Rat Stress Hormone Magnetic Bead Panel

96-Well Plate Assay

Cat. # RSHMAG-69K

MILLIPLEX® MAP

RAT STRESS HORMONE MAGNETIC BEAD PANEL KIT
96-Well Plate Assay

#RSHMAG-69K

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Rat Stress Hormone Magnetic Bead Panel

INTRODUCTION

Stress is defined as the disruption of homeostasis through physical and/or psychological stimuli (stressors). Physiologically the neuroendocrine system, which includes the hypothalamus, pituitary and adrenal glands, plays a critical role in response to stress. Activated by corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) and arginine-vasopressin (AV), the pituitary gland releases ACTH which results in the secretion of cortisol / corticosterone and other glucocorticoids from the adrenal glands. These corticoids involve the whole body in the stress response and are finally involved in the termination of the stress response by a negative feedback loop to the hypothalamus. Both corticosterone and melatonin are important in the regulation of the sleep-wake cycle.

EMD Millipore recognizes the integral role that stress hormones play in the maintenance of homeostasis and in the immune response. Therefore, we are proud to announce that the former LINCO*plex* Rat Stress Hormone Panel now has the MILLIPLEX MAP optimized format. While you will immediately recognize the quality and reproducibility that you have always trusted, you will also enjoy the enhancements that we have built into MILLIPLEX MAP.

EMD Millipore's **MILLIPLEX® MAP** Rat Stress Hormone Magnetic Bead Panel is a configurable three-assay kit, manufactured by EMD Millipore, to be used for the quantitative determination of ACTH, corticosterone and/or melatonin in rat serum, plasma, tissue/cell extracts or culture media samples. The panel provides biomedical researchers using rat models with quality tools for the study of stress response and the role stress plays in the development of disease.

Measuring biomarkers in large numbers of samples often requires some level of automation and/or high throughput. Magnetic Beads can make the process of automation and high throughput screening easier with features such as walk-away washing. Advantages even outside automation include:

- More flexible plate and plate washer options
- Improved performance with turbid serum/plasma samples
- Assay results equivalent to non-magnetic beads
- Automated washing eliminates technical obstacles (i.e., clogging of wells that contain viscous samples) which may result during vacuum manifold/manual washing

Therefore, the **MILLIPLEX® MAP** Rat Stress Hormone Magnetic Bead Panel provides the increased throughput you need. Coupled with the Luminex xMAP® platform in a **magnetic bead** format, you receive the advantage of ideal speed and sensitivity, allowing quantitative multiplex detection of dozens of analytes simultaneously, which can dramatically improve productivity.

EMD Millipore's MILLIPLEX® MAP Rat Stress Hormone Magnetic Bead Panel is the most versatile system available for Rat Stress Hormone research.

- MILLIPLEX® MAP offers you the ability to choose any combination of analytes to design a custom kit that better meets your needs.
- A convenient "all-in-one" box format gives you the assurance that you will have all the necessary reagents you need to run your assay.

EMD Millipore's MILLIPLEX® MAP Rat Stress Hormone Magnetic Bead Panel is a three-plex kit to be used for the individual or simultaneous quantification of any or all of the following analytes in serum, plasma, tissue/cell extracts or culture media samples : ACTH, corticosterone and/or melatonin.

For Research Use Only. Not for Use in Diagnostic Procedures.

Please read entire protocol before use.

It is important to use same assay incubation conditions throughout your study.

PRINCIPLE

MILLIPLEX® MAP is based on the Luminex xMAP® technology — one of the fastest growing and most respected multiplex technologies offering applications throughout the life-sciences and capable of performing a variety of bioassays including immunoassays on the surface of fluorescent-coded magnetic beads known as MagPlex®-C microspheres.

- Luminex uses proprietary techniques to internally color-code microspheres with two fluorescent dyes. Through precise concentrations of these dyes, distinctly colored bead sets of 500 5.6 µm polystyrene microspheres or 80 6.45 µm magnetic microspheres can be created, each of which is coated with a specific capture antibody.
- After an analyte from a test sample is captured by the bead, a biotinylated detection antibody is introduced.
- The reaction mixture is then incubated with Streptavidin-PE conjugate, the reporter molecule, to complete the reaction on the surface of each microsphere.
- EMD Millipore provides three Luminex instruments to acquire and analyze data using two detection methods:
    - The Luminex analyzers Luminex 200™ and FLEXMAP 3D®, flow cytometry-based instruments that integrate key xMAP® detection components, such as lasers, optics, advanced fluidics and high-speed digital signal processors.
    - The Luminex analyzer (MAGPIX®), a CCD-based instrument that integrates key xMAP® capture and detection components with the speed and efficiency of magnetic beads.
- Each individual microsphere is identified and the result of its bioassay is quantified based on fluorescent reporter signals. EMD Millipore combines the streamlined data acquisition power of Luminex xPONENT® acquisition software with sophisticated analysis capabilities of the new MILLIPLEX® Analyst 5.1, integrating data acquisition and analysis seamlessly with all Luminex instruments.

