



# Elecsys free $\beta$ hCG

cobas®

REF			SYSTEM
08860297119	08860297500	100	<b>cobas e 411</b> <b>cobas e 601</b> <b>cobas e 602</b>

## English

### System information

For **cobas e 411** analyzer: test number 690

For **cobas e 601** and **cobas e 602** analyzers: Application Code Number 033

### Please note

The measured free  $\beta$ hCG value of a patient's sample can vary depending on the testing procedure used. The laboratory finding must therefore always contain a statement on the free  $\beta$ hCG assay method used. Free  $\beta$ hCG values determined on patient samples by different testing procedures cannot be directly compared with one another and could be the cause of erroneous medical interpretations. If there is a change in the free  $\beta$ hCG assay procedure used while monitoring therapy, then the free  $\beta$ hCG values obtained upon changing over to the new procedure must be confirmed by parallel measurements with both methods.

### Intended use

Immunoassay for the in vitro quantitative determination of free  $\beta$ hCG (free  $\beta$ -subunit of human chorionic gonadotropin) in human serum. This assay is intended for the use as one component in combination with other parameters to evaluate the risk of trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) during the first trimester of pregnancy. Further testing is required for diagnosis of chromosomal aberrations.

The electrochemiluminescence immunoassay "ECLIA" is intended for use on **cobas e** immunoassay analyzers.

Note: Please note that the catalogue number appearing on the package insert retains only the first 8 digits of the licensed 11-digit Catalogue Number: 08860297190 for the Elecsys Free  $\beta$ hCG assay. The last 3 digits -190 have been replaced by -119 for logistic purposes.

### Summary

Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is a glycoprotein hormone (~37 kDa) composed of 2 noncovalently linked subunits – the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -chain (~15 and 22 kDa respectively). The protein is produced by trophoblast tissue; it serves to maintain the corpus luteum during the early weeks of pregnancy and it stimulates progesterone production.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

Naturally, hCG appears only in blood and urine of pregnant women. The concentration of hCG rises exponentially in the first trimester of pregnancy to peak around 9th week of gestation.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, the hormone level decreases between gestational weeks ~10-16 to approximately one-fifth of peak concentration and remains at this level until term. In non-pregnant women, hCG can be produced by trophoblastic and non-trophoblastic tumors and germ cell tumors with trophoblastic components.<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup>

The serum of pregnant women mainly contains intact hCG. However, minor fraction of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits circulate in an unbound form. The proportion of free  $\beta$ hCG averages ~1 % compared to intact hCG. As a result of the protein degradation process, additional hCG variants can be detected in blood and urine (e.g. nicked hCG, nicked  $\beta$ hCG,  $\beta$  core fragment). However, only the intact hormone is biologically active.<sup>3,7</sup>

Free  $\beta$ hCG in combination with serum pregnancy-associated plasma protein A (PAPP-A) and the sonographic determination of nuchal translucency (NT) identifies women at an increased risk of carrying a fetus affected with Down syndrome during the first trimester (week 8-14) of pregnancy.<sup>8,9,10</sup> Using this marker combination, detection rates of up to 70 % (serum markers only) and 90 % (combined with NT) have been described at a false positive rate of 5 %.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

When the sonographic examination also includes the presence of the nasal bone, the detection rate was found to reach 97 %.<sup>14</sup>

Based on the maternal age, the risk for having a Down syndrome pregnancy can be calculated using a specific algorithm.<sup>9,15,16</sup>

Based on the risk assessment thus obtained, Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) based on circulating cell-free fetal DNA may be indicated.<sup>17,18,19,20</sup> Women found to have increased risk of aneuploidy with 1st trimester screening should be offered genetic counselling and the option of Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) or amniocentesis.<sup>21</sup>

### Test principle

Sandwich principle. Total duration of assay: 18 minutes.

- 1st incubation: 10  $\mu$ L of sample, biotinylated monoclonal  $\beta$ hCG-specific antibodies, and a monoclonal free  $\beta$ hCG-specific antibody labeled with a ruthenium complex<sup>a)</sup> react to form a sandwich complex.
- 2nd incubation: After addition of streptavidin-coated microparticles, the complex becomes bound to the solid phase via interaction of biotin and streptavidin.
- The reaction mixture is aspirated into the measuring cell where the microparticles are magnetically captured onto the surface of the electrode. Unbound substances are then removed with ProCell/ProCell M. Application of a voltage to the electrode then induces chemiluminescent emission which is measured by a photomultiplier.
- Results are determined via a calibration curve which is instrument-specifically generated by 2-point calibration and a master curve provided via the reagent barcode or e-barcode.

a) Tris(2,2'-bipyridyl)ruthenium(II)-complex (Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup>)

### Reagents - working solutions

The reagent rackpack is labeled as F-BHCG.

