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## Hypoxyprobe™-1 TIMES Kit

(HPI Catalog # HP18-XXX)

### Kit contents:

Solid pimonidazole HCl (Hypoxyprobe™-1)  
Anti-pimonidazole rat IgG<sub>1</sub> monoclonal antibody MAb 1 (60 micrograms/ml)  
Anti-rat HRP secondary antibody  
DAB HRP chromogen

Applications: Immunochemical detection of cell and tissue hypoxia including immunofluorescence; immunoperoxidase; western blotting; or, flow cytometry.

Quantities:

- Hypoxyprobe™-1 TIMES Kit contains 100 mg, 200 mg or 1000 mg of pimonidazole HCl. Typically a dosage of 60mg/kg body weight is used for animal studies.
- 1 or 2 200uL units of exhausted supernatant from hybridoma clone 11.23.22.R containing 60 micrograms/ml of an IgG<sub>1</sub> rat monoclonal antibody. It also contains 1 or 2 200uL units of Anti rat horseradish peroxidase secondary antibody and the necessary chromogen substrate. Optimal dilution of MAb1 is to be determined by investigators but a 1/50 dilution has been found to give strong immunostaining in rat tumor tissue. Note that a chromogen is included in the kit to activate the horseradish peroxidase to produce a brown hypoxia stain.

Storage:

- Store pimonidazole HCl solid at room temperature in the dark.
- Store the rat monoclonal antibody (MAb1-hrp), secondary antibody and chromogen at 2-8 degrees Celcius.

### Detailed Description of Hypoxyprobe™-1 TIMES Kit components

1) Hypoxyprobe™-1 is a substituted 2-nitroimidazole whose chemical name and only ingredient is pimonidazole hydrochloride. Hypoxyprobe™-1 has a molecular weight of 290.8; a water solubility of 400 millimolar equivalent to 116 mg/ml; and, ultraviolet absorbance at 324 nm with an extinction coefficient of 7020 in 0.9% saline. The free base, pimonidazole, has a molecular weight of 254.3, a pKa of 8.7 and an octanol water partition coefficient of 8.5. See [www.hypoxyprobe.com](http://www.hypoxyprobe.com) for mechanism of action, frequently asked questions (FAQ) and applications of Hypoxyprobe™-1 Kits.

Hypoxyprobe™-1 is chemically stable in both solid form and aqueous solution. For example, solid Hypoxyprobe™-1 has been stored for two years at room temperature in subdued light without detectable degradation as assessed by UV and HPLC analyses. Hypoxyprobe™-1 solutions in 0.9%

saline have been stored at a concentration of 100g/liter at 4°C for 4.5 years without detectable degradation (UV and HPLC analyses).

Pimonidazole is reductively activated in hypoxic cells. The activated intermediate forms stable covalent adducts with thiol (sulphydryl) groups in proteins, peptides and amino acids. The antibody reagent MAb1 binds to these adducts allowing their detection by immunochemical means. See [www.hypoxyprobe.com](http://www.hypoxyprobe.com) for mechanism of action, frequently asked questions (FAQ) and applications for Hypoxyprobe™-1 kits.

2) MAb1 is a rat IgG<sub>1</sub> monoclonal antibody (MAb) clone 11.23.22.R that is supplied as a filter sterilized, exhausted supernatant from hybridoma clone 11.23.22.R containing 60 microgram/ml of MAb1. Tissues of interest can be studied by immunohistochemistry on frozen fixed sections or formalin fixed paraffin embedded sections; by flow cytometry following tissue disaggregation; or, Western blotting. Typically, 100 microliters of a 1:50 dilution of MAb1 is added to tissue sections. A suitable secondary strategy is then applied to reveal pimonidazole adducts. Two examples of suitable protocols are provided below.

Note: MAb1 can bind to protein, peptide and amino acid adducts of pimonidazole in hypoxic cells but tissue processing for immunohistochemical assay washes out small molecule peptide and amino acid adducts so that immunohistochemical detection of hypoxia relies on protein adducts of pimonidazole in hypoxic tissue.

