Product Manual

RhoA/Rac1/Cdc42 Activation Assay Combo Kit

Catalog Number

STA-405 **3 x 10 assays**

FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY
Not for use in diagnostic procedures

CELL BIOLABS, INC.
Creating Solutions for Life Science Research

Introduction

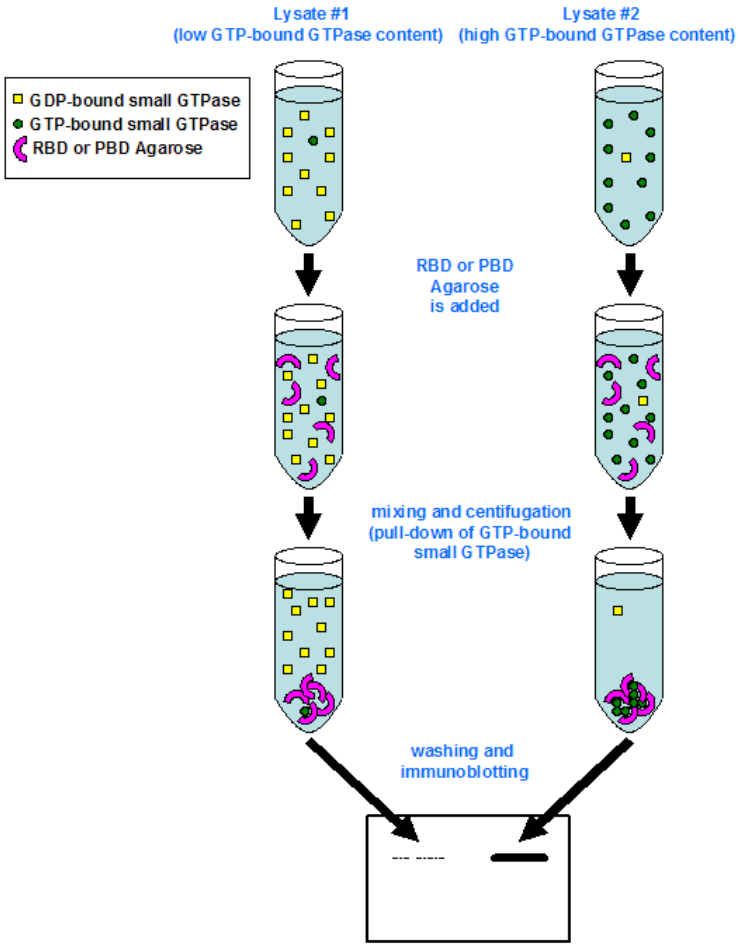
Small GTP-binding proteins (or GTPases) are a family of proteins that serve as molecular regulators in signaling transduction pathways. RhoA, Rac1 and Cdc42, 21 kDa proteins, belong to the family of Rho GTPases regulates a variety of biological response pathways that include cell motility, cell division, gene transcription, and cell transformation. Like other small GTPases, RhoA, Rac1 and Cdc42 regulate molecular events by cycling between an inactive GDP-bound form and an active GTP-bound form. In its active (GTP-bound) state, RhoA binds specifically to the Rho-binding domain (RBD) of Rhotekin, and Rac1 or Cdc42 binds specifically to the p21-binding domain (PBD) of p21-activated protein kinase (PAK) to control downstream signaling cascades.

Cell Biolabs' RhoA/Rac1/Cdc42 Activation Assay utilizes Rhotekin RBD and PAK PBD Agarose beads to selectively isolate and pull-down the active form of Rho/Rac/Cdc42 from purified samples or endogenous lysates. Subsequently, the precipitated GTP-Rho or Rac or Cdc42 is detected by western blot analysis using an anti-RhoA or Rac1 or Cdc42 antibody (see Figure 3, Figure 5, Figure 7 and Assay Principle).

Cell Biolabs' RhoA/Rac1/Cdc42 Activation Assay Kit provides a simple and fast tool to monitor the activation of RhoA, Rac1 or Cdc42. The kit includes easily identifiable Rhotekin RBD and PAK1 PBD Agarose beads (see Figure 1), pink in color, along with RhoA, Rac1 and Cdc42 Immunoblot Positive Controls for quick Rho small GTPase identification. Each kit provides sufficient quantities to perform 10 assays for each small GTPase.

Figure 1:Rhotekin RBD or PAK RBD Agarose beads, in color, are easy to visualize, minimizing potential loss during washes and aspirations.

