HIV-2 BLOT 1.2
WESTERN BLOT ASSAY
Instructions For Use

REVISION DATE: 2016-06
MAC0016-ENG-4

Note: Changes Highlighted

REF (18 Tests): 11021-018
(36 Tests): 11021-036

NAME AND INTENDED USE

The **MP DIAGNOSTICS HIV-2 BLOT 1.2** is a qualitative enzyme immunoassay for the in-vitro detection of specific antibodies to HIV-2 in human serum or plasma. The MP Diagnostics HIV-2 BLOT 1.2 is intended for use as a more specific test on human serum or plasma specimens found to be repeatedly reactive using screening procedures like the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).

INTRODUCTION

Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 2 (HIV-2) infection was first described in 1985 in asymptomatic prostitutes from Senegal. The virus was subsequently isolated in 1986 from patients with AIDS-like symptoms in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde. HIV-2 is related to, but distinct from HIV-1, the prototype AIDS virus. As such HIV-2 has many molecular, biological and serological similarities with HIV-1.

Reports have shown that the infection is not limited to Africa and that HIV-2 seropositive individuals have been identified in Europe and the United States. Several screening tests for simultaneous detection of HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies are now widely available. More specific test, like the MP Diagnostics Western Blot procedure utilizing native HIV-2 viral proteins is thus necessary to ascertain HIV-2 positivity for specimens found repeatedly reactive from screening assays.

CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PROCEDURE

The nitrocellulose strips are incorporated with separated, bound antigenic proteins from partially purified inactivated HIV-2 using electrophoretic blotting. Individual nitrocellulose strips are incubated with diluted serum or plasma specimens and controls. Specific antibodies to HIV-2, if present in the specimens, will bind to the HIV-2 proteins on the strips.

The strips are washed to remove unbound materials. Antibodies that bind specifically to HIV-2 proteins can be visualized using a series of reactions with goat anti-human IgG conjugated with alkaline phosphatase and the substrate BCIP/NBT. This method

is sensitive enough to detect marginal amounts of HIV-2 specific antibodies in serum or plasma.

DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS USED

The following are graphical symbols used in or found on **MP Diagnostics** products and packaging. These symbols are the most common ones appearing on medical devices and their packaging. Some of the common symbols are explained in more detail in European Standard EN 980:2008 and International Standard ISO 15223-1:2007.

	Use by *Synonym for this :* Expiry Date	IVD	*In vitro* diagnostic medical device
LOT	Batch Code *Synonyms for this are:* Lot Number Batch Number	REF	Catalogue Number
	Temperature Limitation		Caution
	Manufacturer		Consult Instructions for Use
	Contains sufficient for <n> tests		Do not reuse
CONT	Contents		

KIT COMPONENTS

Component Description		Quantity Provided
ANTIGEN STRIPS	**NITROCELLULOSE STRIPS** Incorporated with HIV-2 viral lysate. Keep dry and away from light.	Available in 18 & 36 strips
CONTROL –	**NON-REACTIVE CONTROL** Inactivated normal human serum. Non-reactive for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and antibodies to HIV-1, HIV-2, and HCV. Contains sodium azide and thimerosal as preservatives.	1 vial (80 µl)
CONTROL +	**STRONG REACTIVE CONTROL** Inactivated human serum with high titered antibodies to HIV-2. Non-reactive for HBsAg & anti-HCV. Contains sodium azide and thimerosal as preservatives.	1 vial (80 µl)
BUF STOCK 10x	**STOCK BUFFER CONCENTRATE (10x)** Tris Buffer with heat inactivated normal goat serum. Contains thimerosal as preservative.	1 bottle (20 ml)
BUF WASH 20x	**WASH BUFFER CONCENTRATE (20x)** Tris with Tween-20. Contains thimerosal as preservative.	1 bottle (70 ml)
CONJUGATE	**CONJUGATE** Goat anti-human IgG conjugated with alkaline phosphatase. Contains sodium azide as preservative.	1 vial (120 µl)
SUBS BCIP / NBT	**SUBSTRATE** Solution of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- phosphate (BCIP) and nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT).	1 bottle (100 ml)
POWDER BLOTTING	**BLOTTING POWDER** Non-fat dry milk	10 packets (1g each)
	Incubation Tray, 10 wells each	2 or 4 trays
	Instructions For Use	1 copy
	Forceps	1 pair

