**INTRODUCTION**

Cytomegalovirus is a herpes virus and a leading biological factor causing congenital abnormalities and complications among those who receive massive blood transfusions and immunosuppressive therapy. About half of pregnant women who contract a primary infection spread the disease to their fetus. When acquired in-utero, the infection may cause mental retardation, blindness, and/or deafness. Serological tests for detecting the presence of antibody to CMV can provide valuable information regarding the history of previous infection, diagnosis of active or recent infection, as well as in screening blood for transfusions in newborns and immuno-compromised recipients. CLIA CMV IgM is an accurate serologic method to detect CMV IgM antibody for identification of CMV infection.

**PRINCIPLE**

ELECTRA™ CMV IgM CLIA is for use on ELECTRA™ analyzers. ELECTRA™ CMV IgM CLIA works on the principle of chemiluminescence wherein light is produced by a chemical reaction from a substance as it returns from an electronically excited state to the ground state. When catalysed by HRP, the oxidation of luminescent hydrogen peroxide produces an electronically excited form of 3-aminophthalate which on relaxation emits light with maximum intensity at λ=425nm. The ELECTRA™ CMV IgM CLIA assay is based on the principle of capture of these immunoglobulins by anti-human IgM monoclonal agglutinating sera coated on the solid phase. A subsequent incubation with cytomegalovirus antigen conjugated to horseradish peroxidase binds the IgM antibodies specific for the antigen and is revealed by the addition of chemiluminescent substrate. The light generated is measured in relative light units (RLU) and is proportional to the amount of IgM specific antibody in the sample. The results are read by a microwell lumimeter compared in a parallel manner with a microwell containing no antibody.

**MATERIALS & COMPONENTS**

Materials provided with the test kits:
2. Sample Diluent: Ready to use.
3. Negative Control: Ready to use.
4. Positive Control: Ready to use.
5. Wash Buffer Concentrate (20X).
6. Enzyme Conjugate: Ready to use.
7. Substrate A: Chemiluminescent substrate containing enhanced luminol solution.
8. Substrate B: Chemiluminescent substrate containing stabilized peroxidase solution.

**MATERIALS required but not provided:**
1. Precision pipettes: 10-100μl, 20-200μl, 100-1000μl
2. Disposable pipette tips
3. Distilled water
4. Disposable Gloves
5. ELECTRA™ Analyzer

**STORAGE AND STABILITY**

1. ELECTRA™ CMV IgM kit is stable at 2-8°C up to the expiry date printed on the label.
2. Coated Microwells should be used within one month upon opening the pouch provided that once opened, the pouch must be resealed to protect from moisture. If the color of the desiccant has changed from blue to white at the time of opening the pouch, another coated Microwells pouch should be used.
3. Diluted Wash Buffer is stable up to one week when stored at 2-8°C. Working Substrate (A+B) must be used immediately.

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION**

1. Collect blood specimen by venipuncture according to the standard procedure.

**TABLE**

### Precision:

The precision of the assay was evaluated by testing three different sera of eight replicates over 3 days. The intra-assay and inter-assay C.V. are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Low positive</th>
<th>Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intra-assay</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-assay</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Important Note:

1. This assay is a temperature sensitive assay. The best temperature condition for this assay is from 37°C.
2. The wash procedure is critical. Insufficient washing will result in poor precision and falsely elevated RLU readings.
3. It is recommended to use the multiple channel pipettes to avoid time effect. A full plate of 96 wells may be used if automated pipetting is available.
4. Duplication NC, PC & samples is not mandatory but may provide information on reproducibility & application errors.

### LIMITATIONS OF THE ASSAY:

1. To prevent false negative and false positive IgM test results, caused by the presence of specific IgG and rheumatoid factor (RF) in some specimens, reagents provided in this kit has been formulated to resolve these interferences. However, in specimens with extremely high RF and high autoimmune antibodies, the possibility of these interferences cannot be ruled out entirely.
2. As with other serological tests, the results obtained with the CMV IgM test serve only as an aid to diagnosis and should be interpreted in relation to other clinical and diagnostic findings.
3. IgM responses may vary in different individuals. It has been reported that 10-30% of infants may fail to develop IgM antibody responses despite congenital CMV infection. Furthermore, up to 27% of adults with primary CMV infection may not demonstrate an IgM response. Thus, the absence of CMV-specific IgM does not necessarily exclude the possibility of CMV infection.
4. The presence or absence of CMV IgG or IgM in pregnant women is of limited value in predicting congenital CMV infection. However, the presence of specific IgM in the circulation of the newborn is indicative of infection. Since serum samples obtained too early in infection may not contain detectable IgM antibody, a subsequent sample should be obtained 7 to 14 days later and test. In the case of cord blood, care should be taken to avoid contamination by maternal blood, and it is prudent to confirm positive IgM antibody results by testing a follow-up specimen from the newborn.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