Assay Principle



Related Products

1. STA-400: Pan-Ras Activation Assay Kit
2. STA-400-H: H-Ras Activation Assay Kit
3. STA-400-K: K-Ras Activation Assay Kit
4. STA-400-N: N-Ras Activation Assay Kit
5. STA-401-1: Rac1 Activation Assay
6. STA-401-2: Rac2 Activation Assay
7. STA-403-A: RhoA Activation Assay
8. STA-403-B: RhoB Activation Assay
9. STA-403-C: RhoC Activation Assay
10. STA-404: Rac1/Cdc42 Activation Assay Combo Kit

11. STA-410: Raf1 RBD Agarose Beads
12. STA-457: Ras Expression Vector Set
13. STA-459: Active Ras Expression Vector Set

Kit Components

1. Rhotekin RBD Agarose (Part No 240501): One vial – 400 µL of 50% slurry, 200 µg Rhotekin RBD in PBS containing 50% glycerol.
   Note: Agarose bead appears pink in color for easy identification, washing, and aspiration.

2. PAK1 PBD Agarose (Part No 240101): One vial – 800 µL of 50% slurry, 400 µg PAK1 PBD in PBS containing 50% glycerol.
   Note: Agarose bead appears pink in color for easy identification, washing, and aspiration.

3. 100X GTPγS (Part No. 240103): Two vials – 2 x 50 µL of 10 mM GTPγS dissolved in sterile water.

4. 100X GDP (Part No. 240104): Two vials – 2 x 50 µL of 100 mM GDP dissolved in sterile water.

5. 5X Assay/Lysis Buffer (Part No. 240102): Two bottles – 2 x 30 mL of 125 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 750 mM NaCl, 5% NP-40, 50 mM $MgCl_2$, 5 mM EDTA, 10% Glycerol.

6. Anti-RhoA, Mouse Monoclonal (Part No. 240302): One vial – 40 µL in PBS, pH 7.4, 0.05% NaN_3, 0.1% BSA.

7. Anti-Rac1, Mouse Monoclonal (Part No. 240106): One vial – 40 µL in PBS, pH 7.4, 0.05% NaN_3, 0.1% BSA.
   Note: This monoclonal reacts with human, mouse, and rat Rac1; it also has slight cross-reactivity with Rac2. Additional unknown higher MW proteins may be detected in some preparations.

8. Anti-Cdc42, Mouse Monoclonal (Part No. 240201): One vial – 40 µL in PBS, pH 7.4, 0.05% NaN_3, 0.1% BSA.

9. RhoA Immunoblot Positive Control (Part No. 240310): One vial – 100 µL of partially purified, recombinant RhoA from *E. coli* (provided ready-to-use in 1X reducing SDS-PAGE Sample Buffer, pre-boiled).

10. Rac1 Immunoblot Positive Control (Part No. 240110): One vial – 100 µL of partially purified, recombinant Rac1 from *E. coli* (provided ready-to-use in 1X reducing SDS-PAGE Sample Buffer, pre-boiled).

11. Cdc42 Immunoblot Positive Control (Part No. 240210): One vial – 100 µL of partially purified, recombinant Cdc42 from *E. coli* (provided ready-to-use in 1X reducing SDS-PAGE Sample Buffer, pre-boiled).

Materials Not Supplied

1. Stimulated and non-stimulated cell lysates
2. RhoA, Rac1 and/or Cdc42 activators
3. Protease inhibitors
4. 0.5 M EDTA in water
5. 1 M $MgCl_2$
6. 30°C incubator or water bath
7. 4°C tube rocker or shaker
8. 2X reducing SDS-PAGE sample buffer
9. Electrophoresis and immunoblotting systems
10. Immunoblotting wash buffer such as TBST (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 0.15 M NaCl, 0.05% Tween-20)
11. Immunoblotting blocking buffer (TBST containing 5% Non-fat Dry Milk)
12. PVDF or nitrocellulose membrane
13. Secondary Antibody
14. ECL Detection Reagents

Storage

Store all kit components at -20ºC until their expiration dates. Avoid multiple freeze/thaw cycles.

Preparation of Reagents

- 1X Assay/Lysis Buffer: Mix the 5X Stock briefly and dilute to 1X in deionized water. Just prior to usage, add protease inhibitors such as 1 mM PMSF, 10 µg/mL leupeptin, and 10 µg/mL aprotinin.

Preparation of Samples

Note: It is advisable to use fresh cell lysates because GTP-small GTPase is quickly hydrolyzed to GDP-small GTPase; frozen lysates stored at -70°C may be used. Performing steps at 4°C or on ice may reduce hydrolysis. Avoid multiple freeze/thaw cycles of lysates.

