1. INTENDED USE

ALPHADIA ASCA SCREEN DOT kit is an Immunodot kit intended for the detection in human sera of IgG/IgA antibodies against Saccharomyces cerevisiae (mannan) antigen.

2. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The test is based on the principle of an Enzyme Immunoassay. The test strip is composed of a membrane fixed on a plastic support. During test procedure, the strips are incubated with diluted patients sera. Human antibodies, if present, bind to the corresponding specific antigen(s) on the membrane. Unbound or excess antibodies are removed by washing and AP-conjugated goat antibodies against human IgG/IgA are added to the strips. This enzyme conjugate binds to the antigen-antibody complexes. After a second washing step to remove excess conjugate, substrate solution is added. Enzyme activity, if present, leads to the development of purple dots on the membrane pads. The intensity of the coloration is directly proportional to the amount of antibody present in the sample.

3. KIT CONTENTS

Abbreviations:
TBS = Tris Buffer Saline; BSA = Bovine Serum Albumin ; MIT = MethylIsoThiazolone ; AP = Alkaline Phosphatase; NBT = NitroBlue Tetrazolium; BCIP = Bromo-Chloro-IndolyI-Phosphate.

TO BE DILUTED:

(10 X) Wash buffer: 1 x 40 ml (colourless)
Contains: TBS, Tween; Preservative : MIT

READY TO USE:

Dot strips: 24 units
(3 Dots each: 1 negative control (C-), 1 antigen, 1 positive control (C+))

Diluent buffer: 1 x 40 ml (yellow)
Contains: TBS, BSA, Tween, Preservative: MIT

Conjugate: 1 x 40 ml (red)
Contains: AP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG/IgA, Preservative : MIT

Substrate: 1 x 40 ml (brown bottle, pale yellow solution)
Contains: NBT/BCIP, Preservative: 0.05 % NaN₃ (sodium azide)

Incubation trays: 3 units
(with 8 wells for incubation)
4. MATERIAL REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

Rocking or shaking platform / Micropipettes / Timer / Graduated cylinder / Distilled or deionised water / Tweezers / Absorbent and/or filter paper

5. STORAGE

The reconstituted Wash Solution is stable for at least one month at 2-8°C. Reagents and strips can be stored at 2-8°C until the expiry date indicated on each vial or tube.
Place unused strips back into the provided tube, seal it and store at 2-8°C. Chromogen/Substrate (NBT/BCIP) shall be stored at 2-8°C.

6. PRECAUTIONS

All reagents are for in vitro diagnostic and professional use only. The kit contains potentially hazardous components thus avoid contact with skin, eyes or mucosae. Patient samples shall be handled as potentially infectious. Do not substitute reagents or mix strips with different batch numbers this may lead to variations in the results. Avoid touching strips with fingers. Use tweezers or wear laboratory gloves. Allow reagents and strips to equilibrate at room temperature before use. Strictly observe incubation times. Handle Chromogen Substrate (NBT/BCIP) with care in order to avoid any contamination with Alkaline Phosphatase.

7. SAMPLE COLLECTION, HANDLING AND STORAGE

Samples should be preferentially fresh-collected ones. Sera with debris should be low speed centrifuged. Blood samples should be collected in dry tubes or in tubes containing EDTA or heparin. After separation serum samples shall be used immediately or aliquoted and stored at 2-8°C for some days or frozen at -20°C for longer periods. Avoid repeated freezing thawing cycles.

8. ASSAY PROCEDURE

BASIC HANDLING AND TIPS:
The dots are precoloured blue on the strips, ensuring that all antigens have been dotted correctly onto the membrane. This blue coloration disappears during the first step of the incubation. During incubation with the wash buffer a faint pink background coloration appears on the membrane and disappears upon drying at the end of the procedure.
During the procedure, agitation of the incubation tray is necessary to ensure efficient circulation of fluids over the membrane. A Rocking platform is the shaker of choice. Be sure to adjust the movement of the shaker in such a way that no spilling of solutions or cross-contamination between the wells can occur.
After each filling of the wells with solution, agitate manually the incubation tray until the strips are completely immersed in order to remove air bubbles which may be trapped under the strip. Alternatively, floating strips may be forced into the solution by pushing down (with tweezers or pipette tip) on the upper part of the strip (plastic label zone).
Avoid touching the membrane zone of the strip with fingers, tweezers or pipette tips. Always use the plastic label zone for handling or manipulation. The whole procedure has to be run at room temperature.

8.1 Reagents preparation

1. Allow all components to equilibrate at room temperature before use.
2. Dilute the concentrated Wash Buffer 10x with distilled water.
   Prepare 15 ml diluted Wash buffer per strip tested
   Example: 1,5 ml concentrated wash buffer + 13,5 ml distilled water for one strip.

8.2 Pipetting flow chart

1. Place one strip per patient into the wells, blue dots facing up.
2. Add 2 ml Wash Buffer per well. Incubate (shake) for 10 min.
   Upon correct incubation the blue coloration of the dots completely disappears.
   If not prolong the procedure until the colour of the dots fades completely.
3. Discard solution from the wells.
Remove liquid by slowly inverting the plate. The strips will adhere to the bottom of the wells. Dry the edge of the tray with absorbent paper.

