

Description	Precipitating polyclonal rabbit antiserum to human alpha-foetoprotein	
Product code	RAHu/AFP	
Biological origin	Rabbit	
Physical form	Delipidated, heat inactivated, lyophilized, stable whole antiserum	
Preservative	No preservative added	
Immunogen	Purified human alpha-foetoprotein is isolated from pooled amniotic fluid and hepatoma serum, using a proprietary multiple step method. Several foetoproteins have been demonstrated in human foetal serum and amniotic fluid. One of the best studied is the alpha-foetoprotein. It can easily be identified immunochemically because of its distinct antigenicity. In electrophoresis its relative mobility is between the albumin and alpha-1 globulin fractions. Its molecular weight is 64,000, the carbohydrate content is relatively low. The concentration of alpha-foetoprotein gradually decreases during foetal growth. It is not found in normal adult serum, but reappears in most human developing hepatoma. In pooled foetal/newborn serum a concentration of 1 mg/ml has been measured. Freund's complete adjuvant is used in the first step of the immunization procedure.	
Adsorption	Immunoaffinity adsorbed using insolubilized antigens as required, to eliminate antibodies reacting with other human serum proteins. The use of insolubilized adsorption antigens prevents the presence of excess adsorbent protein or immune complexes in the antiserum.	
Identity & Specificity	The reactivity of the antiserum is restricted to alpha-foetoprotein. In immunoelectrophoresis and radial immunodiffusion, using various antiserum concentrations against amniotic fluid, hepatoma sera and purified alpha-foetoprotein a single precipitin line is obtained. No precipitation reaction is obtained with normal human serum.	
Cross-reactivity	The antiserum does not cross react with any other human plasma proteins as tested in gel-diffusion techniques. Inter-species cross reactivity is a normal feature of antibodies to mammalian serum proteins, since homologous proteins of different species frequently share antigenic determinants. Cross-reactivity of this antiserum has not been tested in detail.	
Protein concentration	Total protein and IgG concentrations in the antiserum are comparable to those of pooled normal rabbit serum. No foreign proteins added.	
Antibody titre	Precipitin titre 1:64 when tested against pooled human amniotic fluid in agar-block immunodiffusion titration.	
Intended use	In precipitating techniques as immunoelectrophoresis and single and double radial immunodiffusion (Mancini, Ouchterlony) to identify the presence of alpha-foetoprotein or to determine its concentration.	
Directions for use	In immunoelectrophoresis use 2 µl amniotic fluid or equivalent against 120 µl antiserum. In double radial immunodiffusion use a rosette arrangement with 10 µl antiserum in 3 mm diameter center well and 2 µl amniotic fluid or hepatoma serum samples (neat and serially diluted) in 2 mm diameter peripheral wells.	
Packing	Vial with 1 ml lyophilized antiserum.	
Storage / shelf life	Lyophilized at +4°C reconstituted at or below -20°C reconstituted at +4°C	at least 10 years 3-5 years 7 days
Handling	The lyophilized antiserum is shipped at ambient temperature and may be stored at +4°C; prolonged storage at or below -20°C. Reconstitute the lyophilized antiserum by adding 1 ml sterile distilled water. Dilutions may be prepared by adding phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 7.2). Repeated thawing and freezing should be avoided. If a slight precipitation occurs upon storage, this should be removed by centrifugation. It will not affect the performance of the antiserum. Diluted antiserum should be stored at +4°C, not refrozen, and preferably used the same day.	
Caution	This antiserum should be handled by qualified persons only and appropriate precautions should be taken in its handling and disposal, and of all associated materials. For <i>in vitro</i> research purposes only.	

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