

# PRONTO<sup>®</sup> ApoE kit

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For the detection of the apolipoprotein E gene ( $\epsilon 2$ ,  $\epsilon 3$  and  $\epsilon 4$  alleles)

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## Instructions for Use

**REF** 9903

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**48**  
Tests



## INTENDED USE

The PRONTO<sup>®</sup> ApoE kit is a single nucleotide primer extension ELISA assay intended for the qualitative *in vitro* detection of  $\epsilon 2$ ,  $\epsilon 3$  and  $\epsilon 4$  alleles of the apolipoprotein E gene in amplified human DNA

**For *in vitro* diagnostic use**

## BACKGROUND

Apolipoprotein E is a plasma protein, which can exist in several different forms, involved in the transport of cholesterol and other hydrophobic molecules and is encoded by a gene on chromosome 19. Certain forms of apolipoprotein E have been linked to disorders of cholesterol metabolism and coronary heart disease.

Apolipoprotein E is important for removing excess cholesterol from the blood, and does so by carrying cholesterol to receptors on the surface of liver cells. Defects in this protein sometimes result in its inability to bind to the receptors, which leads to an increase in blood cholesterol, and consequently to a higher of atherosclerosis.

The ApoE gene contains four exons encoding the 299-amino acid chain of the mature ApoE. Three common alleles,  $\epsilon 2$ ,  $\epsilon 3$ ,  $\epsilon 4$ , in the ApoE gene are identified by the presence of either Cysteine or Arginine codons in locations 112 and 158 respectively.

The frequency of the three major alleles in the general population is about 7%, 77%, and 16% respectively. The combination of these three alleles ( $\epsilon 2$ ,  $\epsilon 3$ ,  $\epsilon 4$ ) defines six genotypes.

Recently, an association between risk for late onset Alzheimer's disease (AD) and the ApoE gene has been demonstrated. It appears that 34% to 65% of individuals with AD carry the ApoE  $\epsilon 4$  allele, while it is present in approximately 24% to 31% of the unaffected adult population. Age of onset in  $4/4$  homozygotes is lower than in  $3/3$  or  $3/4$  heterozygotes.

Individuals with the ApoE  $4/4$  allele carry an increased risk of atherosclerotic vascular disease and increased levels of total cholesterol and betalipoprotein.

## ☞ REFERENCES

1. Mahley RW. Apolipoprotein E: cholesterol transport protein with expanding role in cell biology. *Science*, 1988;240:622-630.
2. Wilson PWF, Myers RH, Larson MG, Ordovas JM, Wolf PA, Schaefer EJ. Apolipoprotein E alleles, dyslipidemia, and coronary heart disease. *J.A.M.A.*, 1994;272:1666-1671.
3. Roses AD. Apolipoprotein E affects the rate of Alzheimer disease expression: beta-amyloid burden is a secondary consequence dependent on APOE genotype and duration of disease. *J. Neuropathol. Exp. Neurol.*, 1994;53:429-437.
4. Corder EH, Saunders AM, Strittmatter WJ, et al. Gene dose of Apolipoprotein E type 4 allele and the risk of Alzheimer's disease in late onset families. *Science*, 1993;261:921-923.
5. Saunders AM, et al. Apolipoprotein E and Alzheimer's disease. *Lancet*, 1993;342: 697-99.

## ☞ WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS

- Reagents supplied in this kit may contain up to 0.1% sodium azide that is toxic if swallowed. Sodium azide has been reported to form explosive lead or copper azides in laboratory plumbing. To prevent the accumulation of these compounds, flush the sink and plumbing with large quantities of water.
- TMB Substrate solution is an irritant of the skin and mucous membranes. Avoid direct contact.
- The Stop Solution contains dilute sulfuric acid (1M), which is an irritant of the eyes and the skin. In case of contact with the eyes, immediately flush them with water. Do not add water to this product. In case of an accident or discomfort consult a physician (if possible, show the bottle label).
- In addition to reagents in this kit, the user may come in contact with other harmful chemicals that are not provided, such as ethidium bromide and EDTA. The appropriate manufacturers' Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) should be consulted prior to the use of these compounds.

## ☞ ASSAY OVERVIEW

The PRONTO<sup>®</sup> procedure detects predefined polymorphisms in DNA sequences, using a single nucleotide primer extension ELISA assay.

