

### PACKAGING

Ref.: 101-0743	Cont.: 1 x 40 / 1 x 10 mL
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Store 2 - 8° C.

### CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The prealbumin is a non-glycosylated protein synthesized mainly in the liver and choroid plexus of the brain. It binds and transport approximately 10% of serum thyroxin and triiodothyronine, and also plays a role in the transport of vitamin A in complex with retinal-binding protein.

Prealbumin is the earliest laboratory indicator of nutritional status and has emerged as the preferred marker for malnutrition because it correlates with patient outcomes in wide variety of clinical conditions. It is also a negative acute phase protein; serum levels falls in inflammation and malignancy, as well as cirrhosis, protein-losing enteropathy and zinc deficiency. However, the presence of a prealbumin producing tumor or Hodgkin's disease will increase serum concentrations.

### PRINCIPLE OF THE METHOD

PRE-ALBUMIN is a quantitative turbidimetric test for the measurement of prealbumin in human serum or plasma.

Anti-prealbumin antibodies when mixed with samples containing prealbumin, form insoluble complexes. These complexes cause an absorbance change, dependent upon the prealbumin concentration of the patient sample, that can be quantified by comparison from a calibrator of know prealbumin concentration.

### REAGENTS

<b>Diluent (R1)</b>	Tris buffer 20 mmol/L, PEG 8000, pH 8.3. Sodium azide 0.95 g/L.
<b>Antibody (R2)</b>	Goat serum, anti-human prealbumin pH 7.5. Sodium azida 0.95 g/L.
<b>Optional</b>	Ref: 101-0485 General Proteins Calibrator

### CALIBRATION

The assay has been standardized against the Reference Material CRM 470/RPPHS (Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, IRMM). It is recommended the use of the General Proteins Calibrator for calibration. The reagent (both monoreagent and bireagent) should be recalibrated every three weeks, when the controls are out of specifications, and when changing the reagent lot or the instrument settings. For monoreagent, a reagent blank should be run daily before sample analysis.

### PREPARATION

**Reagents:** Ready to use.

**Calibration Curve:** Prepare the following General Proteins Calibrator dilutions in NaCl (9 g/L) as diluent. Multiply the concentration of the pre-albumin calibrator by the corresponding factor stated in table below to obtain the prealbumin concentration of each dilution.

Calibrator dilution	1	2	3	4	5	6
Calibrator (µL)	--	10	25	50	75	100
NaCl 9 g/L (µL)	100	90	75	50	25	-
Factor	0	0.1	0.25	0.5	0.75	1.0

### STORAGE AND STABILITY

All the components of the kit are stable until the expiration date on the label when stored tightly closed at 2 - 8° C and contaminations are prevented during their use. Do not use reagents over the expiration date.

**Reagent deterioration:** The presence of particles and turbidity. Do not freeze; frozen Antibody or Diluent could change the functionality of the test.

### ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Thermostatic bath at 37° C.
- Spectrophotometer or photometer thermostatable at 37° C with a 340 nm filter (320 – 360 nm).

### SAMPLES

Fresh serum or plasma. EDTA or heparin should be used as anticoagulant. Stable 7 days at 2 - 8° C or 3 months at -20° C.

The samples with presence of fibrin should be centrifuged before testing.

Do not use highly hemolyzed or lipemic samples.

### PROCEDURE

**Notes: Chronolab has instruction sheets for several automatic analyzers. Instructions for many of them are available on request.**

Clinical diagnosis should not be made on findings of a single test result, but should integrate both clinical and laboratory data.

1. Bring the reagents and the photometer (cuvette holder) to 37° C.
2. Assay conditions:

Wavelength : 340 nm  
Temperature : 37° C  
Cuvette lighth path : 1cm

3. Adjust the instrument to zero with distilled water.
4. Pipette into a cuvette:

Reagent R1 (µL)	800
Sample or Calibrator (µL)	10

5. Mix and read the absorbance ( $A_1$ ) after the sample addition.
6. Immediately, pipette into de cuvette:

Reagent R2 (µL)	200
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7. Mix and read the absorbance ( $A_2$ ) of calibrators and sample exactly 2 minutes after the R2 addition.

### CALCULATIONS

Calculate the absorbance difference ( $A_2 - A_1$ ) of each point of the calibration curve and plot the values obtained against the prealbumin concentration of each calibrator dilution. Pre-albumin concentration in the sample is calculated by interpolation of its ( $A_2 - A_1$ ) in the calibration curve.

### QUALITY CONTROL

Control sera are recommended to monitor the performance of manual and automated assay procedures. It should be used the Chronolab General Proteins Control (Ref.:101-0509). Each laboratory should establish its own Quality Control scheme and corrective actions if controls do not meet the acceptable tolerances.

### REFERENCE VALUES<sup>2</sup>

Between 20 - 40 mg/dL. Each laboratory should establish its own reference range.

**PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

**Measurement range:** Up to 100 mg/dL, under the described assay conditions. Samples with higher concentrations, should be diluted 1/5 in NaCl (9 g/L) and retested again. The linearity limit depends on the sample /reagent ratio. It will be higher by decreasing the sample volume, although the sensitivity of the test will be proportionally decreased.

**Detection Limit:** Values less than 1.89 mg/dL give non-reproducible results.

**Prozone effect:** No prozone effect was detected up to 230 mg/dL.

**Precision:**

EP5	CV (%)		
	20.04mg/dL	39.49 mg/dL	58.67 mg/dL
Total	4.9 %	4.6 %	4.9 %
Within Run	1.8 %	2.3 %	1.4 %
Between Run	2.4 %	2.7 %	2.4 %
Between Day	3.9 %	3.0 %	4.0 %

**Accuracy:** Results obtained using this reagent (y) were compared to those obtained using another immunoturbidimetric method. 60 samples ranging from 1 to 40 mg/dL of pre-albumin were assayed. The correlation coefficient (r) was 0.93 and the regression equation  $y = 1.031 x - 4.617$ .

The results of the performance characteristics depend on the used analyzer.

**INTERFERENCES**

Hemoglobin (16 g/L), bilirubin (40 mg/dL), rheumatoid factors (200 IU/mL), do not interfere. Lipemia ( $\geq 8$  g/L), interfere. Other substances may interfere<sup>5,6</sup>.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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5. Young DS. Effects of drugs on clinical laboratory tests, 4th ed. AACC Pres, 1995.
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