- M Streptavidin-coated microparticles (transparent cap), 1 bottle, 6.5 mL: Streptavidin-coated microparticles 0.72 mg/mL; preservative.
- R1 Anti- $\beta$ hCG-Ab-biotin (gray cap), 1 bottle, 9 mL: Biotinylated monoclonal anti- $\beta$ hCG antibody (mouse) 3.5 mg/L; phosphate buffer 40 mmol/L, pH 6.8; preservative.
- R2 Anti-free  $\beta$ hCG-Ab-Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup> (black cap), 1 bottle, 10 mL: Monoclonal anti-free  $\beta$ hCG antibody (mouse) labeled with ruthenium complex 1.6 mg/L; phosphate buffer 40 mmol/L, pH 7.0; preservative.

### Precautions and warnings

For in vitro diagnostic use.

Exercise the normal precautions required for handling all laboratory reagents.

Disposal of all waste material should be in accordance with local guidelines. Safety data sheet available for professional user on request.

This kit contains components classified as follows in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008:

2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one hydrochloride

EUH 208 May produce an allergic reaction.

Product safety labeling follows EU GHS guidance.

Avoid foam formation in all reagents and sample types (specimens, calibrators and controls).

### Reagent handling

The reagents in the kit have been assembled into a ready-for-use unit that cannot be separated.

All information required for correct operation is read in from the respective reagent barcodes.

### Storage and stability

Store at 2-8 °C.

Do not freeze.

Store the Elecsys reagent kit **upright** in order to ensure complete availability of the microparticles during automatic mixing prior to use.

Stability:	
unopened at 2-8 °C	up to the stated expiration date
after opening at 2-8 °C	12 weeks
on the analyzers	4 weeks

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## Specimen collection and preparation

Only the specimens listed below were tested and found acceptable. Serum collected using standard sampling tubes or tubes containing separating gel.

Do not use plasma.

Stable for 25 hours at 15-25 °C, 8 days at 2-8 °C, 12 months at -20 °C ( $\pm$  5 °C). The samples may be frozen 3 times.

The sample types listed were tested with a selection of sample collection tubes that were commercially available at the time of testing, i.e. not all available tubes of all manufacturers were tested. Sample collection systems from various manufacturers may contain differing materials which could affect the test results in some cases. When processing samples in primary tubes (sample collection systems), follow the instructions of the tube manufacturer.

Centrifuge samples containing precipitates before performing the assay.

Do not use heat-inactivated samples.

Do not use samples and controls stabilized with azide.

Ensure the samples, calibrators and controls are at 20-25 °C prior to measurement.

Due to possible evaporation effects, samples, calibrators and controls on the analyzers should be analyzed/measured within 2 hours.

## Materials provided

See "Reagents – working solutions" section for reagents.

## Materials required (but not provided)

- [REF] 04854080200, free  $\beta$ hCG CalSet, for 4 x 1.0 mL
- [REF] 04899881200, PreciControl Maternal Care, for 6 x 2.0 mL
- [REF] 11732277122, Diluent Universal, 2 x 16 mL sample diluent or [REF] 03183971122, Diluent Universal, 2 x 36 mL sample diluent
- General laboratory equipment

### **cobas e** analyzer

Additional materials for the **cobas e** 411 analyzer:

- [REF] 11662988122, ProCell, 6 x 380 mL system buffer
- [REF] 11662970122, CleanCell, 6 x 380 mL measuring cell cleaning solution
- [REF] 11930346122, Elecsys SysWash, 1 x 500 mL washwater additive
- [REF] 11933159001, Adapter for SysClean
- [REF] 11706802001, AssayCup, 60 x 60 reaction cups
- [REF] 11706799001, AssayTip, 30 x 120 pipette tips
- [REF] 11800507001, Clean-Liner

For risk calculation of trisomy 21:

- [REF] 08860173190, Elecsys PAPP-A, 100 tests
- [REF] 04854101200, PAPP-A CalSet, for 4 x 1.0 mL
- A suitable software

