

Introduction

Interleukin-4 (IL-4) is a cytokine produced by various immune cells and has several important biological roles such as regulation of immune response, anti-inflammatory activity, tissue repair and remodeling, and regulation of immunoglobulin isotype switching. Changes in the abundance of IL-4 in the blood or serum can serve as

a biomarker for various diseases and conditions. The NULISAqpcr IL-4 Assay only requires 20 µL of biological sample per reaction. The analytical performance of the NULISAqpcr IL-4 Assay has been carefully validated and the results are described below.

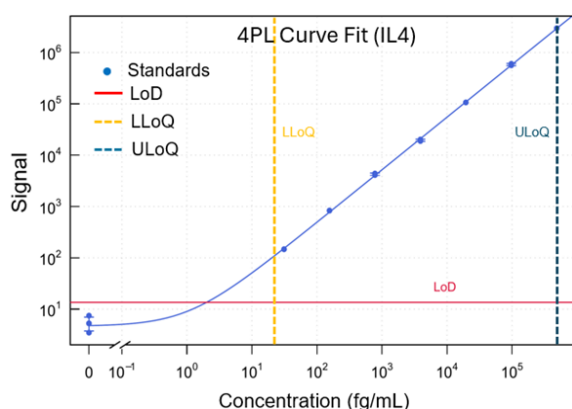
NULISA™ Technology

NULISA is a sandwich immunoassay in which two target specific antibodies, conjugated with unique oligonucleotide tags, bind and form a complex with the specific protein in solution. The resulting immunocomplex is purified in sequential capture and release steps to remove background and unbound antibodies. Successful

formation of the immunocomplex brings the two oligonucleotides tags into proximity for a ligation reaction and the resulting product read out using quantitative PCR. The NULISAqpcr assay protocol is fully automated on the ARGO HT System which has an on-board qPCR reader and data is analyzed using the ARGO Command Center.

Assay Performance

	Analytical	Functional
LOD	0.26 fg/mL	1.31 fg/mL
LLoQ	4.4 fg/mL	22.0 fg/mL
ULoQ	97,476 fg/mL	487,380 fg/mL
Dynamic Range	4.4–97,476 fg/mL	22.0–487,380 fg/mL



Assay performance was determined from eighteen independent runs using one manufacturing lot of reagents on five different instrument systems.

The **LoD (Limit of Detection)** is the lowest concentration of the analyte that can be distinguished from the background signal of the assay and calculated as 2.5 standard deviations above the average of the blanks.

The **LLoQ (Lower Limit of Quantification)** is the lowest concentration of the analyte that can be reliably quantified by the assay and defined as the lowest concentration measurable by the assay with CV ≤ 25% and 75-125% recovery.

The **ULoQ (Upper limit of Quantitation)** is the highest concentration of the analyte that can be reliably quantified by the assay and defined as the highest concentration measurable by the assay with CV ≤ 25% CV and 75-125% recovery.

The **Dynamic range** is defined as the range of concentrations that an assay can reliably quantitate between the LLoQ to the ULoQ.

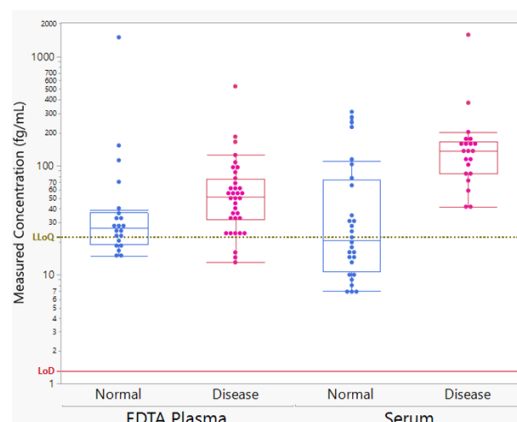
Sample Controls

Internal and external controls are included in each run for data normalization and quality control purposes. The internal control is a nucleic acid based oligo and added to each well of the plate to monitor well to well variation and serves normalization purpose. External controls are High

and Low Quality Controls (QCs) included in the target kits, consisting of lyophilized plasma with predetermined IL-4 concentrations. These QCs are treated as samples in the run to verify that the generated data consistently meet our stringent accuracy and precision criteria.

Sample Detectability & Reference Ranges

Sample detectability and reference ranges were established with 58 EDTA plasma samples (22 normal and 36 diseased) and 48 Serum samples (28 normal and 20 diseased). The diseased samples consisted of COVID-19, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Myeloma, Cancer, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), and kidney disease. 100% detectability was observed for each matrix.



	Plasma (fg/mL), n=58				Serum (fg/mL), n=48			
	Average	Median	Min	Max	Average	Median	Min	Max
All	84	35	13	1500	122	73	7	1583
Normals	101	27	15	1500	117	21	7	311
Diseased	61	52	13	533	152	136	42	1583
Detectability	100%				100%			

Precision

Intra-assay precision or repeatability measures the variation in results obtained when a single sample is assayed multiple times within the same assay run. Inter-assay precision or reproducibility measures the variation in results obtained when the same sample is assayed

multiple times in different assay runs or on different days. Precision was determined by ANOVA analysis from a set of four independent runs which included one reagent lot and two instruments.

