 0.45 µm filter to remove precipitate.
- Just before use, add 5 µl of 30% H_2O_2. Mix and use immediately.

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0.1 M Acetate Solution, pH 5.0:

- Prepare 0.2 M acetic acid by combining 11.55 ml glacial acetic acid with 1 L DI H_2O
- Prepare 0.2 M sodium acetate by adding 27.2 g sodium acetate to 1 L DI H_2O
- Combine 148 ml 0.2 M acetic acid with 352 ml 0.2 M sodium acetate.
- Adjust volume to 1 L with DI H_2O and pH to 5.0

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