Additional materials for **cobas e** 601 and **cobas e** 602 analyzers:

- [REF] 04880340190, ProCell M, 2 x 2 L system buffer
- [REF] 04880293190, CleanCell M, 2 x 2 L measuring cell cleaning solution
- [REF] 03023141001, PC/CC-Cups, 12 cups to prewarm ProCell M and CleanCell M before use
- [REF] 03005712190, ProbeWash M, 12 x 70 mL cleaning solution for run finalization and rinsing during reagent change
- [REF] 12102137001, AssayTip/AssayCup, 48 magazines x 84 reaction cups or pipette tips, waste bags
- [REF] 03023150001, WasteLiner, waste bags
- [REF] 03027651001, SysClean Adapter M

Additional materials for all analyzers:

- [REF] 11298500316, ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean, 5 x 100 mL system cleaning solution

## Assay

For optimum performance of the assay follow the directions given in this document for the analyzer concerned. Refer to the appropriate operator's manual for analyzer-specific assay instructions.

Resuspension of the microparticles takes place automatically prior to use. Read in the test-specific parameters via the reagent barcode. If in exceptional cases the barcode cannot be read, enter the 15-digit sequence of numbers.

Bring the cooled reagents to approximately 20 °C and place on the reagent disk (20 °C) of the analyzer. Avoid foam formation. The system automatically regulates the temperature of the reagents and the opening/closing of the bottles.

## Calibration

**Traceability:** This method has been standardized against the International Reference Preparation of Chorionic Gonadotrophin  $\beta$  subunit from the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), code 75/551.

Every Elecsys reagent set has a barcoded label containing specific information for calibration of the particular reagent lot. The predefined master curve is adapted to the analyzer using the relevant CalSet.

**Calibration frequency:** Calibration must be performed once per reagent lot using fresh reagent (i.e. not more than 24 hours since the reagent kit was registered on the analyzer).

Calibration interval may be extended based on acceptable verification of calibration by the laboratory.

Renewed calibration is recommended as follows:

- after 12 weeks when using the same reagent lot
- after 7 days when using the same reagent kit on the analyzer
- as required: e.g. quality control findings outside the defined limits

## Quality control

For quality control, use PreciControl Maternal Care.

In addition, other suitable control material can be used.

Controls for the various concentration ranges should be run individually at least once every 24 hours when the test is in use, once per reagent kit, and following each calibration.

The control intervals and limits should be adapted to each laboratory's individual requirements. Values obtained should fall within the defined limits. Each laboratory should establish corrective measures to be taken if values fall outside the defined limits.

If necessary, repeat the measurement of the samples concerned.

Follow the applicable government regulations and local guidelines for quality control.

## Calculation

The analyzer automatically calculates the analyte concentration of each sample (either in IU/L, mIU/mL or ng/mL).

Conversion factors:	IU/L x 1 = mIU/mL
	IU/L x 1 = ng/mL
	mIU/mL x 1 = ng/mL

## Limitations - interference

The effect of the following endogenous substances and pharmaceutical compounds on assay performance was tested. Interferences were tested up to the listed concentrations and no impact on results was observed.

### Endogenous substances

Compound	Concentration tested
Bilirubin	$\leq$ 428 $\mu$ mol/L or $\leq$ 25 mg/dL
Hemoglobin	$\leq$ 0.621 mmol/L or $\leq$ 1000 mg/dL
Intralipid	$\leq$ 1500 mg/dL
Biotin	$\leq$ 4912 nmol/L or $\leq$ 1200 ng/mL
Rheumatoid factors	$\leq$ 1000 IU/mL
IgG	$\leq$ 7.0 g/dL

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Criterion: For concentrations  $\leq 10$  IU/L the deviation is  $\leq 1.0$  IU/L. For concentrations  $> 10$  IU/L the deviation is  $\leq 10$  %.

There is no high-dose hook effect at free  $\beta$ hCG concentrations up to 800 IU/L.

## Pharmaceutical substances

In vitro tests were performed on 18 commonly used pharmaceuticals. No interference with the assay was found.

In rare cases, interference due to extremely high titers of antibodies to analyte-specific antibodies, streptavidin or ruthenium can occur. These effects are minimized by suitable test design.

For diagnostic purposes, the results should always be assessed in conjunction with the patient's medical history, clinical examination and other findings.