## Assay Instructions

1. Investigations of normal or tumor tissue hypoxia begin with the intravenous infusion, intraperitoneal injection or oral ingestion of a Hypoxyprobe™-1 solution at a recommended dosage of 60 mg/kg body weight. For a 25g rat this amounts to 1.5 mg/rat. (Dosages up to 400 mg/kg have been used in mice without detectable toxicity or change in tissue hypoxia but 60 mg/kg gives good immunostaining at minimum cost.) The solubility of Hypoxyprobe™-1 in saline is 116 mg/ml so that very small volumes can be used to administer Hypoxyprobe™-1.

Following injection or ingestion, Hypoxyprobe™-1 distributes to all tissues including brain but it forms adducts with thiol containing proteins only in those cells that have a oxygen concentration less than 14 micromolar -- equivalent to a partial pressure pO<sub>2</sub> = 10 mm Hg at 37°C. In addition to tumors, normal tissues such as liver, kidney and skin possess cells at, or below, a pO<sub>2</sub> of 10 mmHg. These normal tissues can bind Hypoxyprobe™-1.

The plasma half-life of Hypoxyprobe™-1 in mice is approximately 25 minutes (see the FAQ link at [www.hypoxyprobe.com/knowledge\\_center](http://www.hypoxyprobe.com/knowledge_center) for references). For comparison, plasma half-lives for rats is 45 minutes, dogs 90 minutes and humans 300 minutes. Rat tissues of interest are typically harvested 60 to 90 minutes after Hypoxyprobe™-1 administration. Hypoxyprobe™-1 residing in tissues at the time of harvest will be bound when dissected tissues go anoxic. However, the amount of residual Hypoxyprobe™-1 is very small compared to the amount that tissues are exposed to during a 60 to 90 minute experiment so that any non-specific binding due to residual Hypoxyprobe™-1 is undetectable.

In addition to animal studies, Hypoxyprobe™ kits can be used for cells in tissue culture (see Applications link at [www.hypoxyprobe.com](http://www.hypoxyprobe.com)). Typically, cell suspensions are incubated under hypoxia for 1 to 2 hours in the presence of 100 to 200 micromolar Hypoxyprobe™-1. The cells are harvested by cytopspin, fixed and immunostained with MAb1, the secondary anti-rat horseradish peroxidase antibody followed by a chromogenic DAB substrate or by using an anti-rat fluorescent secondary antibody.

**Suggested procedure for immunostaining pimonidazole adducts in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissues using a F(ab')<sub>2</sub> secondary strategy.**

Raleigh, Chou et al., Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 42: 727-730, 1998

*Hypoxyprobe™ technology is robust and investigator-initiated modifications are encouraged.*

Step	Procedure	Time, min.	Temp.	Reagents	Notes
1	Warm paraffin tissue section	20	40°C	None	
2	Dewax, Dip and Blot x 10	2	RT	Clear-Rite 3	1
3	Rehydrate, Dip and Blot x 10	2	RT	100% Ethanol	
4	"	2	RT	95% Aqueous ethanol	
5	"	2	RT	80% Aqueous ethanol	
6	"	2	RT	0.2% Brij 35 in distilled water	2
7	"	2	RT	PBS+ 0.2% Brij 35	3
8	Quench tissue peroxidase	5	RT	3% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> in distilled water	4
9	Antigen retrieval	20	90°	Target retrieval agent	5,6
10	Cool to RT	20	RT	None	
11	Wash	2	RT	PBS + 0.2% Brij 35	7
12	Block non-specific binding	5	RT	Protein blocking agent	8,9
13	1° MAb1, slides horizontal	60	RT	Hypoxyprobe-1 MAb1 (1/50)	10
14	Wash	2	RT	PBS + 0.2% Brij 35	7
15	Anti-rat secondary	10	RT	Anti Rat hrp	
16	Wash	2	RT	PBS + 0.2% Brij 35	7
17	Peroxidase chromogen			DAB chromogen	11
18	Wash	2	RT	PBS + 0.2% Brij 35	7
19					
20					
21	Counterstaining	0.5	RT	Hematoxylin	14
22	Wash	2	RT	Running tap water	
23	Cover tissue sections	45	45°C	Aqueous CC/Mount	15

### Technical Notes

1. Clear-Rite 3 -- a less toxic alternative to xylene -- is available from VWR (Cat# 84000-052). For dewaxing (step 2) and tissue rehydration (steps 3-7), ProbeOn Plus slides (Fisher Scientific; Cat# 15-188-52) are held vertically in a MicroProbe Staining Station (Fisher Scientific) in pairs with tissue sections facing each other. The paired slides are dipped in solvent allowing capillary action to carry solvents over the tissue sections. Solvent is removed by blotting the lower end of the slide pair on adsorbent filter paper. The dip and blot procedure is repeated a total of 10 times for each of steps 2-7.

