



Glycogen Colorimetric/Fluorometric Assay Kit

(Catalog # K646-100; 100 assays; Store at -20°C)

rev. 9/13

I. Introduction:

Glycogen is the primary short term energy storage molecule in animals, synthesized primarily in the liver and muscle. Glycogen is a branched glucose polymer, in α -1,4 linkage, with branching via α -1,6 linkage. Abnormal ability to utilize glycogen is found in diabetes and in several genetic glycogen storage diseases. The BioVision Kit is an easy and convenient assay to measure glycogen levels in biological samples. In the assay, glucoamylase hydrolyzes the glycogen to glucose which is then specifically oxidized to produce a product that reacts with OxiRed probe to generate color (OD 570 nm) and fluorescence (Ex/Em = 535/587 nm). The assay can detect glycogen 0.0004 to 2 mg/ml.

II. Application:

- Measurement of Glycogen in various tissues/cells
- Analysis of metabolism and cell signaling in various cells

III. Sample Type:

- Animal tissues such as liver etc.
- Cell culture: adherent or suspension cells

IV. Kit Contents:

Components	K646-100	Cap Code	Part Number
Hydrolysis Buffer	25 ml	NM	K646-100-1
Development Buffer	25 ml	WM	K646-100-2
OxiRed Probe	0.2 ml	Red	K646-100-3A
Hydrolysis Enzyme Mix	lyophilized	Blue	K646-100-5
Development Enzyme Mix	lyophilized	Green	K646-100-6
Glycogen Standard (2.0 mg/ml)	100 μ l	Yellow	K646-100-7

V. User Supplied Reagents and Equipment:

- 96-well plate with flat bottom
- Multi-well spectrophotometer

VI. Storage and Handling:

Store kit at -20°C, protected from light and moisture. Briefly centrifuge small vials prior to opening. Read entire protocol before performing the assay.

VII. Reagent Preparation and Storage Conditions:

- **Hydrolysis Buffer:** Warm to room temperature before use. Store at -20°C or 4°C.
- **Development Buffer:** Warm to room temperature before use. Store at -20°C or 4°C.
- **OxiRed Probe:** Ready to use as supplied. Warm to room temperature to melt frozen DMSO before use. Mix well, store at -20°C. Protect from light and moisture. Use within 2 months.
- **Hydrolysis Enzyme Mix:** Reconstitute with 220 μ l of Hydrolysis Buffer. Vortex gently to dissolve. Keep on ice. Store at -20°C. Use within two months.
- **Development Enzyme Mix:** Reconstitute with 220 μ l of Development Buffer. Vortex gently to dissolve. Keep on ice. Store at -20°C. Reagents are stable for at least two months

VIII. Glycogen Assay Protocol:

1. Sample Preparation: Liquid samples can be assayed directly. For tissue or cells, homogenize 10^6 cells or 10 mg tissue with 200 μ l dH₂O on ice. Boil the homogenates for 10 min. to inactivate enzymes. Spin the boiled samples at 18,000 x g for 10 min. to remove insoluble material; the supernatant is ready for assay. Add 2-50 μ l samples to a 96-well plate. Adjust the volume to 50 μ l/well with Hydrolysis Buffer.

Notes:

- For unknown samples, we suggest performing a pilot experiment & testing different sample dilutions to ensure the readings are within the Standard Curve range.
- Glycogen can be metabolized very rapidly in some tissues after death (within a min.), therefore special care must be taken to minimize glycogen loss when taking tissue samples, such as freezing samples immediately and keeping cold while working.
- For samples having glucose background, prepare parallel well(s) containing same amount of sample as in the test well as background control (see section 3).
- Endogenous compounds may interfere with the reaction. To ensure accurate determination of Glycogen in the test samples, we recommend spiking samples with a known amount of Standard (0.8 μ g).
- There are varieties of methods for extraction of glycogen from tissues 1-4 depending upon the type of tissue or type of information desired. We strongly recommend consulting the literature to determine the best method for your purposes. However, for convenience a few methods taken from literature are described on page 3.



Sample Preparation:

There are a variety of methods for extraction of glycogen from tissues depending upon a) the type of tissue the glycogen is to be extracted from and b) the type of information desired. The gentlest procedure is the method referred in reference 1, which maintains the molecular weight of the glycogen so that analysis of the molecular distribution is possible.

A rapid method useful for small tissue samples is detailed in reference 4. Basically a small sample of tissue is homogenized in 50 volumes of distilled water, diluted appropriately and immediately used in the assay. Since endogenous glucose will be a significant factor utilizing this method, a glucose background control must be conducted where the sample is directly placed in development buffer with development enzyme mix (without prior treatment with the hydrolysis reagents). If the sample will not be immediately assayed, it should be placed in a capped, vented microcentrifuge tube and boiled for 5 min to inactivate any enzyme activities present and stored at -20°C until assayed. Samples from high content tissues (liver, muscle) prepared in this way should have sufficient glycogen such that 5-25 µl aliquots will give a clearly measureable colorimetric signal. If the sample is from low content tissues, either take a large aliquot (50µl) for the colorimetric assay or a proportionally smaller aliquot (10-25µl) in the fluorometric assay.

Caveats:

1) in some tissues such as neural tissue, very rapid rates of anaerobic metabolism continue after death causing rapid declines in glucose to undetectable levels within a few seconds. Utilization of glycogen follows and large decreases in glycogen content are seen within less than a minute. Thus accurate measurement of glycogen in such tissues requires very rapid quenching of metabolic activity such as freeze clamp or immediate removal of tissue to liquid nitrogen followed by grinding in the liquid nitrogen and storage at -20 or -80°C until used.

2) In some samples i.e., *Saccharomyces*, the glycogen is distributed between soluble and insoluble pools. It is not clear that both pools are completely hydrolyzed

If the sample to be analyzed is sufficiently large (a few hundred milligrams to grams of tissue), a more quantitative method is as follows:

Take tissue or cells to a final content of 30-50% in 30% KOH. Heat to 100°C for 2 hours, cool and add 2 volumes of 95% ethanol. This will precipitate the crude glycogen. Centrifuge and collect the precipitate. Dissolve/suspend the precipitate in a minimal amount of distilled water and acidify to pH 3 with HCL (5N). Reprecipitate with 1 volume of ethanol. Repeat wash/acidification/precipitation 2 more times, then wash precipitate with ethanol and dry. This procedure removes the vast majority of the glucose background with minimal effect on the glycogen. The dried material can be weighed and dissolved/suspended in hydrolysis buffer for analysis.

X. References:

- 1) E. Bueding and S.A. Orrell (1964) A Mild Procedure for the Isolation of Polydisperse Glycogen from Animal Tissues. *J. Biol.Chem.* 239, 12, pp 4018-4020
- 2) R. H. Dalrymple, R. Hamm (1973) A method for the extraction of glycogen and metabolites from a single muscle sample. *Intl J of Food Sci & Tech*, 8, 4 pp 439-444
- 3) G. Cappeln, F. Jessen (2002) ATP, IMP, and Glycogen in Cod Muscle at Onset and During Development of Rigor Mortis Depend on the Sampling Location. *J. Food Sci.* 67, #3, pp 991-995
- 4) Huijing, F. (1970) A Rapid Enzymic Method For Glycogen Estimation In Very Small Tissue Samples., *Clin. Chim. Acta.* 30, pp 567-572.
- 5) Monique Rousset, etc. (1981) Presence of Glycogen and Growth related Variations in 58 Cultured Human Tumor Cell Lines. *Cancer Research.* 41, 1165-1170.