Volume of reagents provided are sufficient for 4 runs.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. For *in vitro* diagnostic use only.
2. For Professional use only.
3. Please refer to the product labelling for information on potentially hazardous components

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

CAUTION: This kit contains materials of human origin. No test method can offer complete assurance that human blood products will not transmit infection. **HANDLE ASSAY SPECIMENS, STRONG REACTIVE AND NON-REACTIVE CONTROLS AS POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS AGENTS.** It is recommended that the components and test specimens be handled using good laboratory working practices. They should be disposed of in accordance with established safety procedures.

The ***Strong Reactive Control*** and ***Non-Reactive Control*** contain Thimerosal and Sodium azide while Stock Buffer Concentrate and Wash Buffer Concentrate contain Thimerosal and Conjugate contains Sodium azide. Sodium azide can react with copper and lead used in some plumbing systems to form explosive salts. The quantities used in this kit are small, nevertheless when disposing of azide-containing materials they should be flushed away with relatively large quantities of water to prevent metal azide buildup in plumbing system.

Pursuant to EC regulation 1272/2008 (CLP), hazardous components are classified and labelled as follows:

Component:	**Nitrocellulose strips**
Signal Word:	**Danger**
Pictogram:	
Hazard Statements:	H228 Flammable solid
Precautionary Statements:	P210 Keep away from heat/ sparks/open flames/hot surfaces. – No smoking. P280 Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/ eye protection/face protection.
Supplemental Statements:	EUH 210 Safety Data Sheet is available on request

Contains:	100% Nitrocellulose

Component:	**STOCK BUFFER CONCENTRATE (10x)** **WASH BUFFER CONCENTRATE (20x)**
Signal Word:	Warning
Pictogram:	
Hazard Statements:	H373 May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
Precautionary Statements:	P260 Do not breathe dust/ fume/ gas/ mist/ vapours/ spray. P501 Dispose of contents/ container in accordance with local/regional/national/ international regulations
Supplemental Statements:	EUH 210 Safety Data Sheet is available on request
Contains:	0.1% Thimerosal

1. Avoid Microbial contamination of reagents when opening and removing aliquots from the original vials or bottles.
2. Do not pipette by mouth.
3. Handle test specimens, nitrocellulose strips, Reactive and Non-Reactive Controls as potentially infectious agents.
4. Wear laboratory coats and disposable gloves while performing the assay. Discard gloves in bio-hazard waste-bags. Wash hands thoroughly afterwards.
5. It is highly recommended that this assay be performed in a biohazard cabinet.
6. Keep materials away from food and drink.
7. In case of accident or contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
8. Consult a physician immediately in the event that contaminated materials are ingested or come in contact with open lacerations, or other breaks in the skin.
9. Wipe spills of potentially infectious materials immediately with absorbent paper and swab the contaminated area with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution before work is resumed. Sodium hypochlorite should not be used on acid containing spills unless the area is wiped dry with absorbent paper first. Material used (including disposable gloves) should be disposed off as potentially biohazardous material. Do not autoclave material containing sodium hypochlorite.
10. Autoclave all used and contaminated materials at 121°C at 15 p.s.i. for 30 minutes before disposal. Alternatively, decontaminate materials in 5% sodium hypochlorite solution for 30-60 minutes before disposal in biohazard waste-bags.
11. Decontaminate all used chemicals and reagents by adding sufficient volume of sodium hypochlorite to make a final concentration of at least 1%. Leave for 30 minutes to ensure effective decontamination.
12. We do not recommend re-use of incubation trays.

