



**STABILISED BROMELAIN REAGENT
DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

Bromelite: For Specific Serological Studies

SUMMARY

Enzymes are particularly useful in detecting antibodies of the Rh system and offer a valuable addition to the range of serological techniques used for antibody identification, especially where it is suspected that there is a mixture of antibodies. Bromelain destroys certain blood group antigens, notably M, N, S, Fy^a, Fy^b and Xg^a, a property that may be useful for identification and separation of mixed antibodies.

PRINCIPLE

Enzymes may potentiate agglutination in at least two different ways: by reducing surface charge of red cells and by removing structures, which sterically interfere with the access of antibody molecules.

REAGENT

Lorne Bromelite reagent is a ready to use liquid preparation of stabilised Bromelain. The reagent is standardised by serological methods for use in blood group antibody investigations. The reagent is supplied at optimal dilution for use with all the recommended techniques stated below without need for further dilution or addition. For lot reference number and expiry date see **Vial Label**.

STORAGE

Reagent vials should be stored at 2 - 8°C on receipt. Prolonged storage at temperatures outside this range may result in accelerated loss of reagent reactivity. This reagent has undergone transportation stability studies at 37°C and -25°C as described in document EN13640:2002.

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

Blood samples should be drawn aseptically into EDTA and tested within 7 days after collection. If EDTA is unavailable, samples drawn into ACD, CPD or CPDA-1 are acceptable and may be tested up to 35 days from the date of withdrawal. All blood samples should be washed at least twice with PBS or Isotonic saline before being tested.

PRECAUTIONS

1. The reagent is intended for *in vitro* diagnostic use only.
2. If a reagent vial is cracked or leaking, discard the contents immediately.
3. Do not use the reagent past the expiration date (see **Vial Label**).
4. Do not use the reagent if a precipitate is present.
5. Protective clothing should be worn when handling the reagents, such as disposable gloves and a laboratory coat.
6. The reagent has been filtered through a 0.2 µm capsule to reduce the bio-burden. Once a vial has been opened the contents should remain viable up until the expiry date as long as there is no marked turbidity, which can indicate reagent deterioration or contamination.

DISPOSAL OF REAGENT AND DEALING WITH SPILLAGES

For information on disposal of the reagent and decontamination of a spillage site see **Material Safety Data Sheets**, available on request.

CONTROLS AND ADVICE

1. It is recommended Lorne Precise Weak Anti-D and appropriate red cells (ideally R₁r and rr) be tested in parallel with each batch of tests. Tests must be considered invalid if controls do not show the expected results.
2. One stage mixed techniques, in which enzyme, serum and red cells are mixed without purposeful delay and incubated together, are not recommended for use in the screening of patients' sera for atypical antibodies or in compatibility testing of patients' sera with donors' red cells.
3. An auto-control is recommended because enzymes can considerably enhance the reactions of cold agglutinins and so many normal sera react with enzyme-treated cells at room temperature and in some cases at 37°C.
4. Deviation from the recommended methods of use may result in false positive or false negative results. This includes very slight changes in buffers or in solutions, which may result in sub-optimal pH for enzyme treatment.
5. In the **Recommended Techniques** one volume is approximately 50µl when using the vial dropper provided.
6. The use of the reagent and the interpretation of results must be carried out by properly trained and qualified personnel in accordance with the requirements of the country where the reagents are in use.
7. The user must determine the suitability of the reagent for use in other techniques.

REAGENTS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Glass test tubes (10 x 75 mm or 12 x 75 mm).
- PBS solution (pH 6.8-7.2) or Isotonic saline solution (pH 6.5-7.5).
- Positive control (R₁r) and negative (rr) control red cells.
- Test tube centrifuge.
- Volumetric pipettes.
- Water bath or dry heat incubator equilibrated to 37°C ± 2°C.
- Weak anti-D i.e. Lorne Precise Weak Anti-D (Cat # 209005).

RECOMMENDED TECHNIQUES

A. Two-Stage Technique (using packed red cells)

1. Wash packed test red cells twice with PBS or Isotonic saline.
2. Place in a labelled test tube: 1 volume Lorne Bromelite and 1 volume washed packed test red cells.
3. Mix thoroughly and incubate at 37°C for 15 minutes.
4. Wash cells once with PBS or Isotonic saline and then resuspend to 2-3% in PBS or Isotonic saline.
5. Place in a labelled test tube: 1 volume of test serum and 1 volume Bromelite treated test red cell suspension.
6. Mix thoroughly and incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes.
7. Centrifuge all tubes for 20 seconds at 1000 rcf or for a suitable alternative time and force.
8. Gently resuspend each cell button and read macroscopically for agglutination.