## Limits and ranges

### Measuring range

0.1-190 IU/L (defined by the Limit of Blank and the maximum of the master curve). Values below the Limit of Blank are reported as  $< 0.1$  IU/L. Values above the measuring range are reported as  $> 190$  IU/L (or up to 1900 IU/L for 10-fold diluted samples).

### Lower limits of measurement

*Limit of Blank, Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation*

Limit of Blank = 0.1 IU/L

Limit of Detection = 0.3 IU/L

Limit of Quantitation = 0.5 IU/L

The Limit of Blank, Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation were determined in accordance with the CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute) EP17-A2 requirements.

The Limit of Blank is the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile value from  $n \geq 60$  measurements of analyte-free samples over several independent series. The Limit of Blank corresponds to the concentration below which analyte-free samples are found with a probability of 95 %.

The Limit of Detection is determined based on the Limit of Blank and the standard deviation of low concentration samples. The Limit of Detection corresponds to the lowest analyte concentration which can be detected (value above the Limit of Blank with a probability of 95 %).

The Limit of Quantitation is the lowest analyte concentration that can be reproducibly measured with an intermediate precision CV of  $\leq 20$  %.

### Dilution

Samples with free  $\beta$ hCG concentrations above the measuring range can be diluted with Diluent Universal. The recommended dilution is 1:10 (either automatically by the analyzers or manually). The concentration of the diluted sample must be  $\geq 15$  IU/L.

After manual dilution, multiply the result by the dilution factor.

After dilution by the analyzers, the software automatically takes the dilution into account when calculating the sample concentration.

### Expected values and clinical performance

The following results were obtained with the Elecsys free  $\beta$ hCG assay:

1. *Reference range study using a panel of samples from 251 healthy non-pregnant female donors (Roche study No. R04P026)*

All results were below the lower detection limit of  $< 0.1$  IU/L.

2. *Performance evaluation study of the Elecsys free  $\beta$ hCG assay and the Elecsys PAPP-A assay in first trimester trisomy 21 risk assessment (Roche study No. B05P020 and Roche study No. CIM 000950)<sup>22</sup>*

Measurements with the Elecsys free  $\beta$ hCG assay and the Elecsys PAPP-A assay were conducted in 6 clinical centers in Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, England and Germany. For the first trimester 4746 free  $\beta$ hCG values were available (gestational weeks 8+0 to 13+6). Median values were estimated for each day of the respective gestational age by regression of the calculated medians per day (for details refer to the software SsdwLab). The table below shows the number of single values available for each week and the median predicted by the regression function for the middle day of the respective week (week n+3). Gestational age was calculated from ultrasound crown-to-rump length (CRL) according to Robinson.<sup>23</sup>

Gestational week	8+0 to 8+6	9+0 to 9+6	10+0 to 10+6	11+0 to 11+6	12+0 to 12+6	13+0 to 13+6
Number of samples	178	302	465	805	1557	1439
Median value at the middle of the week (IU/L)	70.7	75.5	57.3	42.8	34.5	29.5

Each laboratory should investigate the transferability of the expected values to its own patient population and if necessary determine its own reference ranges.

For prenatal testing it is recommended that the median values be re-evaluated periodically.

### Clinical performance data

In total, 2629 samples from clinical routine with known outcome were examined. 107 out of the 2629 samples were from pregnancies with confirmed Down syndrome. All samples were measured in parallel with FMF (Fetal Medicine Foundation) certified PAPP-A and free  $\beta$ hCG tests. Risk calculation was performed using a commercial software.

This software makes use of an algorithm described by Palomaki et al.<sup>24</sup> by means of the mathematical calculations for Gaussian multivariate distribution as already published.<sup>25</sup> Risk analysis is based on maternal age, nuchal translucency as well as on the results of the biochemical parameters, corrected by different factors such as maternal weight, smoking and ethnic background of the pregnant woman.

### Individual risk calculation

The calculation of a woman's individual risk of carrying a single fetus affected by trisomy 21 was assessed without consideration of nuchal translucency (NT) data to demonstrate the performance of the biochemical methods. Maternal weight and smoking behavior were taken into account as correction factors. Concordance of risk analysis compared to a competitor method was examined using the cutoff value established in the participating laboratory.<sup>26,27</sup>

It is the responsibility of the user to choose the cutoff which will apply for further procedures.