I. Adherent Cells

1. Culture cells to approximately 80-90% confluence. Stimulate cells with RhoA, Rac1 or Cdc42 activator(s) as desired.
2. Aspirate the culture media and wash twice with ice-cold PBS.
3. Completely remove the final PBS wash and add ice-cold 1X Assay/Lysis Buffer to the cells (0.5 - 1 mL per 100 mm tissue culture plate).
4. Place the culture plates on ice for 10-20 minutes.
5. Detach the cells from the plates by scraping with a cell scraper.
6. Transfer the lysates to appropriate size tubes and place on ice.

7. If nuclear lysis occurs, the cell lysates may become very viscous and difficult to pipette. If this occurs, lysates can be passed through a 27½-gauge syringe needle 3-4 times to shear the genomic DNA.
8. Clear the lysates by centrifugation for 10 minutes (14,000 x g at 4°C).
9. Collect the supernatant and store samples on ice for immediate use, or snap freeze and store at -70°C for future use.
10. Proceed to GTPγS/GDP Loading for positive and negative controls, or Pull-Down Assay.

II. Suspension Cells

1. Culture cells and stimulate with RhoA, Rac1 or Cdc42 activator(s) as desired.
2. Perform a cell count, and then pellet the cells by centrifugation.
3. Aspirate the culture media and wash twice with ice-cold PBS.
4. Completely remove the final PBS wash and add ice-cold 1X Assay/Lysis Buffer to the cell pellet (0.5 – 1 mL per 1 x 10^7 cells).
5. Lyse the cells by repeated pipetting.
6. Transfer the lysates to appropriate size tubes and place on ice.
7. If nuclear lysis occurs, the cell lysates may become very viscous and difficult to pipette. If this occurs, lysates can be passed through a 27½-gauge syringe needle 3-4 times to shear the genomic DNA.
8. Clear the lysates by centrifugation for 10 minutes (14,000 x g at 4°C).
9. Collect the supernatant and store samples on ice for immediate use, or snap freeze and store at -70°C for future use.
10. Proceed to GTPγS/GDP Loading for positive and negative controls, or Pull-Down Assay.

Assay Protocol

Important Note: Before running any Small GTPase pulldown assay, it is always a good practice to run a Western Blot directly on the cell lysate using the antibody provided in this kit. For example: load 5 µg, 10 µg and 20 µg of lysate onto an SDS-PAGE gel, transfer and blot. When proceeding with the pulldown assay, use 100-times the amount of lysate that gave you a clear band of your desired small GTPase in the direct Western blot. For example: if the 5 µg band was faint but the 10 µg band was clear and strong, use 100 x 10 µg = 1 mg of lysate in the assay. Using sufficient lysate in the pulldown assay is critical to success.

I. GTPγS/GDP Loading (Positive and Negative Controls)

Note: Samples that will not be GTPγS/GDP loaded may be kept on ice during the loading of controls.

1. Aliquot 0.5 – 1 mL of each cell lysate to two microcentrifuge tubes.

   Note: Typical protein content/sample is > 0.5 mg.

2. Adjust the volume of each sample to 1 mL with 1X Assay Lysis Buffer.

3. Add 20 µL of 0.5 M EDTA to each sample.
4. Add 10 µL of 100X GTPγS to one tube (positive control) and 10 µL of 100X GDP to the other tube (negative control). Mix and label each tube appropriately.
5. Incubate the tubes for 30 minutes at 30°C with agitation.
6. Stop the loading by adding 65 µL of 1 M $MgCl_2$ to each tube. Mix and place tubes on ice.
7. Continue with Pull-Down assay.

II. Small GTPase Pull-Down Assay

1. Aliquot 0.5 – 1 mL of cell lysate (treated with small GTPase activators or untreated) to a microcentrifuge tube.
2. Adjust the volume of each sample to 1 mL with 1X Assay Lysis Buffer.
3. Thoroughly resuspend the Rhotekin RBD or PAK PBD Agarose bead slurry by vortexing or titurating.
4. Quickly add 40 µL of resuspended bead slurry to each tube (including GTPγS/GDP controls).
5. Incubate the tubes at 4°C for 1 hour with gentle agitation.
6. Pellet the beads by centrifugation for 10 seconds at 14,000 x g.
7. Aspirate and discard the supernatant, making sure not to disturb/remove the bead pellet.
8. Wash the bead 3 times with 0.5 mL of 1X Assay Buffer, centrifuging and aspirating each time.
9. After the last wash, pellet the beads and carefully remove all the supernatant.
10. Resuspend the bead pellet in 40 µL of 2X reducing SDS-PAGE sample buffer.
11. Boil each sample for 5 minutes.
12. Centrifuge each sample for 10 seconds at 14,000 x g.