4. Add **1,5 ml Sample Diluent** per well.

5. Add **10 µl patient sample** per well. **Incubate** (shake) **for 60 min.**  
   Avoid touching the membrane with the pipette tip. Preferentially dispense the sample into the solution over the upper part of the strip (plastic label zone).  
   **Note:** Steps 4 and 5 can be combined by pre-diluting the sample in a glass or plastic tube (1,5 ml diluent + 10 µl patient sample → Mix → Add to the well)

6. **Discard** solution from the wells.  
   Remove liquid by slowly inverting the plate. The strips will adhere to the bottom of the wells. Dry the edge of the tray with absorbent paper.

7. **Wash 3 x 3 minutes** with **1,5 ml Wash Buffer** per well (shake).  
   Following each wash step remove liquid from the wells by slowly inverting the plate. The strips will adhere to the bottom of the wells. Dry the edges of the tray with absorbent paper.

8. Add **1,5 ml Conjugate** per well. **Incubate** (shake) **for 30 min.**

9. **Discard** solution from the wells.  
   Remove liquid by slowly inverting the plate. The strips will adhere to the bottom of the wells. Dry the edge of the tray with absorbent paper.

10. **Wash 3 x 3 min.** with **1,5 ml Wash Buffer** (shake)  
    Following each wash step remove liquid from the wells by slowly inverting the plate. The strips will adhere to the bottom of the wells. Dry the edges of the tray with absorbent paper.

11. Add **1,5 ml Substrate** per well. **Incubate** (shake) **for 10 min.**

12. **Discard** solution from the wells.  
    Remove liquid by slowly inverting the plate. The strips will adhere to the bottom of the wells. Dry the edge of the tray with absorbent paper.

13. **Wash 1 x 3 min.** with **1,5 ml Wash solution** per well to stop the reaction.

14. **Collect** the strips from the wells and allow them to dry for 30 minutes on absorbent paper. The interpretation has to be done in the 24 hours following the test processing.

### 9. RESULTS INTERPRETATION

1. Peel off the cover of the adhesive on the back side of each strip and attach strips dots face up onto the marked fields of the interpretation sheet provided with the kit. This will indicate the respective positions of the different controls and antigens on the membrane.

2. The first upper dot (Positive Control Dot) must be positive for all patients. Only a clearly coloured Positive Control Dot ensures your results are valid and operation was correct and/or kit components were not degraded. If the first upper dot is not coloured, the test has failed and cannot be interpreted further.

3. Compare the specific antigen dots to the Negative Control Dot (which always is the last bottom dot). The colour intensity of the antigen dots is directly proportional to the titer of the specific antibody in the patient sample.  
   The colour intensity of the Negative Control Dot may vary depending on the sample characteristics. If the sample is free of interfering substances the Negative Control Dot may be even close to uncoloured. In contrast, a highly coloured Negative Control Dot indicates a high rate of unspecific binding in the sample.

**POSITIVE RESULT:** A sample is positive for a specific antibody if the colour intensity of the corresponding Antigen Dot is higher than the intensity of the Negative Control Dot.

**NEGATIVE RESULT:** A sample is negative for a specific antibody if the colour intensity of corresponding Antigen Dot is lower or equal than the intensity of the Negative Control Dot.
NB: A weak coloration of an antigen dot, when close to the color intensity of the Negative Control dot may be difficult to differentiate by visual inspection only. In such cases, it is recommended to use Dr DOT software and scanning system (for more information on the Dr DOT software, please contact your distributor) and refer to the corresponding instructions for more accurate interpretation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr DOT arbitrary unit (AU)</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 5</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 10</td>
<td>Equivocal (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Low titers of auto-antibodies may occur in healthy patients. For this reason low positive results (results comprised between 5 to 10 AU), although valid, are less reliable than results which are further than the cut-off (> 10 AU). Retesting of the patient, preferably by using a new sample, is therefore recommended. If the result is still equivocal on retesting, then other diagnostic tests and/or clinical information should be used to help determine the autoimmune status of the patient.*

10. PERFORMANCES

10.1 Reproducibility
Reference control samples were tested for each antibody in statistically relevant repetitions in a same run or over several runs for the calculation of intra- and inter-assay variation, respectively. In every case the intensity of the dots were within the specified range and standard deviations were less than 10 %

Detailed analytical data are available upon request.

10.2 Sensitivity and Specificity
Characterized samples (confirmed positive or negative for specific antibodies by reference laboratories and/or methodologies) were assayed following the test instructions. Sensitivity and Specificity were calculated from the results generated by the Dr DOT software.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mannan</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ true positive</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ false positive</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- false negative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- true negative</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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Sensitivity 100%
Specificity 100%

11. TEST LIMITATIONS

1. A diagnosis should not be made solely on the basis of the test results.
2. Test results should always be interpreted in conjunction with the complete clinical evaluation and the results of other diagnostic procedures, only.
3. ALPHADIA sa/nv and its authorised distributors shall not be liable for any damages resulting from a change or modification in the procedure indicated. The kit should be performed by trained technical staff only.
4. In any case, GLP should be applied with all general and individual regulations to the use of this kit.
5. ALPHADIA sa/nv’s liability shall in any event be limited to the replacement of the kit.

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY
Up to date literature is available upon request. Please inquire at contact@alphadia.be

Guarantee:
ALPHADIA sa/nv does not accept any direct, indirect or consequent responsibility for the mishandling of the reagents included in the kit.