The capability of adding multiple conjugated beads to each sample results in the ability to obtain multiple results from each sample. Open-architecture xMAP® technology enables multiplexing of many types of bioassays reducing time, labor and costs over traditional methods.

STORAGE CONDITIONS UPON RECEIPT

- Recommended storage for kit components is 2 - 8°C.
- For long-term storage, freeze reconstituted standards and controls at ≤ -20°C. Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.
- **DO NOT FREEZE Antibody-Immobilized Beads, Detection Antibody, and Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin**

REAGENTS SUPPLIED

Note: Store all reagents at 2 – 8°C

REAGENTS SUPPLIED	CATALOG NUMBER	VOLUME	QUANTITY
Rat Stress Hormone Standard	RSHMAG-8069	lyophilized	1 vial
Rat Stress Hormone Quality Controls 1 and 2	RSHMAG-6069	lyophilized	2 vials
Serum Matrix Note: Contains 0.08% Sodium Azide	LRSH-SM	lyophilized	1 vial (required for serum and plasma samples only)
Set of one 96-Well Plate with 2 sealers	-----------	-----------	1 plate 2 sealers
Assay Buffer	LE-ABGLP	30 mL	2 bottles
10X Wash Buffer Note: Contains 0.05% Proclin	L-WB	30 mL	2 bottles
Rat Stress Hormone Primary Antibodies	RSHMAG-PA	3.5 mL	1 bottle
Rat Stress Hormone Detection Antibodies	RSHMAG-1069	5.5 mL	1 bottle
Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin	L-SAPE	5.5 mL	1 bottle
Mixing Bottle	------------	--------------	1 bottle

Included Rat Stress Hormone Antibody-Immobilized Beads are dependent on customizable selection of analytes within the panel.

Rat Stress Hormone Antibody-Immobilized Beads:

Bead/Analyte Name	Luminex Bead Region	Customizable 3 Analytes (20X concentration, 200 µL) Available	Cat. #
Anti-ACTH Bead	13M	✓	RSHACTH-MAG
Anti-Corticosterone Bead	21M	✓	RCCS-MAG
Anti-Melatonin Bead	34M	✓	RMLT-MAG

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

Reagents

1. Luminex Sheath Fluid (Luminex Catalog #40-50000) or Luminex Drive Fluid (Luminex Catalog #MPXDF-4PK)

Instrumentation / Materials

1. Adjustable Pipettes with Tips capable of delivering 25 µL to 1000 µL
2. Multichannel Pipettes capable of delivering 5 µL to 50 µL or 25 µL to 200 µL
3. Reagent Reservoirs
4. Polypropylene Microfuge Tubes
5. Rubber Bands
6. Aluminum Foil
7. Absorbent Pads
8. Laboratory Vortex Mixer
9. Sonicator (Branson Ultrasonic Cleaner Model #B200 or equivalent)
10. Titer Plate Shaker (Lab-Line Instruments Model #4625 or equivalent)
11. Luminex 200™, HTS, FLEXMAP 3D®, or MAGPIX® with xPONENT® software by Luminex Corporation
12. Automatic Plate Washer for magnetic beads (BioTek® 405 LS and 405 TS, EMD Millipore Catalog #40-094, #40-095, #40-096, #40-097 or equivalent) or Handheld Magnetic Separation Block (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-285 or equivalent).

Note: If a plate washer or handheld magnetic separation block for magnetic beads is not available, one can use a microtiter filter plate (EMD Millipore Catalog #MX-PLATE) to run the assay using a Vacuum Filtration Unit (EMD Millipore Vacuum Manifold Catalog #MSVMHTS00 or equivalent with EMD Millipore Vacuum Pump Catalog #WP6111560 or equivalent).

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- All blood components and biological materials should be handled as potentially hazardous. Follow universal precautions as established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration when handling and disposing of infectious agents.
- Sodium Azide or Proclin has been added to some reagents as a preservative. Although the concentrations are low, Sodium Azide and Proclin may react with lead and copper plumbing to form highly explosive metal azides. Dispose of unused contents and waste in accordance with international, federal, state, and local regulations.