- 1 **TARGET DNA AMPLIFICATION:** The DNA fragments that encompass the tested mutations are amplified. This amplified DNA is the substrate for the primer extension reaction.  
The following steps are carried out using the PRONTO<sup>®</sup> kit:
- 2 **POST-AMPLIFICATION TREATMENT:** The amplified DNA is treated to inactivate free unincorporated nucleotides, so that they will not interfere with the primer extension reaction.
- 3 **PRIMER EXTENSION REACTION:** Is carried out in a 96-well thermoplate. Each well contains a 5'-labeled primer that hybridizes to the tested DNA next to the suspected mutation site, and a single biotinylated nucleotide species (corresponding to mutant or wild type), which complements the nucleotide base at the tested site. Each post-amplification treated sample is tested in four wells: two for codon 112 and two for codon 158. The first well of each codon tests for the presence of the cysteine codon (Cys) while the second well tests for the arginine codon (Arg). The specific combination of codons determines the genotype in the ApoE gene.  
The biotinylated nucleotide will be incorporated to the primer in the course of the reaction or not added, depending on the tested individual's genotype.
- 4 **DETECTION BY ELISA:** The detection of the biotinylated primers is carried out by an ELISA procedure: The biotin-labeled primers bind to a streptavidin-coated ELISA plate and are detected by a peroxidase-labeled antibody (HRP) directed to the 5' antigenic moiety of the primer.  
A peroxidase reaction occurs in the presence of TMB-Substrate.
- 5 **INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS:** The results are determined either visually (substrate remains clear or turns blue) or colorimetrically (substrate remains clear or turns yellow) following the addition of the stop solution.

## DISCLAIMER

- Results obtained using this kit should be confirmed by an alternative method.
- Confirmed results should be used and interpreted only in the context of the overall clinical picture. The manufacturer is not responsible for any clinical decisions that are taken.

The user of this kit should emphasize these points when reporting results to the diagnosing clinician or the genetic counselor.

## CONTENTS OF THE KIT

ApoE Amplification Mix.....	1 vial (clear cap)	(0.95 µL)
PRONTO® Buffer 5 .....	1 bottle	(3 mL)
Solution C .....	1 vial (yellow cap)	(130 µL)
Solution D.....	1 vial (red cap)	(100 µL)
ColoRed™ Oil .....	1 dropper bottle	(13 mL)
Assay Solution.....	1 bottle (green solution)	(100 mL)
Wash Solution (conc. 20x).....	1 bottle	(100 mL)
HRP Conjugate .....	1 vial	(450 µL)
TMB Substrate .....	1 bottle	(40 mL)
Stop Solution (1M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ) .....	1 bottle	(30 mL)
PRONTO® ApoE Plates .....	2 individually pouched plates	
Detection Plates .....	2 Straptavidin-coated ELISA plates	

## STORAGE AND STABILITY

- Store at 2-8°C. **Do not freeze.**
- Do not use the kit beyond its expiration date (marked on box label). Stability is maintained even when components are re-opened several times.
- Minimize the time reagents spend at room temperature.
- This kit has been calibrated and tested as a unit; **do not mix reagents from kits with different lot numbers.**

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Taq DNA polymerase
- Deionized water (about two liters per kit)
- Thermowell plate or tubes (thin wall) for the post-amplification treatment
- Sterile pipette tips
- Troughs/reagent reservoirs - for use with the detection reagents
- Thermocycler for a 96-well microplate
- Multichannel pipettes (5-50 µL and 50-200 µL)
- Positive displacement pipettes (1-5µL, 5-50µL, 50-200µL & 200-1,000 µL)
- Filtered tips
- ELISA reader with 450 nm filter (optional - 620 nm filter)
- Polaroid camera and color film to record results (optional)
- Automated microtiter plate washer or squirt bottle
- Vortex mixer
- Timer

## ASSAY PROCEDURE

### 1 DNA AMPLIFICATION

- Dispense** 2 µL template DNA (from an initial concentration of about 150 ng/µL) to a thermoplate well or tube.
- Prepare** a Master Mix in a sterile vial, according to the volumes indicated in the table below, plus one spare reaction volume. Add the Taq DNA polymerase to the Master Mix shortly before dispensing the Mix. Gently mix by pipetting in and out several times.