**Note: These steps were designed for the MicroProbe Staining Station but other routine IHC procedures can be used.**

2. Brij 35 is enzyme grade polyoxyethylene(23)lauryl ether available from Fisher Scientific (cat# BP345-500). Alternatives to Brij35 can be used including Tris buffered saline (TBS) available from Chemicon International, Temecula, CA (Cat# 20845) containing a final concentration of 0.1% Tween 20®.

3. PBS = 10 mM phosphate buffered saline that can be prepared from tablets available from Sigma (Cat# P-4417).

4. 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is diluted Analytical Reagent grade 31.3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> available from Malinckrodt Baker (Paris, KT)(Cat# 5240).

Commercially available peroxidase inhibitors may also be used.

5. Antigen retrieval agents include Biorad Cat# BUF025B; Chemicon International Cat# 21545 or DAKO Cat# S2369. For antigen retrieval, slides are submerged in retrieval reagent in a slide holder and heated for 20 minutes at 90°C. Pimonidazole protein adducts are very robust so that the antigen retrieval reagent can be chosen on the basis of requirements for other factors of interest in tissue sections.

6. Slides held vertically in slide incubator.

7. Slides washed with magnetically stirred PBS + 0.2% Brij 35 in a rectangular staining jar.

8. For example, serum free protein blocker from DAKO Corp. (Carpinteria, CA; Cat# X0909). Protein blocker not washed from slide but flicked off so that residual blocker remains on tissue section.

9. Slides held horizontally for steps 13-20 so as to limit non-specific, edge staining of the sections.

10. Exhausted supernatant containing MAb1 diluted 1/50 in 10 mM PBS containing 0.2% Brij 35 and 1 drop of DAKO protein blocker/ml. Commercially available antibody diluents may also be used. Typically, 100 uL of diluted MAb1 solution is applied to each tissue section.

although smaller volumes can be used if the tissue sections are “dammed” with a Pap pen.

**Note: Incubation overnight at 4 degrees C can increase sensitivity in some cases.**

**Note: Secondary strategies other than the F(ab')<sub>2</sub> approach can be used. For example, DAKO Catalyzed Signal**

**Amplification for rat antibodies (Kit# K1500) is used routinely in our laboratories for clinical samples.**

11. Liquid 3,3'-diaminobenzidine reagent (DAB) from DAKO (cat# K3465).

14. Any commercially available hematoxylin counterstaining reagent is suitable including Chemicon International (Cat# 20844).

15. CC/Mount (Sigma; Cat# C9368), a direct replacement for Biomedica's Crystal Mount, is an aqueous based permanent mount for immunostained sections. Alternatives include cover slipping with Permount (Fisher Scientific; Cat# SP15-500). Procedure for immunostaining pimonidazole adducts in frozen, fixed tissues.

Most of the published work reporting fluorescence immunohistochemical detection of pimonidazole adducts is based on frozen sections and much of the data comes from Dr. A. J. van der Kogel's laboratory in Nijmegen. The tumor or tissue specimen is collected and directly frozen in liquid nitrogen until cryosectioned into 4 um sections. Consecutive sections are cut at the largest circumference of the tissue. The sections are then stored at -80°C until stained. After thawing, the sections are fixed in cold acetone (4°C) for 10 min. The sections are rinsed and incubated overnight at 4°C with rat monoclonal anti-pimonidazole antibody (clone 4.3.11.3)(MAb1) diluted in PBS containing 0.1% bovine serum albumin c and 0.1% Tween 20 – the extent of dilution determined by investigator. The sections are then incubated for 90 min with Cy-3-conjugated goat anti-rat antibody 1:150 (Jackson Immuno Research Laboratories). Between all steps of the staining procedure, the sections are rinsed three times with for 2 minutes in PBS.