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

To obtain reliable and reproducible results, the operator should carefully read this entire manual and fully understand all aspects of each assay step before running the assay. The following notes should be reviewed and understood before the assay is set up.

- FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT FOR USE IN DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES.
- Do not use beyond the expiration date on the label.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or sources.
- The Antibody-Immobilized Beads are light sensitive and must be protected from light at all times. Cover the assay plate containing beads with opaque plate lid or aluminum foil during all incubation steps.
- It is important to allow all reagents to warm to room temperature (20-25°C) before use in the assay
- Incomplete washing can adversely affect the assay outcome. All washing must be performed with the Wash Buffer provided.
- The Standards prepared by serial dilution must be used within 1 hour of preparation. Discard any unused standards except the standard stock which may be stored at ≤ -20°C for 1 month and at ≤ -80°C for greater than one month.
- If samples fall outside the dynamic range of the assay, further dilute the samples with the appropriate diluent and repeat the assay.
- Any unused mixed Antibody-Immobilized Beads may be stored in the Mixing Bottle at 2-8°C for up to one month.
- During the preparation of the standard curve, make certain to mix the higher concentration well before making the next dilution. Use a new tip with each dilution.
- The plate should be read immediately after the assay is finished. If, however, the plate cannot be read immediately, seal the plate, cover with aluminum foil or an opaque lid, and store the plate at 2-8°C for up to 24 hours. Prior to reading, agitate the plate on the plate shaker at room temperature for 10 minutes. Delay in reading a plate may result in decreased sensitivity for some analytes.
- The titer plate shaker should be set at a speed to provide maximum orbital mixing without splashing of liquid outside the wells. For the recommended plate shaker, this would be a setting of 5-7 which is approximately 500-800 rpm.
- Ensure that the needle probe is clean. This may be achieved by sonication and/or alcohol flushes.
- When reading the assay on Luminex 200™, adjust probe height according to the protocols recommended by Luminex to the kit solid plate or to the recommended EMD Millipore filter plates using 3 alignment discs. When reading the assay on MAGPIX®, adjust probe height according to the protocols recommended by Luminex to the kit solid plate or to the recommended EMD Millipore filter plates using 2 alignment discs. When reading the assay on FLEXMAP 3D®, adjust probe height according to the protocols recommended by Luminex to the kit solid plate using 1 alignment disc.

  For FLEXMAP 3D® when using the solid plate in the kit, the final resuspension should be with 150 µL Sheath Fluid in each well and 75 µL should be aspirated.

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES (continued)

- For cell culture supernatants or tissue extraction, use the culture or extraction medium as the matrix solution in background, standard curve and control wells. If samples are diluted in Assay Buffer, use the Assay Buffer as matrix.
- For serum/plasma samples, use the Serum Matrix provided in the kit.
- For cell/tissue homogenate, the final cell or tissue homogenate should be prepared in a buffer that has a neutral pH, contains minimal detergents or strong denaturing detergents, and has an ionic strength close to physiological concentration. Avoid debris, lipids, and cell/tissue aggregates. Centrifuge samples before use.
- Vortex all reagents well before adding to plate.

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND STORAGE

A. Preparation of Serum Samples:

- Allow the blood to clot for at least 30 minutes before centrifugation for 10 minutes at 1000xg. Remove serum and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at ≤ -20°C.
- Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.
- When using frozen samples, it is recommended to thaw the samples completely, mix well by vortexing and centrifuge prior to use in the assay to remove particulates.
- Serum samples should be diluted 1:4 in the Assay Buffer provided in the kit (e.g. combine 25 µL of serum and 75 µL Assay Buffer and mix well) or samples may be extracted as indicated in Optional Sample Extraction Protocol.

B. Preparation of Plasma Samples:

- Plasma collection using EDTA as an anticoagulant is recommended. Centrifuge for 10 minutes at 1000xg within 30 minutes of blood collection. Remove plasma and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at ≤ -20°C.
- Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.
- When using frozen samples, it is recommended to thaw the samples completely, mix well by vortexing and centrifuge prior to use in the assay to remove particulates.
- Plasma samples should be diluted 1:4 in the Assay Buffer provided in the kit (e.g. combine 25 µL of plasma and 75 µL Assay Buffer and mix well) or samples may be extracted as indicated in Optional Sample Extraction Protocol.