#### PCR Master mix

Solution	Volume for one sample
Amplification mix ApoE	13.0 µL
Taq DNA Polymerase (5 u/µL)	0.5 µL

The following Taq DNA polymerases were validated for use with this procedure (lacking 3' → 5' exonuclease activity):

- PHARMACIA            Cat. # 27-0799
- SIGMA                Cat. # D-1806
- ROCHE                Cat. # 1-146-165
- PROMEGA            Cat. # M-1661
- BIOLINE             Cat. # M95801B
- PERKIN ELMER      Cat. # M801-0060

3. **Dispense** 13 µL Master mix to each well or tube.
4. **Add** one drop of ColoRed™-Oil to each well. Do not touch the wells with the tip of the oil bottle. Even when using a thermocycler with a hot lid, it is essential to use oil.
5. **Place** the thermoplate well or tube in a thermocycler previously programmed with the following protocol:

**Cycling protocol**

1.	99° C	5 minutes	
2.	99° C	30 seconds	} 35 cycles
3.	64° C	60 seconds	
4.	72° C	45 seconds	
5.	72° C	5 minutes	

6. To verify amplification, **subject** 5 µL of the amplified product to electrophoresis in a 2% agarose gel.  
The size of the ApoE amplified fragment is 442bp.

**Limitation of the test:**

Different Taq DNA polymerases and thermocyclers may influence the amplification yield dramatically. It is recommended to use a validated Taq DNA polymerase and a calibrated thermocycler.

**2 POST-AMPLIFICATION TREATMENT**

- 1 **Prepare** a post-amplification treatment mix shortly before use. Combine in a single test tube the volumes appearing in the following table, multiplied by the number of tested samples, plus one spare volume.

**Post-Amplification Mix**

Solution	Volume for one sample
PRONTO® Buffer 5	30.0 µL
Solution C	1.5 µL
Solution D	1.0 µL
Total volume	32.5 µL

- 2 **Mix** gently by pipetting this solution in and out five times. Do not vortex.
- 3 **Add** 32.5 µL of the post-amplification mix into each well or tube containing **10 µL** of each amplified DNA sample.  
*Ensure that the solution you add becomes well mixed with the DNA sample by pipetting.*
- 4 **Add** one drop of ColoRed™ oil to each tube. Do not touch the tube with the tip of the oil bottle. Even when using a thermocycler with a hot lid, it is essential to use oil.
- 5 **Incubate** for 30 minutes at 37°C, then for 10 minutes at 95°C in a thermocycler.

**If not used immediately, the treated sample can be kept at 2-8°C for a maximum of four hours.**

### 3 PRIMER EXTENSION REACTION

1 Program the thermocycler as follows:

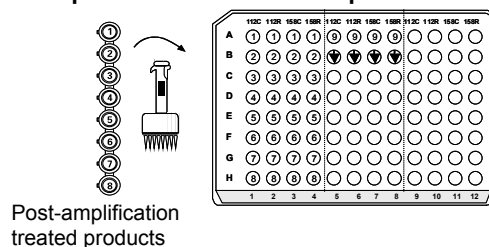
Cycle	Temperature	Time
Start:	99°C	15 sec.
20 cycles:	99°C	30 sec.
	60°C	10 sec.
End:	18-25° C - Cool down to room temperature	

2 Take a PRONTO® Plate out of its pouch. Notice the color at the bottom of the wells. For each mutation tested, use a pink well (*mut*) and a blue well (*wt*). Mark the plate with the ID numbers of your test.

*If you intend to use less than a full plate, you can cut the plate and return the unused portion to the pouch. If you do this, seal the pouch immediately with its desiccant card inside.*

3 Dispense 8 µL of post-amplification treated DNA into the first four wells in row A (see Fig. 1). Continue with the remaining samples. It is possible to transfer up to eight samples simultaneously using a multichannel pipette. Ensure that the solution is at the bottom of each well by inspecting the plate from below. Be sure that the well does not contain air bubbles.

**Figure 1:** Scheme for dispensing post-amplification treated DNA samples into the PRONTO® ApoE Plate



#### Recommendation:

Use a new set of tips for each column. Alternatively use the same set of tips, but do not touch the bottom of the wells.

- 4 Tilt the plate and add one drop of ColoRed™ oil to each well. Do not touch the well with the tip of the oil bottle. Even when using a thermocycler with a hot lid, it is essential to use oil.
- 5 Turn on the thermocycler and start the cycling protocol. Insert the plate when the temperature has reached 90°C.
- 6 When the thermal cycling is complete, you can proceed to the ELISA assay, or store the reaction products in the refrigerator and carry out the visualization steps within 24 hours.