ANALYTICAL PRECAUTIONS

1. Optimal assay performance requires STRICT ADHERENCE to the assay procedure described in this Instructions For Use. Deviations from the procedure may lead to aberrant results.
2. DO NOT MODIFY OR SUBSTITUTE REAGENTS FROM ONE KIT LOT TO ANOTHER. Controls, conjugate and Western Blot strips are matched for optimal performance. Use only the reagents supplied with the kit.
3. Do not use kit components beyond the expiry date printed on the kit box.
4. Avoid microbial contamination of the reagents, when opening and removing aliquots from the original vials or bottles, as this will prematurely reduce the shelf life of the kits and give erroneous results. Use aseptic techniques including pipettes or disposable pipette tips when drawing aliquots from vials.
5. The kit controls should be assayed concurrently with patients' samples for each test run.
6. Use a new pipette tip for each specimen aliquot to prevent cross contamination.
7. For best results dispense all reagents while cold and return to 2°C to 8°C storage as soon as possible.
8. It is recommended that glassware to be used with the reagents should be washed with 2M hydrochloric acid and rinsed thoroughly with distilled or deionised water prior to use.
9. Use only reagent grade quality, deionised or distilled water to dilute reagents.
10. All reagents must be mixed well before use.
11. Working Conjugate solution, Diluted Wash Buffer and Blotting Buffer should be prepared fresh prior to use.
12. The Working Conjugate solution should be prepared using a polypropylene container or beaker.
13. Do not expose reagents or perform test in an area containing a high level of chemical disinfectant fumes (e.g. hypochlorite fumes) during storage or during incubation steps. Contact inhibits colour reaction. Also do not expose reagents to strong light.
14. The assay should preferably be performed at room temperature (25°C ± 3°C).
15. Make sure that the test strips are laid with the numbers on the strips facing upwards.
16. For Western Blot Assay, it is important to use a rocking platform shaker and not a rotary shaker. Otherwise, performance of the kit will be compromised. The recommended speed and tilt angle of the shaker are 12 to 16 cycles per minute, and 5 to 10 degrees, respectively.
17. Ensure that automated equipment if used is validated before use.
18. Ensure that the specimens are added away from the strip. Tray can be tilted and specimen added where the buffer is collected at lower end. This prevents dark spot formation due to specimen addition on the strip.
19. Avoid the use of self-defrosting freezers for the storage of samples.

20. We do not recommend the use of diluted or lyophilized samples, as they may give false results. If they form part of or a whole QC panel, they should be validated.

STORAGE

1. Store MP Diagnostics HIV-2 BLOT 1.2 kit and its components at 2-8°C when not in use.
2. All test reagents and strips when stored at 2°C to 8°C, are stable until the expiry date given on the kit. Do not freeze reagents.

A. **Antigen strips**
- Avoid unnecessary exposure of antigen strips to light.

B. **Reagents**
- Store reagents in their original vials or bottles, and they should be capped for storage.
- Dispense all reagents while cold and return to 2°C to 8°C storage as soon as possible.
- Precipitates may form when the Substrate is stored at 2°C to 8°C. This will not affect the performance of the kit.

CAUTION: Avoid unnecessary exposure of substrate to light.

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- Deionized or distilled water
- Disposable gloves
- Rocking platform (designed with a rocking speed range of 12 to 16 cycles per minute, and which moves through a 5° to 10° tilt to wash strips evenly)
- Pipettors and tips of appropriate volume
- Aspirator with sodium hypochlorite trap
- 56°C water bath (optional)
- Sodium hypochlorite for decontamination

SPECIMEN HANDLING AND STORAGE (OPTIONAL)

Serum or plasma samples should be stored at 2°C to 8°C if the test is to be run within 7 days of collection or frozen at -20°C or colder if the test is to be delayed for more than 7 days. Clear, non-hemolyzed samples are preferred. Lipemic, icteric or contaminated (particulate) samples should be filtered (0.45 µm) or centrifuged before testing.

Samples can be inactivated but this is not a requirement for optimal test performance.

Inactivate as follows:
1. Loosen cap of sample container.
2. Heat-inactivate sample at 56°C for 30 minutes in a water bath.
3. Allow sample to cool down before retightening cap.
4. Sample can be stored frozen until analysis.