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND STORAGE (continued)

C. Preparation of Tissue Culture Supernatant:

- Centrifuge the sample to remove debris and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at ≤ -20°C.
- Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.
- Tissue culture supernatant may require a dilution with an appropriate control medium prior to assay. Tissue/cell extracts should be done in neutral buffers containing reagents and conditions that do not interfere with assay performance. Excess concentrations of detergent, salt, denaturants, high or low pH, etc. will negatively affect the assay. Organic solvents should be avoided. The tissue/cell extract samples should be free of particles such as cells or tissue debris.

OPTIONAL SAMPLE EXTRACTION PROTOCOL

NOTE: For turbid serum and plasma samples the following extraction protocol is recommended for optimal assay performance.

- Put 150 µL sample into a microfuge tube.
- Add 225 µL acetonitrile to the sample, vortex 5 seconds and let sit for 10 minutes at room temperature.
- Vortex again for 5 seconds, then centrifuge at 17,000 x g for 5 minutes.
- Carefully remove 300 µL of supernatant into a 96-well collecting plate.
- Dry the samples by using Speed Vac at highest vacuum setting. Dried samples can be covered and stored at ≤ -20 ºC.
- Reconstitute samples with 120 µL Assay Buffer. Shake for 10 minutes. Assay immediately or store at ≤ -20 ºC.
- Assay 25 µL neat reconstituted sample per well**. IMPORTANT: When testing extracted samples, substitute Assay Buffer for matrix solution (LRSH-SM) in the standard curve, background and Control assay wells.**

NOTE:

- A maximum of 25 µL of sample can be used per well.
- All samples must be stored in polypropylene tubes. **DO NOT STORE SAMPLES IN GLASS**.
- Avoid debris, lipids and cells when using samples with gross hemolysis or lipemia.
- Care must be taken when using heparin as an anticoagulant since an excess of heparin will provide falsely high values. Use no more than 10 IU heparin per mL of blood collected.

PREPARATION OF REAGENTS FOR IMMUNOASSAY

A. Preparation of Antibody-Immobilized Beads

Sonicate each individual antibody-bead vial for 30 seconds; vortex for 1 minute. Add 150 µL from each antibody-bead vial to the Mixing Bottle and bring final volume to 3.0 mL with Assay Buffer. Vortex the mixed beads well. Unused portion may be stored at 2-8°C for up to one month. (Note: Due to the composition of magnetic beads, you may notice a slight color in the bead solution. This does not affect the performance of the beads or the kit.)

Example: When using 2 analyte antibody-immobilized beads, add 150 µL from each of the 2 bead sets to the Mixing Bottle. Then add 2.7 mL Assay Buffer.

B. Preparation of Quality Controls

Before use, reconstitute Quality Control 1 and Quality Control 2 with 250 µL deionized water. Invert the vial several times to mix and vortex. Allow the vial to sit for 5-10 minutes. Unused portion may be stored at ≤ -20°C for up to one month.

C. Preparation of Wash Buffer

Bring the 10X Wash Buffer to room temperature and mix to bring all salts into solution. Dilute 60 mL of 10X Wash Buffer (two bottles) with 540 mL deionized water. Store the unused portion at 2-8°C for up to one month.

D. Preparation of Serum Matrix

This step is required for diluted serum or plasma samples only.

Add 1.0 mL deionized water to the bottle containing lyophilized Serum Matrix. Mix well. Allow the bottle to sit for 5-10 minutes for complete reconstitution. Then add 3.0 mL of Assay Buffer to the bottle and mix well (final dilution is 1:4). This Serum Matrix may be frozen (≤ -20°C) and re-used twice.

E. Preparation of Rat Stress Hormone Panel Standard

1.) Prior to use, reconstitute the Standard with 250 µL deionized water to make standard #7 (see table below for analyte concentrations). Invert the vial several times to mix. Vortex the vial for 10 seconds. Allow the vial to sit for 5-10 minutes. Any unused portion may be stored at ≤ -20°C for up to one month.