2. Only serum should be used.
3. Avoid grossly hemolytic, lipemic or turbid samples.
4. Preferably use fresh samples. However, specimens can be stored up to 48 hours at 2-8°C, for short duration.
5. For longer storage, specimens can be frozen at -20°C. Thawed samples must be mixed prior to testing.
6. Do not heat inactivate before use.
7. Specimen containing precipitate or particulate matter should be clarified by centrifugation prior to use.
8. Specimen should be free from particulate matter and microbial contamination.

PRECAUTIONS
1. Bring all reagents and specimen to room temperature before use.
2. Do not pipette any material by mouth.
3. Do not eat, drink or smoke in the area where testing is done.
4. Use protective clothing and wear gloves when handling samples.
5. Use absorbent sheet to cover the working area.
6. Immediately clean up any spills with sodium hypochlorite.
7. All specimens and standards should be considered potentially infectious and discarded appropriately.
8. Neutralize acid containing waste before adding hypochlorite.
9. Do not use kit after the expiry date.
10. Do not mix components of one kit with another.
11. Always use new tip for each specimen and reagent.
12. Do not allow liquid from one well to mix with other wells.
13. Do not let the strips dry in between the steps.

REAGENT PREPARATION
- All reagents should be brought to room temperature (18-25°C) and mixed by gently inverting or swirling prior to use. Do not induce foaming.
- Dilute wash buffer 20 times (for example add 5ml concentrated buffer to 95 ml distilled or deionized water). Mix well before use.
- Prepare a Working Substrate by mixing Substrate A and Substrate B in equal volume (1:1 ratio) before addition to the micro-wells.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Strips</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substrate-A µl</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>2050</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>2450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substrate-B µl</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>2050</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>2450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEST PROCEDURE
1. Place the desired number of coated strips into the holder.
2. Prepare 1:40 dilutions by adding 5µl of the test samples to 200 µl of sample diluent. (Please do not dilute Positive Control and Negative Control, they are ready for use). Mix well.
3. For the reagent blank, dispense 100µl of sample diluent in A1 well position, followed by negative control and positive control. (recommended in duplicates). Dispense 100µl of diluted sera into the appropriate wells. Tap the holder to remove air bubbles from the liquid and mix well.
4. Wash each well three times by filling approximately 350µl diluted wash buffer & blot dry.
5. Dispense 100µl of enzyme conjugate to each well and incubate for 45 minutes at 37°C.
6. Wash each well three times by filling approximately 350µl diluted wash buffer & blot dry.
7. Add 50 µl of Working Substrate (A+B) in all the micro-wells. Keep away from direct light while adding the substrate.
8. Cover the ELECTRA™ microplate and incubate for 10 minutes at room temperature (18-25°C) in dark.
9. Read the ELECTRA™ micro-plate exactly at 10 minutes in ELECTRA™ Analyzer. If ELECTRA™ micro-plate is not read between 10-15 minutes the test results should be considered as invalid.

CALCULATION OF RESULTS
1. Calculate the average value of the RLU of the negative control.
2. Calculate the cutoff value using the following formula:
   \[ \text{Cut-Off (RLU)} = 10 \times \text{Mean RLU of Negative Control} \]
3. Calculate the CMV IgM Index using the following formula:
   \[ \text{CMV IgM Index}= \frac{\text{Sample RLU}}{\text{Cut-Off (RLU)}} \]

INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IgM Index Value</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IgM Index value &lt;0.90</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgM Index value 0.91-1.1</td>
<td>Grey zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgM Index value &gt;1.1</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Specificity and Sensitivity:
A total of 96 patient samples were used to evaluate specificity and sensitivity of the test. CMV IgM test results were compared to a commercial kit results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference CLIA</th>
<th>ELECTRA™ CMV IgM CLIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>84 (D) 0 0 (B) 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>0 (C) 0 12 (A) 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>84 0 12 96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sensitivity = 100%
Specificity = 100%