### Concordance analysis data

A. Concordance analysis in unaffected pregnancies (n = 2522)

Cutoff 5 % FPR*	Risk > cutoff (Roche**)	Risk < cutoff (Roche**)
Risk > cutoff (competitor***)	109 (4.32 %)	18 (0.71 %)
Risk < cutoff (competitor***)	17 (0.67 %)	2378 (94.3 %)

In 2522 unaffected samples the Roche methods correctly classified 2396 samples (specificity: 95.0 %) in comparison to 2395 (specificity: 95.0 %) correctly classified by the competitor methods.

B. Detection rate in confirmed trisomy 21 pregnancies (n = 107)

Cutoff 5 % FPR*	Risk > cutoff (Roche**)	Risk < cutoff (Roche**)
Risk > cutoff (competitor***)	86 (80.4 %)	0
Risk < cutoff (competitor***)	4 (3.74 %)	17 (15.9 %)

In 107 affected samples the Roche methods showed a detection rate of 84.1 % (90/107) in comparison to 80.4 % (86/107) obtained with the competitor methods.

\* FPR = False positive rate

\*\* Combination of results from the Elecsys free  $\beta$ hCG assay and the Elecsys PAPP-A assay

\*\*\* Combination of results from the competitor's free  $\beta$ hCG and PAPP-A methods

### Specific performance data

Representative performance data on the analyzers are given below. Results obtained in individual laboratories may differ.

## Precision

Precision was determined using Elecsys reagents, pooled human sera and controls in a protocol (EP05-A3) of the CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute): 2 runs per day in duplicate each for 21 days (n = 84). The following results were obtained:

cobas e 411 analyzer					
Sample	Mean IU/L	Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
		SD IU/L	CV %	SD IU/L	CV %
Human serum 1	0.517	0.012	2.3	0.019	3.7
Human serum 2	9.09	0.182	2.0	0.422	4.6
Human serum 3	9.29	0.230	2.5	0.467	5.0
Human serum 4	89.7	2.05	2.3	3.95	4.4
Human serum 5	181	3.45	1.9	8.96	5.0
PC <sup>b)</sup> Maternal Care 1	15.2	0.280	1.8	0.587	3.9
PC Maternal Care 2	52.6	0.929	1.8	2.21	4.2
PC Maternal Care 3	106	2.41	2.3	4.40	4.2

b) PC = PreciControl

cobas e 601 and cobas e 602 analyzers					
Sample	Mean IU/L	Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
		SD IU/L	CV %	SD IU/L	CV %
Human serum 1	0.484	0.014	3.0	0.024	4.9
Human serum 2	8.23	0.234	2.8	0.339	4.1
Human serum 3	8.41	0.218	2.6	0.380	4.5
Human serum 4	81.8	1.84	2.2	2.96	3.6
Human serum 5	174	4.50	2.6	7.79	4.5
PC Maternal Care 1	13.8	0.345	2.5	0.540	3.9
PC Maternal Care 2	47.2	1.07	2.3	1.97	4.2
PC Maternal Care 3	95.9	1.96	2.0	4.04	4.2

## Method comparison

A comparison of the Elecsys free  $\beta$ hCG assay, [REF] 04854071200 (y) with a commercially available free  $\beta$ hCG assay (x) using human sera gave the following correlations:

Number of samples measured: 3373

Passing/Bablok<sup>28</sup> Linear regression  
 $y = 0.944x - 2.74$   $y = 0.994x - 4.84$   
 $r = 0.902$   $r = 0.976$

The sample concentrations were between 4.96 and 187 IU/L.

## Analytical specificity

Cross-reactivity against intact hCG < 0.05 %. No cross-reactivity against hCG $\alpha$  chain and TSH detectable.

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For further information, please refer to the appropriate operator's manual for the analyzer concerned, the respective application sheets, the product information and the Method Sheets of all necessary components (if available in your country).

A point (period/stop) is always used in this Method Sheet as the decimal separator to mark the border between the integral and the fractional parts of a decimal numeral. Separators for thousands are not used.

## Symbols

Roche Diagnostics uses the following symbols and signs in addition to those listed in the ISO 15223-1 standard (for USA: see [dialog.roche.com](http://dialog.roche.com) for definition of symbols used):

	Contents of kit
	Analyzers/Instruments on which reagents can be used
	Reagent
	Calibrator
	Volume after reconstitution or mixing
	Global Trade Item Number

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