2.) Preparation of Working Standards

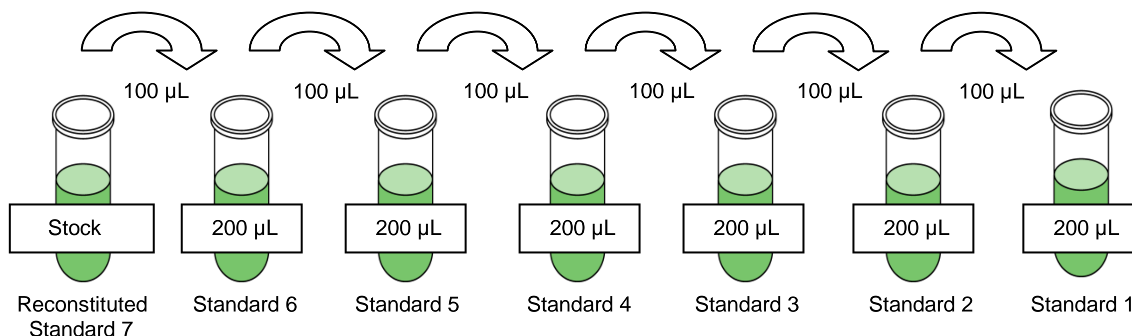
Label six polypropylene microfuge tubes Standard 1, Standard 2, Standard 3, Standard 4, Standard 5 and Standard 6. Add 200 µL of Assay Buffer to each of the six tubes. Add 100 µL of the Standard 7 to the Standard 6 tube, mix well, transfer 100 µL of the Standard 6 to the Standard 5 tube, mix well and transfer 100 µL of the Standard 5 to the Standard 4 tube, mix well and transfer 100 µL of the Standard 4 to the Standard 3 tube, mix well and transfer 100 µL of the Standard 3 to Standard 2 tube, mix well and transfer 100 µL of the Standard 2 to the Standard 1 tube, mix well. The 0 standard (Background) will be Assay Buffer.

PREPARATION OF REAGENTS FOR IMMUNOASSAY (continued)

Preparation of Standards

Standard #	Volume of Deionized Water to Add	Volume of Standard to Add
Standard #7	250 µL water	0

Standard #	Volume of Assay Buffer to Add	Volume of Standard to Add
Standard #6	200 µL	100 µL of Standard #7
Standard #5	200 µL	100 µL of Standard #6
Standard #4	200 µL	100 µL of Standard #5
Standard #3	200 µL	100 µL of Standard #4
Standard #2	200 µL	100 µL of Standard #3
Standard #1	200 µL	100 µL of Standard #2



After dilutions, each tube has the following concentrations for each analyte:

Dilution	ACTH (pg/mL)	Corticosterone (pg/mL)	Melatonin (pg/mL)
Tube 7 (Original)	1000	500,000	400
Tube 6	333.3	166,666.7	133.3
Tube 5	111.1	55,555.6	44.4
Tube 4	37.0	18,518.5	14.8
Tube 3	12.3	6,172.8	4.94
Tube 2	4.1	2,057.6	1.64
Tube 1	1.4	685.9	0.55

IMMUNOASSAY PROCEDURE

- Prior to beginning this assay, it is imperative to read this protocol completely and to thoroughly understand the Technical Guidelines.
- Allow all reagents to warm to room temperature (20-25°C) before use in the assay.
- Diagram the placement of Standards [0 (Background), #7, #6, #5, #4, #3, #2, #1], Controls 1 and 2, and Samples on Well Map Worksheet in a vertical configuration. (Note: Most instruments will only read the 96-well plate vertically by default.) It is recommended to run the assay in duplicate.
- If using a filter plate, set the filter plate on a plate holder at all times during reagent dispensing and incubation steps so that the bottom of the plate does not touch any surface.

1. Add 200 µL of Assay Buffer into each well of the plate. Seal and mix on a plate shaker for 10 minutes at room temperature (20-25°C).
2. Decant Assay Buffer and remove the residual amount from all wells by inverting the plate and tapping it smartly onto absorbent towels several times.
3. Add 25 µL of each Standard or Control into the appropriate wells. Assay Buffer should be used for the 0 pg/mL standard (Background).
4. Add 25 µL of Assay Buffer to the sample wells.
5. Add 25 µL of appropriate matrix solution to the background, standards, and control wells when it is required. When assaying tissue / cell culture supernatant samples, use similar but analyte-free medium. When measuring 1:4 diluted serum or plasma samples, use 1:4 diluted serum matrix solution.
6. Add 25 µL of Sample into the appropriate wells. (Serum and plasma samples should be diluted 1:4 in Assay Buffer.)
7. Add 25 µL Primary Antibody into all the wells.
8. Vortex Mixing Bottle and add 25 µL of the Mixed Beads to each well. (Note: During addition of Beads, shake bead bottle intermittently to avoid settling.)
9. Seal the plate with a plate sealer. Wrap the plate with foil and incubate with agitation on a plate shaker for overnight (16-18 hours) at 4°C.