Repeated freeze-thawing of sample is not recommended.

PREPARATION OF REAGENTS

1. **DILUTED WASH BUFFER**
   (a) DILUTED WASH BUFFER should be **prepared fresh prior to use**.
   (b) Dilute 1 volume of WASH BUFFER CONCENTRATE (20X) with 19 volumes of reagent grade water. Mix well.
2. **BLOTTING BUFFER**
   (a) BLOTTING BUFFER should be **prepared fresh prior to use**.
   (b) Dilute 1 volume of STOCK BUFFER CONCENTRATE (10X) with 9 volumes of reagent grade water. Mix well.
   (c) Add 1 g of BLOTTING POWDER to every 20 ml of the diluted STOCK BUFFER prepared in step 2(b) above. Stir to ensure powder dissolves completely.
   (d) Stir again before dispensing.
3. **WORKING CONJUGATE SOLUTION**
   Note : Prepare solution in polypropylene container/beaker.
   (a) WORKING CONJUGATE SOLUTION should be **prepared fresh prior to use**.
   (b) Prepare WORKING CONJUGATE SOLUTION by diluting CONJUGATE 1:1000 into BLOTTING BUFFER, for example, 5 µl CONJUGATE to 5 ml BLOTTING BUFFER.
4. **SUBSTRATE SOLUTION (ready to use)**
   (a) Dispense directly the required volume from the bottle.
   Use a clean pipette. Cap tightly after use.

ASSAY PROCEDURE - RAPID ASSAY

Note: a) Users can use either the rapid or overnight assay to run the tests. HIV bands are more developed and more bands may appear with the overnight assay, but the overall performance of the two assays is the same.

b) Aspirate all used chemicals and reagents into a trap containing Sodium hypochlorite.

c) All incubations are to be carried out on a rocking platform.

Caution:

Some samples cause dark patches on the spot of the strip where they are added. To avoid this problem, one should ensure the following:-

i. Sample should be added only after BLOTTING BUFFER is added.

ii. Tilt the tray slightly by elevating either the top or bottom end of the tray. The Blotting Buffer will flow to the lower end of the tray. Add the sample where the Blotting Buffer is collected. When all the samples are added, return the tray back to its original flat position. Always ensure that the strips are kept wet during the process.

iii. Alternatively, if tilting the tray is not desired, the samples may be added to the top or bottom end of the well. This way if dark patches showed, the reading of the strip results will not be affected.

Procedure:

1. Add 2 ml of DILUTED WASH BUFFER to each well.	**2 ml**
2. Using forceps, carefully remove required number of STRIPS from the tube and place numbered side up into each well. Include strips for Strong Reactive and Non-Reactive controls.	
3. Incubate the strips for 1 to 2 minutes at room temperature (25 ± 3°C) on a rocking platform (speed of 12 to 16 cycles per minute). Remove buffer by aspiration. (Note: Do not allow the strips to dry. Failure may result in watery marks on developed strips for some specimens.)	**2 minutes**
4. Add 2 ml of BLOTTING BUFFER to each well.	**2 ml**
5. Add 20 µl each of patients' sera or controls to appropriate wells. Care should be taken to ensure specimens are not added directly on the strips.	**20 µl**
6. Cover the tray with the cover provided and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature (25 ± 3°C) on the rocking platform.	**60 minutes**
7. Carefully uncover the tray to avoid splashing or mixing of samples. Tilt the tray to aspirate the mixture from the wells. Change aspirator tips between samples to avoid cross-contamination.	
8. Wash each strip 3 times with 2 ml of DILUTED WASH BUFFER allowing 5 minutes soak on the rocking platform between each wash.	**3 x 2 ml**
9. Add 2 ml of WORKING CONJUGATE SOLUTION to each well.	**2 ml**
10. Cover tray and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature (25 ± 3°C) on the rocking platform.	**60 minutes**
11. Aspirate CONJUGATE from the wells. Wash as in step 8.	**3 x 2 ml**
12. Add 2 ml of SUBSTRATE SOLUTION to each well.	**2 ml**
13. Cover tray and incubate for 15 minutes on the rocking platform. (Note: The reaction can be stopped before 15 minutes if all the bands are visible.)	**15 minutes**
14. Aspirate the SUBSTRATE and rinse the strips at least three times with reagent grade water to stop the reaction (A dark background can result if washing is insufficient at this step).	**3 x 2 ml**
15. Using forceps, gently remove strips onto paper towels. Cover with paper towels and dry. Alternatively, allow strips to dry in the wells of the tray.	
16. Mount strips on worksheet (non-absorbent white paper). Do not apply adhesive tape over the developed bands. Observe the bands (See Interpretation of Results) and grade the results. For storage, keep the strips in the dark.	

ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE - OVERNIGHT ASSAY

Procedure:

1. Add 2 ml of DILUTED WASH BUFFER to each well. **2 ml**
2. Using forceps, carefully remove required number of STRIPS from the tube and place numbered side up into each well. Include strips for Strong Reactive and Non-Reactive controls.
3. Incubate the strips for 1 to 2 minutes at room temperature (25 ± 3°C) on a rocking platform (speed of 12 to 16 cycles per minute). Remove buffer by aspiration. (Note: Do not allow the strips to dry. Failure may result in watery marks on developed strips for some specimens.) **2 minutes**
4. Add 2 ml of BLOTTING BUFFER to each well. **2 ml**
5. Add 20 µl each of patients' sera or controls to appropriate wells. **20 µl**
6. Cover the tray with the cover provided and incubate overnight (16 - 20 hours) at room temperature (25 ± 3°C) on the rocking platform. **overnight**
7. Carefully uncover the tray to avoid splashing or mixing of samples. Tilt the tray to aspirate the mixture from the wells. Change aspirator tips between samples to avoid cross-contamination.
8. Wash each strip 3 times with 2ml of DILUTED WASH BUFFER allowing 5 minutes soak on the rocking platform between each wash. **3 x 2 ml**
9. Add 2 ml of WORKING CONJUGATE SOLUTION to each well. **2 ml**
10. Cover tray and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature (25 ± 3°C) on the rocking platform. **30 minutes**
11. Aspirate CONJUGATE from the wells. Wash as in step 8. **3 x 2 ml**
12. Add 2 ml of SUBSTRATE SOLUTION to each well. **2 ml**
13. Cover tray and incubate for 15 minutes on the rocking platform. (Note: The reaction can be stopped before 15 minutes if all the bands are visible.) **15 minutes**
14. Aspirate the SUBSTRATE and rinse the strips at least three times with reagent grade water to stop the reaction (A dark background can result if washing is insufficient at this step). **3 x 2 ml**
15. Using forceps, gently remove strips onto paper towels. Cover with paper towels and dry. Alternatively, allow strips to dry in the wells of the tray.
16. Mount strips on worksheet (non-absorbent white paper). Do not apply adhesive tape over the developed bands. Observe the bands (See Interpretation of Results) and grade the results. For storage, keep the strips in the dark.

SUMMARY OF ASSAY PROTOCOLS

Reagents	Qty	Room Temp Rapid Assay	Room Temp Overnight Assay
Nitrocellulose strip	1	-	-
Wash Buffer	2 ml	1 - 2 mins	1 - 2 mins
Blotting Buffer	2 ml	-	-
Specimen	20 µl	60 mins	Overnight (16 - 20 hours)
Wash Buffer	3 x 2 ml	3 x 5 mins	3 x 5 mins
Conjugate	2 ml	60 mins	30 mins
Wash Buffer	3 x 2 ml	3 x 5 mins	3 x 5 mins
Substrate (Ready to use)	2 ml	15 mins (or less)	15 mins (or less)
Distilled Water	3 x 2 ml	-	-