III. Electrophoresis and Transfer

1. Load 20 µL/well of pull-down supernatant to a polyacrylamide gel. Also, it's recommended to include a pre-stained MW standard (as an indicator of a successful transfer in step 3).

   Note: If desired, 10 µL/well of RhoA, Rac1 or Cdc42 Immunoblot Positive Control (provided ready-to-use, pre-boiled) can be added as an immunoblot positive control.
2. Perform SDS-PAGE as per the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Transfer the gel proteins to a PVDF or nitrocellulose membrane as per the manufacturer's instructions.

IV. Immunoblotting and Detection (all steps are at room temperature, with agitation)

1. Following the electroblotting step, immerse the PVDF membrane in 100% Methanol for 15 seconds, and then allow it to dry at room temperature for 5 minutes.

   Note: If Nitrocellulose is used instead of PVDF, this step should be skipped.

2. Block the membrane with 5% non-fat dry milk in TBST for 1 hr at room temperature with constant agitation.

   Incubate the membrane with Anti-RhoA, Rac1 or Cdc42 Antibody, freshly diluted 1:200 to 1:1000 in 5% non-fat dry milk/TBST, for 1-2 hr at room temperature with constant agitation.

   Note: To conserve antibody, incubations should be performed in a plastic bag.

3. Wash the blotted membrane three times with TBST, 5 minutes each time.
4. Incubate the membrane with a secondary antibody (e.g. Goat Anti-Mouse IgG, HRP-conjugate), freshly diluted in 5% non-fat dry milk/TBST, for 1 hr at room temperature with constant agitation.
5. Wash the blotted membrane three times with TBST, 5 minutes each time.
6. Use the detection method of your choice. We recommend enhanced chemiluminescence reagents from Pierce.

Example of Results

The following figure demonstrates typical results seen with Cell Biolabs' RhoA/Rac1/Cdc42 Activation Assay Kit. One should use the data below for reference only.

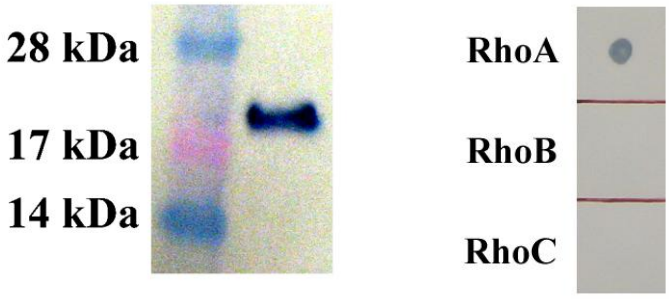


Figure 2: RhoA Activation Assay. *Left Image*: RhoA Immunoblot Positive Control. *Right Image*: Demonstrates Anti-RhoA monoclonal antibody specificity by dot blot.

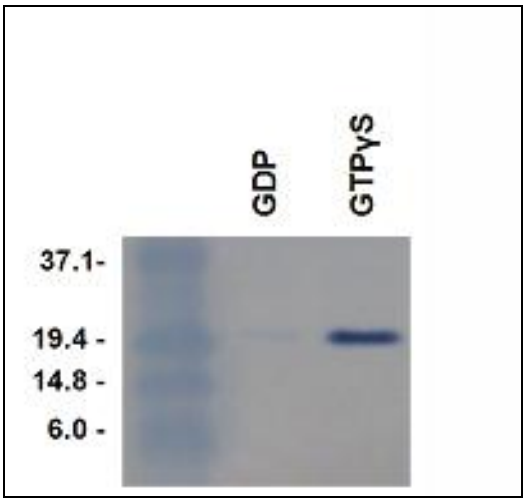


Figure 3: RhoA Activation Assay. *Lane 1*: MW Standard. *Lane 2*: MDA-231 cell lysate loaded with GDP and incubated with Rhotekin RBD Agarose beads. *Lane 3*: MDA-231 cell lysate loaded with GTPγS and incubated with Rhotekin RBD Agarose beads.