B. Two-Stage Technique (using 2-3% red cells)

1. Prepare a 2-3% suspension of washed test red cells in PBS or Isotonic saline.
2. Place in a labelled test tube: 1 volume Lorne Bromelite and 2 volumes of test red cell suspension.
3. Mix thoroughly and incubate at 37°C for 15 minutes.
4. Wash cells three times with PBS or Isotonic saline and then resuspend to 2-3% in PBS or Isotonic saline.
5. Place in a labelled test tube: 1 volume of test serum and 1 volume Bromelite treated test red cell suspension.
6. Mix thoroughly and incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes.
7. Centrifuge all tubes for 20 seconds at 1000 rcf or for a suitable alternative time and force.
8. Gently resuspend each cell button and read macroscopically for agglutination.

INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULTS

1. **Positive:** Agglutination of test red cells constitutes positive test result within accepted limitations of the test procedure.
2. **Negative:** No agglutination of the test red cells constitutes negative test result within accepted limitations.

STABILITY OF THE REACTIONS

1. Read all tubes tests immediately after centrifugation.
2. Caution should be exercised in the interpretation of results of tests performed at temperatures other than those **recommended**.

LIMITATIONS

1. All enzyme preparations are subject to some loss of potency in storage. It may therefore be necessary to increase the recommended treatment time towards the expiry date of the preparation in order to ensure maximum sensitivity.
2. Improper ratios of Bromelite: cell suspension may result in excessive haemolysis.
3. The standard one stage technique is a convenient method for used with potent blood grouping reagents, but it is relatively insensitive for antibody detection or compatibility testing. This is due to the presence of protease inhibitors in serum and also the ability of Bromelain to cleave Ig molecules.
4. Care should be taken to maintain the sterility of the enzyme preparation since they readily become contaminated with microorganisms that can result in false negative or false positive reactions.
5. Enzyme tests do not detect all antibodies of probable clinical significance.
6. Extended incubation may cause weakened positive or false negative reactions due to enzyme degradation of Ig molecules.
7. False positive or false negative results may also occur due to:
 - Improper cell concentration
 - Improper incubation time or temperature
 - Improper or excessive centrifugation
 - Improper storage of test materials or omission of reagent
 - Inadequate technique e.g. standard one-stage enzyme technique is less sensitive than two stage technique.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

1. The reagent has been characterised by the procedures mentioned in the **Recommended Techniques**.
2. Prior to release, each lot of Lorne Bromelite is tested by **Recommended Techniques** against a panel of cells to ensure suitable reactivity.
3. Reagent complies with recommendations in the latest issue of the Guidelines for the UK Blood Transfusion Services.

DISCLAIMER

1. The user is responsible for the performance of the reagent by any methods other than those mentioned in the **Recommended Techniques**.
2. Any deviations from the **Recommended Techniques** should be validated prior to use⁵.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Mollison PL. Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine, 8th Edition. Blackwell Scientific, Oxford 1987; Chapter 7
2. Boorman and Dodd, Blood Group Serology, 5th ed. Churchill Livingstone (1977) 67, Technique 8.6.B.
3. Phillips PK, Farr AD (Ed). Quality assurance and control in clinical laboratories. Med Lab Sci 1984; 32.
4. Waters AH et al, Guidelines for compatibility testing in hospital blood banks. J Clin Lab Haemat 1987; 9: 333-341.
5. Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Service in the United Kingdom. H.M.S.O. Current Edition.
6. British Committee for Standards in Haematology, Blood Transfusion Task Force. Recommendations for evaluation, validation and implementation of new techniques for blood grouping, antibody screening and cross matching. Transfusion Medicine, 1995, 5, 145-150.

AVAILABLE REAGENT SIZES

Vial Size	Catalogue Number
10 ml	443010
1000 ml	443000*

*This size is For Further Manufacturing Use (FFMU) only and is therefore not CE marked.

For the availability of other sizes, please contact:

Lorne Laboratories Limited
Unit 1 Cutbush Park Industrial Estate
Danehill
Lower Earley, Reading,
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United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 118 921 2264
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TABLE OF SYMBOLS

	Batch Number		<i>In-vitro</i> Diagnostic
	Catalogue Reference		Store At
	Expiry Date		Manufacturer
	Read Pack Insert		