Sample	Sample Category	Average Conc. (fg/mL)	Total %CV	Inter-assay %CV	Intra-assay %CV
PL-1	EDTA Plasma	920	10.46	7.66	7.13
PL-2		15,220	7.15	1.57	6.98
PL-3		111,870	4.55	1.91	4.14
C1	Assay Controls	38,840	9.87	8.26	5.4
C2		730	14.91	13.28	6.78

Parallelism

Parallelism confirms that the binding characteristic of the endogenous analyte to the antibodies is the same as for the calibrator. Each individual sample undergoes a serial dilution. Subsequently, the dilution series for each sample is assessed for recovery to ensure a consistent response across all samples.

Parallelism was assessed with 3 EDTA plasma samples and 6 serum samples serially diluted 2x with sample dilution buffer. 88.9% of the samples tested displayed parallelism with an average of 105% recovery in EDTA samples and 102% in serum samples across all dilution levels above the assay LLoQ.

Spike Recovery

Examining the matrix effect through spike recovery determines if the concentration–response relationship is similar between the calibration curve/buffer and samples. A known amount of analyte is spiked into the native test sample matrix and its response is measured (recovery) in the assay by comparison to an identical amount spiked into the standard diluent.

5 EDTA plasma samples which were spiked with three analyte concentrations and subsequently compared with spike into sample diluent. At least 80% of the samples showed a recovery within 70% ~ 130%.

$$\% \text{ Recovery} = \frac{\text{Meas. Conc. Spiked Donor Sample} - \text{Meas. Conc. Unspiked Donor Sample}}{\text{Meas. Conc. Spiked SD buffer}} \times 100$$

Targeted Spike Conc (fg/mL)	Avg Recovery	Recovery Range		
310	90%	71	-	101%
50,000	86%	82	-	88%
350,000	103%	98	-	112%

Dilution Linearity

Dilution linearity demonstrates that a sample with an analyte concentration above the ULoQ can be diluted to a concentration within the assay dynamic range and give a reliable result. Four human EDTA plasma and one serum

sample were spiked with recombinant IL-4 and then 2x serially diluted with sample diluent for up to 128x. Percent recovery was normalized to adjust for the dilution factor.

	Plasma Donor 1	Plasma Donor 2	Serum Donor 3	Plasma Donor 4	Plasma Donor 5
Starting Concentration (fg/mL)	297,100	304,600	316,300	276,300	304,800
Average Recovery	104%	111%	96%	104%	104%
Min Recovery	96%	102%	87%	96%	91%
Max Recovery	111%	118%	103%	111%	116%

Specificity

To ensure that every NULISAqpcr immunoassay accurately detects only the target molecule that it is designed to detect we test the cross reactivity with related proteins and potential interference from chaperones and potential binding partners, for each target.

Specificity and cross-reactivity were examined by measuring samples spiked with IL-4 analyte and with a panel of human analytes (specificity panel) added at 10x

and 100x the molar concentration of IL-4 and recovery of IL-4 was assessed by comparing to the IL-4 neat control. IL-4 samples spiked with the specificity panel showed acceptable recovery well within 70-130%.

Additionally, the specificity panel was tested without the presence of IL-4 to check for non-specific signal. Non-specific binding was observed to be $\leq 0.1\%$.

Cross-Reactant	Percent Recovery	
	Specificity panel molar concentration fold vs IL-4	
	10x	100x
IL-2RA	106.9%	117.8%
IL-4R	106.7%	111.9%
IL-6	106.8%	115.3%
IL-10	98.4%	101.1%
IL-13	100.9%	105.8%
IL-13RA1	100.8%	104.0%
IL-13RA2	103.0%	116.9%
RRAGA	99.2%	103.8%
RRAGB	104.3%	108.7%

Cross-Reactant	%Non-Specificity vs IL-4 spike
	Specific panel amount
	10x
IL-2RA	0.055%
IL-4R	0.045%
IL-6	0.097%
IL-10	0.056%
IL-13	0.032%
IL-13RA1	0.106%
IL-13RA2	0.079%
RRAGA	0.073%
RRAGB	0.048%

Interference

Interference screening was performed in the presence of three concentrations of IL-4. No interference was observed for the screened substances listed in the table.

Substance	Concentration
Bilirubin	342 μ M
Biotin	30 ng/mL
Fibrinogen	400 mg/dL
HAMA	100 ng/mL
Hemoglobin	2 g/L
Rheumatoid Factor	150 IU/mL
Triglycerides	1000 mg/dL

NULISAqpcr™ IL-4 Assay

Sample stability and handling recommendations

Sample stability testing has shown that samples can be stored up to at least 4 hours at room temperature, up to at least 4 days in 4°C, and can withstand up to at least 3 freeze-thaw cycles.

Recovery				
Storage Condition	Time Point	Plasma IL-4, 0.71 pg/mL	Plasma IL-4, 2.92 pg/mL	Plasma IL-4, 11.97 pg/mL
RT	2 hours	104%	101%	122%
	4 hours	82%	90%	91%
4° C	24 hours	99%	92%	91%
	48 hours	93%	91%	98%
	96 hours	83%	100%	106%
Freeze-Thaw	1 cycle	93%	101%	96%
	3 cycles	85%	93%	98%

Ordering Information

NULISAqpcr Assays

Product Name	Plate Format	Sample Type	Catalog Number
NULISAqpcr IL-4 Assay	96	plasma/serum	800107

Consumables & Buffers

Product Name	Qty	Catalog Number
NULISA Wash Buffer (3L)	3L	801035

Instrument

Product Name	Qty	Catalog Number
Alamar ARGO HT System	1	800101

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