AMOUNT OF REAGENTS REQUIRED FOR VARIOUS NUMBER OF STRIPS

Reagents	NUMBER OF STRIPS TO BE USED						
	3	6	9	15	20	27	36
1X Wash Buffer (ml)	60	100	140	240	300	400	520
1X Blotting Buffer (ml)	20	40	60	80	100	120	160
Conjugate (µl)	11	17	23	35	45	59	77
Substrate (ml)	11	17	23	35	45	59	77
Blotting Powder (g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	8

QUALITY CONTROL

We recommend that the Non-Reactive & Strong Reactive controls be run with every batch of assay. In order for the results obtained from any assay to be considered valid, the following conditions must be met:

1. **NON-REACTIVE CONTROL**
   No viral specific bands should be observed on the Non-Reactive control strip.
2. **STRONG REACTIVE CONTROL**
   All relevant molecular weight bands must be evident. Figure 1 provides a guide to the relative positioning of bands visualized with the MP Diagnostics HIV-2 BLOT 1.2 kit and permits identification of bands observed for the STRONG REACTIVE CONTROL. The bands are p26, gp36, p53, p56, p68, gp80 and gp125.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The major HIV-2 gene products that have been identified are:

GAG	POL	ENV
CORE ANTIGENS	ENDONUCLEASE POLYMERASE ANTIGENS	ENVELOPE ANTIGENS
p16, p26, p56	p34, p53, p68	gp36, gp80, gp125

The criteria for interpretation of a positive HIV-2 specimen may differ according to various national regulatory bodies. It is recommended that national policies be followed in the interpretation of results. However, the recently proposed WHO criteria for interpretation has been widely used. The WHO criteria can be used in the interpretation of results of test specimens performed with the MP Diagnostics HIV-2 BLOT 1.2.

Each strip is compared to the strips used with the NONREACTIVE AND STRONG REACTIVE CONTROLS for that run.

The result of blotting is then interpreted as NEGATIVE, INDETERMINATE or POSITIVE based on the pattern which is present:

PATTERN	INTERPRETATION
1) No viral specific bands present	NEGATIVE
2) 2 of the 3 envelope bands (gp36, gp80, gp125)	POSITIVE
3) Any bands present but pattern does not meet criteria for POSITIVE	INDETERMINATE

Individuals seropositive for either HIV-1 or HIV-2 may display cross-reactivity with either viral proteins. The GAG and POL genes of HIV-1 and HIV-2 are highly conserved, resulting in a high degree of serological cross-reactivity with the GAG and POL encoded proteins. There is a greater divergence for the amino acids of the envelope glycoproteins and cross-reactivity against those glycoproteins are considered to occur less often.

However reports (4, 5) have shown that cross-reactivity against the envelope glycoproteins occur more often than previously believed. Thus sera showing extensive cross-reactivity indicating dual infection should be interpreted carefully. Further confirmation by characterization of gene sequences via polymerase chain reactions (PCR) procedure is recommended in such highly cross-reactive specimens to indicate infection with either HIV-1, HIV-2 or dually infected.

LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

Optimal assay performance requires the strict adherence to the assay procedure described. Deviation from the procedure may lead to aberrant results.

Individuals with POSITIVE blots for antibodies to HIV-2 should be referred for medical evaluation. A NEGATIVE blot does not exclude the possibility of infection with HIV-2. INDETERMINATE blots should not be used as the basis for diagnosis of HIV-1 infection. It is recommended that REPEAT TESTING using the original specimen or FOLLOW-UP TESTING be performed for such sera.

LIMITED EXPRESSED WARRANTY DISCLAIMER

The manufacturer makes no express warranty other than that the test kit will function as an *in-vitro* diagnostic assay within the specifications and limitations described in the product Instructions For Use when used in accordance with the instructions contained therein. The manufacturer disclaims any warranty expressed or implied, including such expressed or implied warranty with respect to merchantability, fitness for use or implied utility for any other purposes. The manufacturer is limited to either replacement of the product or refund of the purchase price of the product. The manufacturer shall not be liable to the purchaser or third parties for any damage, injury or economic loss howsoever caused by the product in the use or in the application thereof.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS / COMPLAINTS

Should there be a technical problem/complaint, please do the following:

1. Note the kit lot number and the expiry date.
2. Retain the kits and the results that were obtained.
3. Contact the nearest MP Biomedicals office or your local distributor.