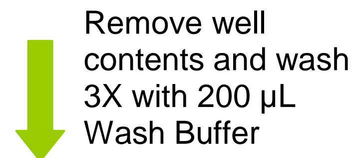
Add 200 µL Assay Buffer per well

Shake 10 min, RT
Decant

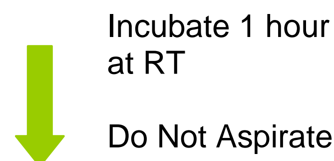
- Add 25 µL Standard or Control to appropriate wells
- Add 25 µL Assay Buffer to background and sample wells
- Add 25 µL Samples to sample wells
- Add 25 µL Matrix to background, standards and control wells
- Add 25 µL Primary Antibody to each well
- Add 25 µL Beads to each well

Incubate overnight at 4°C with shaking

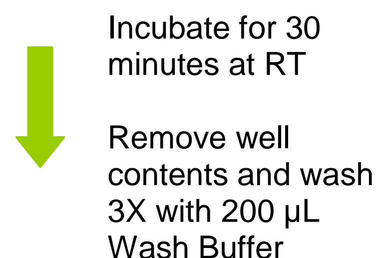
10. Gently remove well contents and wash plate 3 times following instructions listed in the **PLATE WASHING** section.
11. Add 50 µL of Detection Antibodies into each well. (Note: Allow the Detection Antibodies to warm to room temperature prior to addition.)
12. Seal, cover with foil and incubate with agitation on a plate shaker for 1 hour at room temperature (20-25°C). **DO NOT ASPIRATE AFTER INCUBATION.**
13. Add 50 µL Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin to each well containing the 50 µL of Detection Antibodies.
14. Seal (cover with foil and incubate with agitation on a plate shaker for 30 minutes at room temperature (20-25°C).
15. Gently remove well contents and wash plate 3 times following instructions listed in the **PLATE WASHING** section.
16. Add 100 µL of Sheath Fluid (or Drive Fluid if using MAGPIX®) to all wells. Resuspend the beads on a plate shaker for 5 minutes.
17. Run plate on Luminex 200™, HTS, FLEXMAP 3D® or MAGPIX® with xPONENT® software.
18. Save and analyze the Median Fluorescent Intensity (MFI) data using a weighted 5-parameter logistic or spline curve-fitting method for calculating analyte concentrations in samples. . (Note: For diluted samples, multiply the calculated concentration by the dilution factor.)



Add 50 µL Detection Antibodies per well



Add 50 µL Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin per well



Add 100 µL Sheath Fluid or Drive Fluid per well

Read on Luminex (50 µL, 50 beads per bead set)

PLATE WASHING

If using a solid plate, use either a handheld magnet or magnetic plate washer.

1.) Solid Plate

If using a solid plate, use either a handheld magnet or magnetic plate washer.

A.) Handheld magnet **(EMD Millipore Catalog #40-285)** - Rest plate on magnet for 60 seconds to allow complete settling of magnetic beads. Remove well contents by gently decanting the plate in an appropriate waste receptacle and gently tapping on absorbent pads to remove residual liquid. Wash plate with 200 µL of Wash Buffer by removing plate from magnet, adding Wash Buffer, shaking for 30 seconds, reattaching to magnet, letting beads settle for 60 seconds and removing well contents as previously described after each wash. Repeat wash steps as recommended in Assay Procedure.

B.) Magnetic plate washer **(EMD Millipore Catalog #40-094, #40-095, #40-096 and #40-097)** - Please refer to specific automatic plate washer manual for appropriate equipment settings. Please note that after the final aspiration, there will be approximately 25 µL of residual wash buffer in each well. This is expected when using the BioTek plate washer and this volume does not need to be aspirated from the plate.

If using an automatic plate washer other than BioTek® 405 LS or 405 TS, please refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for programming instructions.

2.) Filter Plate (EMD Millipore Catalog #MX-PLATE)

If using a filter plate, use a vacuum filtration manifold to remove well contents. Wash plate with 200 µL/well of Wash Buffer, removing Wash Buffer by vacuum filtration after each wash. Repeat wash steps as recommended in the Assay Procedure.

EQUIPMENT SETTINGS

Luminex 200™, HTS, FLEXMAP 3D®, and MAGPIX® with xPONENT® software:

These specifications are for the Luminex 200™, Luminex HTS, Luminex FLEXMAP 3D®, and Luminex MAGPIX® with xPONENT® software. Luminex instruments with other software (e.g. MasterPlex®, STarStation, LiquiChip, Bio-Plex Manager™, LABScan™ 100) would need to follow instrument instructions for gate settings and additional specifications from the vendors for reading Luminex magnetic beads.

