

**Enzymatic Assay of UROKINASE  
(EC 3.4.21.73)**

**PRINCIPLE:**

Plasminogen + H<sub>2</sub>O  $\xrightarrow{\text{Urokinase}}$  Plasmin

Casein  $\xrightarrow{\text{Plasmin}}$  Perchloric Acid Soluble Amino Acids

**CONDITIONS:** T = 37°C, pH = 7.5, A<sub>275nm</sub>, Light path = 1 cm

**METHOD:** Spectrophotometric Stop Rate Determination

**REAGENTS:**

- A. 60 mM Tris HCl Buffer with 90 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.5 at 37°C.  
(Prepare 100 ml in deionized water using Trizma Base, Sigma Prod. No. T-1503, and Sodium Chloride, Sigma Prod. No. S-9625. Adjust to pH 7.5 at 37°C with 1 M HCl.)
- B. Porcine Plasminogen Solution (Plas)  
(Immediately before use, prepare a solution containing 2 units/ml Plasminogen, Sigma Prod. No. P-1048, in deionized water.)
- C. 1.4% (w/v) a-Casein Suspension (Casein)  
(Prepare 100 ml in Reagent A using a-Casein, Sigma Prod. No. C-7891. Do not heat. Stir to make a homogenous suspension.)
- D. 500 mM Perchloric Acid Reagent (PCA)  
(Prepare 100 ml in deionized water using Perchloric Acid, Sigma Stock No. 24425-2.)
- E. Urokinase Enzyme Solution  
(Immediately before use, prepare a solution containing 1 - 2 units/ml of Urokinase in cold Reagent A.)

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**PROCEDURE:**

Pipette (in milliliters) the following reagents into suitable containers:

	<u>Test</u>	<u>Blank</u>
Reagent A (Buffer)	0.90	0.90
Reagent B (Plas)	1.00	1.00

Mix by swirling and equilibrate to 37°C. Then add:

Reagent E (Enzyme Solution)	0.10	-----
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Immediately following enzyme addition, add:

Reagent C (Casein)	2.00	2.00
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Mix by swirling and incubate at 37°C for exactly 15 minutes. Then add:

Reagent D (PCA)	6.00	6.00
Reagent E (Enzyme Solution)	-----	0.10

Mix by swirling and incubate at 25°C for 60 minutes. Filter the solution through a Whatman #50 filter paper<sup>1</sup> and transfer the filtrate to suitable quartz cuvettes. Record the  $A_{275nm}$  for both the Test and Blank using a suitable spectrophotometer.

**CALCULATIONS:**

$$\text{Units/ml enzyme} = \frac{(A_{275nm} \text{ Test} - A_{275nm} \text{ Blank})(10)}{(1)(15)(0.1)}$$

10 = Volume (in milliliters) of assay  
 1 = Change in Absorbance as per the Unit Definition  
 15 = Time of reaction (in minutes) as per the Unit Definition  
 0.1 = Volume (in milliliters) of enzyme used

$$\text{Units/mg solid} = \frac{\text{units/ml enzyme}}{\text{mg solid/ml enzyme}}$$

$$\text{Units/mg protein} = \frac{\text{units/ml enzyme}}{\text{mg protein/ml enzyme}}$$

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**UNIT DEFINITION:**

One unit will activate that amount of porcine plasminogen which will produce a  $r A_{275nm}$  of 1.0 per ml per minute at pH 7.5 at 37°C, when measuring perchloric acid soluble products from a-casein (1 cm light path).<sup>2</sup>

**FINAL ASSAY CONCENTRATION:**

In a 4 ml reaction mix, the final concentrations are 45 mM Tris, 68 mM sodium chloride, 2 units plasminogen, 0.70% (w/v) a-casein and 0.1 - 0.2 unit urokinase.

**REFERENCES:**

Hedner, U., Nilsson, I.M., and Robertson, B. (1966) *Thromb. Diath. Haemorrhag.* **16**, 38-50

Lauritsen, O.S. (1966) *Scandinavian Journal of Clinical and Laboratory Investigation* **18**, 73-79

Lauritsen, O.S. (1966) *Scandinavian Journal of Clinical and Laboratory Investigation* **18**, 69-72

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**NOTES:**

1. Filtering the solution by vacuum or with 0.45  $\mu$ m syringe filters will result in lower activity.
2. Higher activities are obtained when human plasminogen is used as a substrate.
3. This assay is based on the cited references.
4. All product and stock numbers, unless otherwise indicated, are Sigma product and stock numbers.

**This procedure is for informational purposes. For a current copy of Sigma's quality control procedure contact our Technical Service Department.**