### 3 ELISA ASSAY - COLOR DEVELOPMENT

The ELISA assay consists of the following steps:

- **Binding** the biotinylated primer to the Streptavidin-coated plate.
- **Washing** away the unbound primer.
- **Incubating** with the HRP conjugate.
- **Washing** away the unbound conjugate.
- **Incubating** with the TMB Substrate (color development).

The results of this assay can be determined in one of two ways:

- Visually:** by monitoring the development of the blue color.
- or
- Colorimetrically:** by adding Stop Solution and measuring the absorbance using an ELISA reader at a wavelength of 450 nm (yellow color).

**! Before proceeding with the ELISA assay make your choice of visual or colorimetric determination of results.**

#### PREPARATION

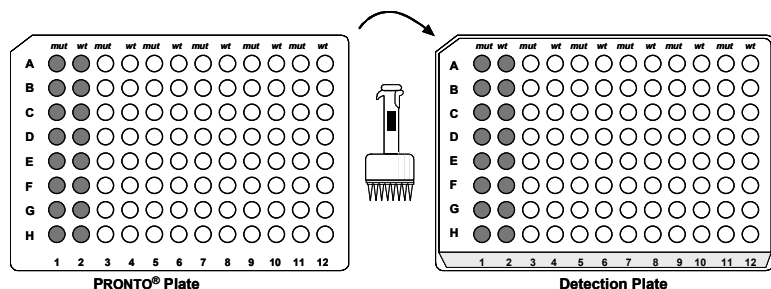
- All components used in the detection step should reach room temperature before starting the assay.
- Dilute the 20x Wash Solution to 1x with deionized water.  
*Dilute solution may be kept at 18-25° C for up to one month.*
- Peel off the plastic cover of the Detection Plate. Mark the side of the plate with the kit name and test number.

- Place the PRONTO® plate and the Detection plate side by side, oriented in the same direction (see Fig. 2).

### TRANSFER TO THE DETECTION PLATE

- Fill a reagent reservoir /trough with the green colored Assay Solution. About 11 mL will be required for a 96-well plate.
- Using a multichannel pipette add 100 µL of Assay Solution to the bottom of each well in column 1 of the PRONTO® Plate. Gently mix by pipetting in and out 3-4 times.
- Without changing tips, transfer** 100 µL from each well in this column to the first column in the Detection Plate (see Fig. 2).  
*Ensure that the solution at the bottom of all wells of the PRONTO® plate has turned green by inspecting them from below.*

**Figure 2:** Transferring the primer extension products from the PRONTO® Plate to Detection Plate



- Repeat this procedure, using a new set of tips for each column. It is essential to maintain the order of the samples.  
*10 µL of oil carried over or 10 µL of the sample left behind will not significantly affect the detection process.*
- Incubate for 10 minutes at room temperature (18-25°C).

### DETECTION BY ELISA

Procedure	Visual Detection (Blue color)	Colorimetric Detection (Yellow color)
<b>6</b> While the incubation of Assay Solution is taking place, dilute the Conjugated HRP in Assay Solution. For every detection plate used (96-well), about 11 mL of diluted conjugate is required. <b>This solution should be freshly prepared each time the test is run.</b>	Dilution: 1:100 (110 µL of conjugated HRP into 11 mL Assay Solution)	Dilution: 1:300 (36 µL of conjugated HRP into 11 mL Assay Solution)
<b>7</b> Empty the plate and wash four times with 350 µL 1x Wash Solution. Ensure that the plate is relatively dry after the last wash step.	✓	✓
<b>8</b> Add 100 µL of freshly diluted conjugated HRP to all the wells, with a multichannel pipette.	✓	✓
<b>9</b> Incubate at room temperature.	10 minutes	10 minutes
<b>10</b> Wash the plate as in step 7.	✓	✓
<b>11</b> Add 100 µL TMB-Substrate to each well with a multichannel pipette and incubate at room temperature (18-25°C) until blue color appears.	15 minutes	15 minutes
<b>12</b> Add 100 µL of Stop Solution to each well with a multichannel pipette. The solution will turn yellow immediately.	—	100 µL
<b>13</b> The results can be documented using a Polaroid camera with color film (for example - Fuji FP-100C), or by reading the absorbance using an ELISA reader (signal wavelength setting).	O.D. 620 nm	—
<b>14</b> Within two hours read the absorbance using an ELISA reader (single wavelength setting).	—	O.D. 450 nm

## VALIDATION OF THE RESULTS

### For Visual Detection:

For every mutation site tested, at least one of the wells should develop a deep blue color. Otherwise, the results are invalid for the relevant mutation.