For magnetic bead assays, the Luminex 200™ and HTS instruments must be calibrated with the xPONENT® 3.1 compatible Calibration Kit (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-275) and performance verified with the Performance Verification Kit (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-276). The Luminex FLEXMAP 3D® instrument must be calibrated with the FLEXMAP 3D® Calibrator Kit (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-028) and performance verified with the FLEXMAP 3D® Performance Verification Kit (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-029). The Luminex MAGPIX® instrument must be calibrated with the MAGPIX® Calibration Kit (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-049) and performance verified with the MAGPIX® Performance Verification Kit (EMD Millipore Catalog #40-050).

NOTE: When setting up a Protocol using the xPONENT® software, you must select MagPlex as the Bead Type in the Acquisition settings.

NOTE: These assays cannot be run on any instruments using Luminex IS 2.3 or Luminex 1.7 software.

EQUIPMENT SETTINGS (continued)

The Luminex probe height must be adjusted to the plate provided in the kit. Please use Catalog #MAG-PLATE, if additional plates are required for this purpose.

Events:	50, per bead	
Sample Size:	50 µL	
Gate Settings:	8,000 to 15,000	
Reporter Gain:	Default (low PMT)	
Time Out:	60 seconds	
Bead Set:	Customizable 3-Plex Beads	
	ACTH	13
	Corticosterone	21
	Melatonin	34

QUALITY CONTROLS

The ranges for each analyte in Quality Control 1 and 2 are provided on the card insert or can be located at the EMD MILLIPORE website www.millipore.com/techlibrary/index.do using the catalog number as the keyword.

ASSAY CHARACTERISTICS

Assay Sensitivities (minimum detectable concentrations, [pg/mL])

Minimum Detectable Concentration (MinDC) is calculated using **Analyst**. It measures the true limits of detection for an assay by mathematically determining what the empirical MinDC would be if an infinite number of standard concentrations were run for the assay under the same conditions.

Analyte	(n = 8 Assays)	
	MinDC (pg/mL)	MinDC+2SD (pg/mL)
ACTH	0.5	0.9
Corticosterone	1796	2914
Melatonin	0.9	1.52

Precision

Intra-assay precision is generated from the mean of the %CV's from 8 reportable results across two different concentrations of analytes in a single assay. Inter-assay precision is generated from the mean of the %CV's across two different concentrations of analytes across 8 different assays.

Analyte	Intra-assay %CV	Inter-assay %CV
ACTH	<10	<10
Corticosterone	<10	<10
Melatonin	<10	<15

Accuracy

Spike Recovery: The data represent mean percent recovery of spiked standards ranging from low, medium, and high concentration in serum and plasma samples (n=5).

Analyte	% Recovery in Samples
ACTH	83
Corticosterone	61
Melatonin	108

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Probable Cause	Solution
Insufficient bead count	Plate washer aspirate height set too low	Adjust aspiration height according to manufacturers' instructions.
	Bead mix prepared inappropriately	Sonicate bead vials and vortex just prior to adding to bead mix bottle according to protocol. Agitate bead mix intermittently in reservoir while pipetting this into the plate.
	Samples cause interference due to particulate matter or viscosity	See above. Also sample probe may need to be cleaned with alcohol flushes, back flushes and washes; or, if needed, probe should be removed and sonicated.
	Probe height not adjusted correctly	When reading the assay on Luminex 200™, adjust probe height to the kit solid plate or to the recommended EMD Millipore filter plates using 3 alignment discs. When reading the assay on MAGPIX®, adjust probe height to the kit solid plate or to the recommended EMD Millipore filter plates using 2 alignment discs. When reading the assay on FLEXMAP 3D®, adjust probe height to the kit solid plate using 1 alignment disc. For FLEXMAP 3D® when using the solid plate in the kit, the final resuspension should be with 150 µL Sheath Fluid in each well and 75 µL should be aspirated.
Background is too high	Background wells were contaminated	Avoid cross-well contamination by using sealer appropriately and pipetting with multichannel pipettes without touching reagent in plate.
	Matrix used has endogenous analyte or interference	Check matrix ingredients for cross-reacting components (e.g. interleukin modified tissue culture medium).
	Insufficient washes	Increase number of washes.
Beads not in region or gate	Luminex instrument not calibrated correctly or recently	Calibrate Luminex instrument based on manufacturer's instructions, at least once a week or if temperature has changed by >3°C.
	Gate settings not adjusted correctly	Some Luminex instruments (e.g. Bio-Plex®) require different gate settings than those described in the kit protocol. Use instrument default settings.
	Wrong bead regions in protocol template	Check kit protocol for correct bead regions or analyte selection.
	Incorrect sample type used	Samples containing organic solvents or if highly viscous should be diluted or dialyzed as required.
	Instrument not washed or primed	Prime the Luminex instrument 4 times to rid it of air bubbles, wash 4 times with sheath fluid or water if there is any remnant alcohol or sanitizing liquid.