REFERENCES

1. WHO Collaborating Group on HIV-2, WHO Weekly Epidem Rec 1990; 10:74-75.
2. Clavel F., Guetard D., Brun-Vezinet F., et al. Isolation of a new human retrovirus from West African patients with AIDS. Science 1986; 223:343-346.
3. Clavel F., HIV-2, the West African AIDS virus. AIDS 1987; 1:135-140.
4. R.S. Tedder, Hughes A., Corrah T., et al. Envelope cross-reactivity in Western Blot for HIV-1 and HIV-2 may not indicate dual infection. Lancet 1988; 11:927-930.
5. Bottiger B., Karlsson A., Andreasson F., et al., Envelope cross-reactivity between Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 and Type 2 detected by Different Serological Methods: Cross Reactivity against the main neutralizing site. J. Virol. 1990; 65(7):3492-3499.

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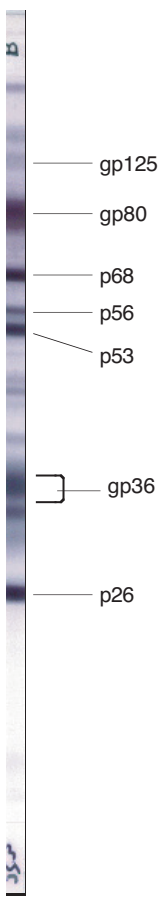
FIGURE 1



TROUBLE SHOOTING CHART

Dark spots develop on strips

1. Bacterial or fungal contamination of test sample.
2. Precipitation of immune complexes in aged test sample.
3. Bacterial or fungal contamination on strip due to improper storage.
4. Strips physically damaged, cracked or scratched.
5. Strips not properly washed between assay steps.

White patches develop on strips

1. Strip was flipped over during assay.
2. Trays not properly washed before use.
3. Poor dissolution of Blotting Powder.
4. Electrotransblot interference during manufacturing.

Expected bands do not develop or are of weak intensity

Check positive control

Positive control weak

The problem is probably caused by the reagents.

1. Reagents not properly prepared.
2. Wrong conjugate dilution.
3. Unstable reagents due to improper temperature exposure.
4. Conjugate contaminated with human IgG.
5. Incorrect substrate pH due to exposure to strong UV light or reducing agent.
6. Trays, reagent(s) or water having high phosphate concentration.
7. Rotary platform used instead of Rocking platform.

Positive control OK

The problem is probably caused by test sample.

1. Wrong test sample dilution.
2. Test sample contaminated with conjugates.
3. Test samples severely immune-complexed.
4. Test sample deteriorated or denatured due to repeated freeze-thaw or improper storage.
5. Rotary platform used instead of Rocking platform
6. Test sample may be an ELISA "false" positive.

Non-specific bands develop and not HIV-2 indicative

1. Sample is too strong and reacts with trace amounts of intermediates.
2. Sample cross reacts with H-9 proteins present in viral preparation (eg. HLA-ABC, HLA-DR)

Strong Background develops on strip in the absence or presence of positive bands

1. Overdeveloped strips (stop reaction sooner).
2. Incomplete washing.

Bands develop on negative control

Tray wells or Control may have been crossed contaminated.

Non-specific bands and/or dark background develop on strips

1. Wrong test sample or conjugate dilution.
2. Test sample/reagent incubation too long.
3. Incomplete washing during assay.
4. Incubation temperature greater than 30°C.
5. Test sample reactive with non-viral proteins.

Strips are defective

1. They are cracked.
2. They contain air bubbles which cause the appearance of white spots in reactive zones big enough to prevent any detection.
3. They show dark spots due to fungal growth upon initial opening of the strip tubes. However, if dark spots develop sometime later after initial opening of the tube then the problem is due to improper strip storage conditions at the user's site.

Watery marks on developed strips

Strips left to dry after pre-soaking step prior to adding Blotting Buffer