### For Colorimetric Detection:

For every mutation site tested, at least one of the two wells should yield an O.D.  $\geq 0.50$  reading.

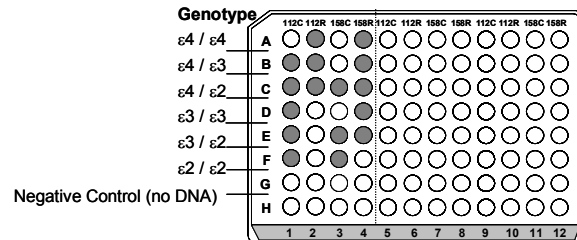
## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

**Important:** Heterozygous or homozygous mutant results should be confirmed by retesting. It is recommended to repeat the test with newly extracted DNA.

### Criteria for Visual Interpretation

A deep blue color indicates a positive signal, while negative signals appear as a clear or pale blue-colored well (see Fig. 3).

**Figure 3:** Genotype assignment according to visual inspection of test results



## CRITERIA FOR COLORIMETRIC INTERPRETATION

The genotype of each sample is determined according to two criteria:

1. The O.D. values of the *mut* and *wt* wells.
2. The ratio of *mut* / *wt* O.D. values.

Calculate the *mut* / *wt* ratios by dividing the signal of the *mut* well by the signal of the *wt* well.

Identify the correct genotype using the table below:

Genotype	<i>mut</i> well (O.D. 450)	<i>wt</i> well (O.D. 450)	<i>mut</i> / <i>wt</i> ratio
Normal	O.D. $\leq 0.35$	O.D. $\geq 0.5$	ratio $< 0.5$
Heterozygote	O.D. $\geq 0.5$	O.D. $\geq 0.5$	$0.5 < \text{ratio} < 2.0$
Homozygote	O.D. $\geq 0.5$	O.D. $\leq 0.35$	ratio $> 2.0$

! Samples with values not included in the above table are considered indeterminate and should be retested.

## ApoE - PROCEDURE SUMMARY

**DNA EXTRACTION:** from human whole blood, using a validated method.

**DNA AMPLIFICATION:**

**Volumes per reaction:** 2 µL Template DNA + 13 µL Amplification Mix + 0.5 µL Taq Polymerase.

**Cycling protocol:**

99°C 5 min → 35 cycles of {99°C 30 sec. / 64°C 60 sec. / 72°C 45 sec.} → 72°C 5 min.

**POST-AMPLIFICATION PROCEDURE:**

- Volumes per reaction:
 

PRONTO® Buffer 5	30.0 µL
Solution C	1.5 µL
Solution D	1.0 µL
- **Pipette** in and out to mix.
- **Add** 32.5 µL into each well containing 10 µL amplified product, mix well.
- **Add** one drop of ColoRed™ oil.
- **Incubate** 30 minutes at 37°C, then 10 minutes at 95°C.

**PRIMER EXTENSION REACTION:**

- **Dispense** 8 µL of each Post-Amplification treated DNA into four wells of the PRONTO® Plate.
  - **Add** one drop of ColoRed™ oil.
  - **Start** the cycling protocol:
  - 99°C 15 sec → 20 cycles of {99°C 30 sec. / 60°C 10 sec.} → Cool.
- Insert the PRONTO® Plate in the Thermocycler when the temperature is 90°C

**DETECTION:**

- Add 100 µL Assay Solution to each well in the PRONTO® Plate and mix.
- Transfer 100 µL from each well of the PRONTO® Plate to the identical position in the Detection Plate. Incubate 10 minutes at RT.
- Empty the wells and wash four times with 350 µL of 1x Wash Solution.

	Visual Detection	Colorimetric Detection
Add 100 µL of Conjugated HRP to every well and incubate for 10 minutes at RT.	Dilution 1:100	Dilution 1:300
Empty the wells and wash four times with 350 µL of 1x Wash Solution.	✓	✓
Add 100 µL of TMB Substrate to each well and incubate at RT for:	15 minutes	15 minutes
Add Stop Solution	—	100 µL per well
Read O.D. at:	620 nm	450 nm

For troubleshooting guide, please refer to our website:

[www.prontodiagnostics.com/ts](http://www.prontodiagnostics.com/ts)

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The PRONTO® Technology is covered by US patent 5,710,028, by European patent 0648222 and by corresponding national patents.

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