

Survey for antibodies against *Brucella*

EQA Provider: ESfEQA GmbH
Heidelberg

Survey Coordinator: Dr. D. Groche

Instructions for Use

Notes:

The samples should be considered as potentially infectious. The usual precautions in the laboratory for potential hazardous samples apply for these samples. The blood donations used for production were found to be non-reactive for HBsAg, anti-HIV 1/2 and anti-HCV. The samples should be applied by trained personnel only.



WARNING: Contains methylisothiazolones.
H317 May cause allergic skin reaction.



This product contains human source material and should be considered as potentially infectious.

Various tasks of the proficiency testing scheme may occasionally be given over to qualified subcontractors. However, ESfEQA is responsible to the participants for the subcontractor's work.

Results from sample analysis may only be disclosed to colleagues from other laboratories after the testing period has been concluded.

By registering for and participating in this EQA participants agree to accept the general terms and conditions of ESfEQA GmbH. These can be retrieved online at www.esfeqa.eu.

1. Intended Use

The samples are intended for use as qualitative and quantitative control material for External Quality Assessment (EQA) in medical laboratories for antibodies against *Brucella*:

anti-*Brucella* IgA, IgG, and IgM
anti-*Brucella*, agglutinating antibodies (qualitative)

Please note that, in general, we will not issue a certificate of successful participation for the quantitative determination of anti-*Brucella* antibodies since the target values are reagent-specific and a bias to the calculated consensus value does not necessarily represent a poor laboratory performance. The statistical evaluation is for information purposes only.

2. Product Description

The liquid samples derive from defibrinated human plasma and are ready-to-use.

3. Storage and Stability

The samples should be stored upright at 2-8 °C. They are stable at least until the deadline for data submission as indicated on the sample labels.

4. Sample Preparation and Analysis

Allow the sample to equilibrate to room temperature for 15 minutes prior to testing. Directly before use, agitate the sample by gently inverting the vial several times.

All samples should be treated the same way as patient samples and analyzed in accordance with the instructions of the instrument and reagent manufacturers.

Quantitative analysis: For measurement results below/ above the measuring range of the instrument, the lower/ upper measuring limit should be reported as a quantitative value. Please do not further dilute the sample in case of obtaining measurement results above the measuring range.

When using **Euroimmun ELISA tests** for the quantitative determination of antibodies, only results from a quantitative analysis in the unit "RE/mL", which requires a 3-point calibration, are evaluated. Semiquantitative results in the unit "Ratio" are not evaluated in the quantitative determination of antibodies.

For the qualitative interpretation of (positive/borderline/ negative) quantitative measurement results, please refer to the reference ranges for adults of the applied assay.

5. Dates and Submission of Test Results

Testing Periods: Please refer to the sample labels. Results can be submitted anytime within the testing period indicated on the sample labels.

For the evaluation of survey results, please indicate the method and the reagent used. The indication of the instrument is optional.

The complete lists are available at www.esfeqa.de or can be requested at info@esfeqa.de and +49 622 1 4166-700.

5.1. Submission of Results by use of the Web-Application TEQA

Please submit your results electronically to ESfEQA at <https://teqa.esfeqa.eu> while indicating the method and the reagent used. The indication of the instrument used is optional. To change the configuration please refer to the TEQA LAB Instructions at <http://www.esfeqa.eu/en/eqa-programs/instructions-for-participants/>.

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Contact your local distributor of ESfEQA programs or ESfEQA directly if you need assistance for the registration, configuration and result submission in TEQA.

If you do not want to transfer any result for one of the analytes that have been configured, deactivate the respective analyte for the corresponding survey sample using the cross symbol, which is displayed to the right of the analyte. Please include a brief explanation in the appearing text box, why you have not analyzed that parameter.

By pressing the cross-symbol button again, the result input field is reactivated.

All entries are confirmed by pressing the button "confirm". The successful transmission of the results is indicated by "data saved".

5.2. Submission of Results by use of Result Sheets

As an alternative to the result submission via our web-application TEQA, use the edit-able result form provided on the ESfEQA website.

Please transmit the completed result sheet including the method and the reagent used, for each parameter via email (info@esfeqa.eu) or fax (+49 6221 4166-790) to ESfEQA.

6. Deadline for Data Submission

The deadlines for submitting results are indicated on the sample labels (time zone GMT +1).

7. Reports and Certificates

The data will be evaluated by ESfEQA.

Please note that, in general, we will not issue a certificate of successful participation for the quantitative determination of anti-*Brucella* antibodies since the target values are reagent-specific and a bias to the calculated consensus value does not necessarily represent a poor laboratory performance. The statistical evaluation is for information purposes only.

The individual laboratory reports and certificates can be retrieved online at <https://teqa.esfeqa.eu>.