	Beads were exposed to light	Keep plate and bead mix covered with dark lid or aluminum foil during all incubation steps.
Signal for whole plate is same as background	Incorrect or no Detection Antibody was added Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin was not added	Add appropriate Detection Antibody and continue. Add Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin according to protocol. If Detection Antibody has already been removed, sensitivity may be low.
Low signal for standard curve	Detection Antibody may have been removed prior to adding Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin Incubations done at inappropriate temperatures, timings or agitation	May need to repeat assay if desired sensitivity not achieved. Assay conditions need to be checked.
Signals too high, standard curves are saturated	Calibration target value set too high Plate incubation was too long with standard curve and samples	With some Luminex instruments (e.g. Bio-Plex®) default target setting for RP1 calibrator is set at high PMT. Use low target value for calibration and reanalyze plate. Use shorter incubation time.
Sample readings are out of range	Samples contain no or below detectable levels of analyte Samples contain analyte concentrations higher than highest standard point Standard curve was saturated at higher end of curve	If below detectable levels, it may be possible to use higher sample volume. Check with technical support for appropriate protocol modifications. Samples may require dilution and reanalysis for just that particular analyte. See above.
High variation in samples and/or standards	Multichannel pipette may not be calibrated Plate washing was not uniform Samples may have high particulate matter or other interfering substances Plate agitation was insufficient Cross-well contamination	Calibrate pipettes. Confirm all reagents are removed completely in all wash steps. See above. Plate should be agitated during all incubation steps using an orbital plate shaker at a speed where beads are in constant motion without causing splashing. Check when reusing plate sealer that no reagent has touched sealer. Care should be taken when using same pipette tips that are used for reagent additions and that pipette tip does not touch reagent in plate.

FOR FILTER PLATES ONLY		
Filter plate will not vacuum	Vacuum pressure is insufficient Samples have insoluble particles High lipid concentration	Increase vacuum pressure such that 0.2 mL buffer can be suctioned in 3-5 seconds. Centrifuge samples just prior to assay set-up and use supernatant. After centrifugation, remove lipid layer and use supernatant.
Plate leaked	Vacuum pressure too high Plate set directly on table or absorbent towels during incubations or reagent additions Insufficient blotting of filter plate bottom causing wicking Pipette touching plate filter during additions Probe height not adjusted correctly Sample too viscous	Adjust vacuum pressure such that 0.2 mL buffer can be suctioned in 3-5 seconds. May need to transfer contents to a new (blocked) plate and continue. Set plate on plate holder or raised edge so bottom of filter is not touching any surface. Blot the bottom of the filter plate well with absorbent towels after each wash step. Pipette to the side of plate. Adjust probe to 3 alignment discs in well H6. May need to dilute sample.

REPLACEMENT REAGENTS	**Catalog #**
Rat Stress Hormone Standard	RSHMAG-8069
Rat Stress Hormone Quality Controls 1 & 2	RSHMAG-6069
Serum Matrix	LRSH-SM
Rat Stress Hormone Primary Antibodies	RSHMAG-PA
Rat Stress Hormone Detection Antibodies	RSHMAG-1069
Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin	L-SAPE
Assay Buffer	LE-ABGLP
Set of two 96-Well Filter Plates with Sealers	MAG-PLATE
10X Wash Buffer	L-WB

Antibody-Immobilized Beads

Analyte	Bead #	Cat. #
Anti-ACTH	13	RSHACTH-MAG
Anti-Corticosterone	21	RCCS-MAG
Anti-Melatonin	34	RMLT-MAG

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WELL MAP

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	0 Standard (Background)	Standard 4	QC-1 Control	Etc.								
B	0 Standard (Background)	Standard 4	QC-1 Control									
C	Standard 1	Standard 5	QC-2 Control									
D	Standard 1	Standard 5	QC-2 Control									
E	Standard 2	Standard 6	Sample 1									
F	Standard 2	Standard 6	Sample 1									
G	Standard 3	Standard 7	Sample 2									
H	Standard 3	Standard 7	Sample 2									