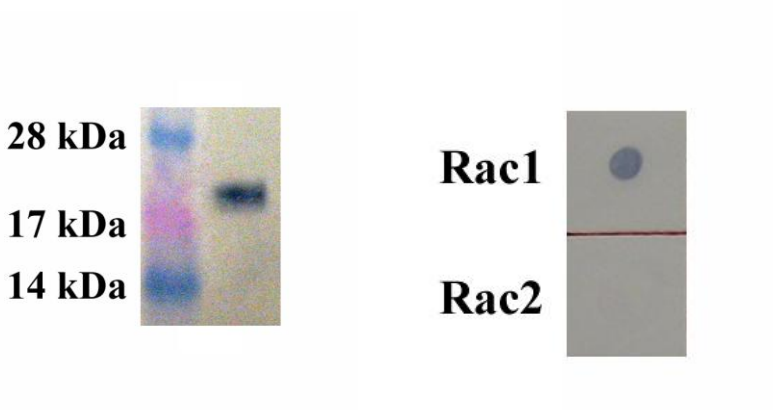


Figure 4: Rac1 Activation Assay. *Left Image*: Rac1 Immunoblot Positive Control. *Right Image*: Demonstrates Anti-Rac1 monoclonal antibody specificity by dot blot.

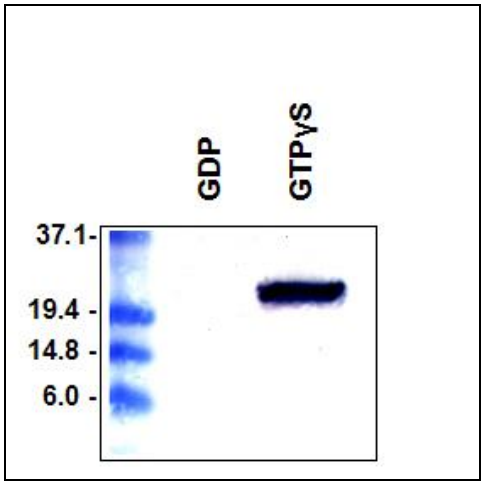


Figure 5: Rac1 Activation Assay. *Lane 1*: MW Standard. *Lane 2*: 293 cell lysate loaded with GDP and incubated with PAK PBD Agarose beads. *Lane 3*: 293 cell lysate loaded with GTPγS and incubated with PAK-1 PBD Agarose beads.

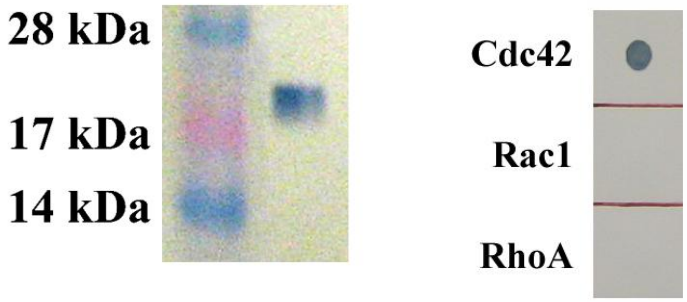


Figure 6: Cdc42 Activation Assay. *Left Image*: Cdc42 Immunoblot Positive Control. *Right Image*: Demonstrates Anti-Cdc42 monoclonal antibody specificity by dot blot.

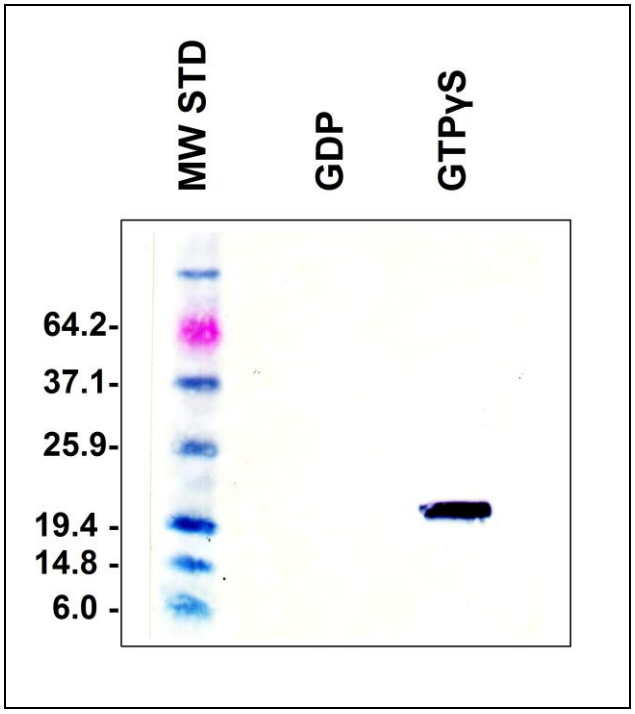


Figure 7: Cdc42 Activation Assay. *Lane 1*: MW Standard. *Lane 2*: 293 cell lysate loaded with GDP and incubated with PAK PBD Agarose beads. *Lane 3*: 293 cell lysate loaded with GTPγS and incubated with PAK-1 PBD Agarose beads.

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Recent Product Citations

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Warranty

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