

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH SERVICE, UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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Asparagine Synthetase (ASNS) Assay Kit (Cat #: E-104)

COMPONENTS: ASNS Buffer- 5 ml, store at -80°C
ASNS Substrate- 1 ml, store at -80°C
TA Assay Solution- 5 ml (for 100 wells); store at -80°C (**shield solution from light during assay**)
Glutamine- 50 mg, store at room temperature
10x Cell Lysis Solution- 25 ml, store at room temperature (**agitate vial to redissolve contents**)

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: The asparagine synthetase (ASNS) enzyme activity assay is based on sequential ASNS- and glutamate dehydrogenase-mediated reactions, the latter of which is coupled to reduction of INT to INT-formazan (molar extinction coefficient $\epsilon = 18 \text{ mM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ at 492 nm), allowing for measurement of ASNS activity present in crude cell/tissue lysates (not suitable for serum/plasma). Kit components are stable for several years if handled and stored properly.

Preparation of cell/tissue extracts:

1. Prepare 1x Cell Lysis Solution by diluting 10x Cell Lysis Solution with dH₂O. Bring up $\sim 10^5$ washed cells in 50 – 100 μl ice-cold 1x Cell Lysis Solution by pipetting up and down gently. Leave lysate on ice for 5 min with agitation. Tissue is homogenized in ice-cold 1x Cell Lysis Solution (use $\sim 10 \text{ mg}$ tissue in 0.5 ml).
2. Centrifuge lysate in a cold microfuge at $\sim 14,000 \text{ rpm}$ for 5 min. Supernatant is harvested and stored at -80°C.
3. Use the BCA protein assay method to determine lysate protein concentration. A suggested sample protein concentration range is 0.2 – 2 mg/ml. *Normalization of sample protein concentration is recommended.*

Preparation of glutamine solution: Assay of each sample requires 40 μl glutamine solution. Prepare a fresh glutamine solution in ASNS Buffer (5 mg/ml), e.g., 2.5 mg in 0.5 ml ASNS Buffer. Vigorously vortex solution to dissolve glutamine. Discard unused glutamine solution.

Preparation of control solution and reaction solution: Assay of each sample requires 40 μl control solution and 40 μl reaction solution. Prepare control solution by mixing an equal volume of fresh glutamine solution and dH₂O. Prepare reaction solution by mixing an equal volume of fresh glutamine solution and ASNS Substrate.

TA Assay Solution: Keep thawed TA Assay Solution on ice and shielded from light. *Do not over thaw solution.* Freeze solution immediately after use.

Enzyme assay:

1. Use a plain (uncoated) 96-well plate for the assay. Pipette 20 μl of each sample to duplicate wells serving as control well and reaction well.
2. Add 40 μl control solution to one set of sample wells (control). Add 40 μl reaction solution to the other set of sample wells (reaction). Gently agitate plate for 10 sec to mix. Cover plate and incubate in a humidified 37°C incubator for 60 min. *Do not use CO₂ incubator.*
3. Remove plate from incubator. Add 50 μl TA Assay Solution to each control well and each reaction well. Gently agitate plate to mix. Cover plate and incubate in a humidified 37°C incubator for another 60 min.
4. Remove plate from incubator. Measure O.D._{492 nm} using a plate reader.
5. Subtract control well reading from reaction well reading for each sample. Use the subtracted reading ($\Delta\text{O.D.}$) for enzyme activity calculation as shown below.
6. ASNS enzyme activity in IU/L = $\mu\text{mol}/(\text{L} \cdot \text{min}) = (\Delta\text{O.D.} \times 1000 \times 110 \mu\text{l}) \div (60 \text{ min} \times 0.4 \text{ cm} \times 18 \times 20 \mu\text{l}) = \Delta\text{O.D.} \times 12.73$.
Enzyme activity may be presented as units/ μg proteins or normalized by GAPDH enzyme activity (Cat#E-101).

Additional information:

- The kit contains DMSO and INT. Please refer to the product webpage or contact us for SDS information.
- 10x Cell Lysis Solution precipitates at cold temperature. Re-dissolve contents by agitation in warm water upon arrival.