Pharmacokinetic (PK) Bridging ELISA

PK – Tocilizumab

For use with anti-tocilizumab monoclonal antibody products HCA252 and HCA257P
This method provides a procedure for carrying out a PK ELISA with anti-tocilizumab antibodies, product codes HCA252 (capture antibody) and HCA257P (detection antibody), and using tocilizumab monoclonal antibody for the standard curve. The HCA257P anti-tocilizumab antibody does not inhibit the binding of tocilizumab to IL-6R and can therefore detect total drug; free, partially bound and fully bound. The method should always be used in conjunction with product and batch specific information provided with each vial (see product datasheets). This protocol will need to be adjusted for use with different detection methods and immunoassay technology platforms.

Reagents
- BSA
- HISPEC immunoassay diluent (BUF049)
- Human Serum (Sigma-Aldrich, H4522)
- PBS
  - 136 mM NaCl
  - 2.68 mM KCl
  - 8.1 mM Na$_2$HPO$_4$
  - 1.46 mM KH$_2$PO$_4$
- PBST
  - PBS with 0.05% Tween®-20
- QuantaBlu™ fluorogenic peroxidase substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 15169)

Materials
- 384-well microtiter plate, black, square flat-bottom wells, MaxiSorp™ PS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 460518)
- Fluorescence plate reader

96-well plates can be used instead of 384-well plates, e.g. black, flat-bottom MaxiSorp PS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 437111). For the 96-well format, use 100 µl (instead of 20 µl) of antigen, antibodies, or substrate and 300 µl for the blocking step.

Method
1. Prepare the anti-tocilizumab capture antibody HCA252 (AbD21362) at 1 µg/ml in PBS. Coat the required number of wells of a 384-well microtiter plate with 20 µl per well of the prepared capture antibody. Incubate overnight at 4°C.
2. Wash the microtiter plate five times with PBST.
3. Block the microtiter plate by adding 100 µl 5% BSA in PBST to each well, and then incubate for 1 hour at room temperature (RT).
4. Wash the microtiter plate five times with PBST.
5. For the standard curve, prepare a dilution series of tocilizumab in 10% human serum in PBST in triplicate. Final concentrations of tocilizumab should cover the range from 0.1 ng/ml to 1,000 ng/ml. Include a zero tocilizumab concentration as the background value.
6. Add 20 µl of each of the diluted standards to the wells designated for the standard curve (in triplicate for each standard recommended). Add 20 µl of each test sample to the other wells (in triplicate for each sample recommended). Incubate for 1 hour at RT.
7. Wash the microtiter plate five times with PBST.
8. To each well, add 20 µl HRP conjugated detection antibody HCA257P (AbD22155_hIgG1) at 2 µg/ml in HISPEC buffer. Incubate for 1 hour at RT.
9. Wash the microtiter plate ten times with PBST.
10. Add 20 µl QuantaBlu to each well and measure the fluorescence after 30 minutes.

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