

Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity

cobas®

REF		Σ	SYSTEM
07027974190	07027974500	100; equals to 50 Toxo IgG avidity determinations	cobas e 402 cobas e 801

English

System information

See section "cobas e flows".

Intended use

Immunoassay for the in vitro qualitative determination of the avidity of IgG antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii* in human serum and plasma.

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

Summary

Toxoplasmosis is a relatively common infection caused by the protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. The infection is mainly acquired by ingestion of food or water contaminated by mature oocysts shed by cats or by undercooked meat containing tissue cysts.^{1,2,3,4} Infection can also be transmitted congenitally if a woman is newly infected during, or just prior to pregnancy, and also via organ or blood transfusion from an infected donor.⁴ Primary, acute infection in healthy individuals is mostly mild or even asymptomatic and is followed by life-long latency.^{3,4} Reactivation of a latent *Toxoplasma* infection can occur as a result of immunosuppression (e.g. in organ transplant recipients, patients with cancer or HIV) and can be associated with high morbidity and mortality.^{3,4} Reactivated disease in immunocompromised hosts frequently presents with brain lesions, especially in patients with advanced HIV-related immunosuppression.^{3,4,5} Primary maternal *Toxoplasma* infection occurring during pregnancy may have significant implications for the fetus as the parasite can be transmitted across the placenta.^{3,6} The majority of infants with congenital infection do not present clinical symptoms at birth but may develop severe sequelae later in life, such as chorioretinitis, intellectual and psychomotor disabilities, visual and hearing impairment.^{3,6,7,8} The fetal infection rate increases with gestational age, but the risk of severe clinical manifestations is higher in the case of early maternal infection.^{3,6,7,8} Early intervention with drug therapy in cases of acute infection during pregnancy can prevent congenital damage or ameliorate the severity of clinical manifestations.^{6,7} In the absence of acute clinical symptoms the diagnosis of *Toxoplasma* infection is based on serologic marker testing, namely IgG and IgM directed against *T. gondii*.^{3,4,9} IgM is considered to be an acute-phase marker, but residual, long-lasting IgM can be detected months or even years after the primary infection.^{8,9} Due to this fact, a complementary technique is needed to help refine the date of infection and thus enable appropriate counseling and management of pregnancy. *Toxoplasma* IgG avidity assays are currently the most reliable method to rule out infection occurring within the last 4 months.¹⁰ The Elecsys *Toxoplasma* IgG avidity assay measures the functional binding affinity of *T. gondii* IgG in response to infection. The antibodies produced during the non-primary response or in the remote phase of infection have a higher antigen avidity than antibodies produced during the primary response.³ No clinical interpretation can be deduced from a low or gray-zone avidity result. Avidity testing should be performed early in gestation; a high avidity result later than the fourth month cannot rule out a primary infection earlier in gestation when low avidity *T. gondii* IgG may have been present. The detection of high IgG avidity can be considered as a good indicator of past infection.⁸

Test principle

The test principle is based on two parallel measurements with the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay.

One aliquot of the sample is preincubated with PT1 (Diluent Universal) and this mixture serves as a reference.

A second aliquot of the sample is preincubated with PT2 (Avidity Diluent). During incubation with DilToxoAv, IgG antibodies directed against *Toxoplasma gondii* are bound to *T. gondii*-specific recombinant antigen present in the Avidity Diluent.

The Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay uses the sandwich principle.

Total duration of the assay on the analyzer is 27 minutes for both the reference and DilToxoAv treated samples.

- 1st incubation: 2 x 18 µL of sample (each for the reference reaction and the avidity reaction), a biotinylated recombinant *T. gondii*-specific antigen, and a *T. gondii*-specific recombinant antigen labeled with a ruthenium complex^{a)} 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 II 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 cobas link.
- The avidity (Avi%) is assessed by determining the ratio between the result (IU/mL) obtained from the aliquot diluted with Avidity Diluent and the result from the reference aliquot.

a) Tris(2,2'-bipyridyl)ruthenium(II)-complex (Ru(bpy)₃²⁺)

Reagents - working solutions

The cobas e pack (M, R1, R2, PT1, PT2) is labeled as TOXOAV.

- M Streptavidin-coated microparticles, 1 bottle, 6.4 mL:
Streptavidin-coated microparticles 0.72 mg/mL; preservative.
- R1 *Toxoplasma*-Ag-biotin, 1 bottle, 9.9 mL:
Biotinylated *T. gondii*-specific antigen (recombinant, *E. coli*) > 400 µg/L, TRIS^{b)} buffer 50 mmol/L, pH 7.5; preservative.
- R2 *Toxoplasma*-Ag-Ru(bpy)₃²⁺, 1 bottle, 9.9 mL:
T. gondii-specific antigen (recombinant, *E. coli*) labeled with ruthenium complex > 400 µg/L; TRIS buffer 50 mmol/L, pH 7.5; preservative.
- b) TRIS = Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane
- PT1 Diluent Universal, 1 bottle, 12.1 mL
- PT2 Avidity Diluent (DilToxoAv), 1 bottle, 4.7 mL:
T. gondii-specific antigen (recombinant, *E. coli*) in protein matrix, buffer, pH 7.4; preservative.

- TOXOAV Cal1 Negative calibrator 1, 2 bottles of 1.0 mL each:
Human serum, non-reactive for anti-*Toxoplasma* IgG; buffer; preservative.
- TOXOAV Cal2 Positive calibrator 2, 2 bottles of 1.0 mL each:
Human serum, reactive for anti-*Toxoplasma* IgG, approximately 100 IU/mL; buffer; 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:



Warning

H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.

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Prevention:

- P261 Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.
- P272 Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.
- P280 Wear protective gloves.

Response:

- P333 + P313 If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention.
- P362 + P364 Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

Disposal:

- P501 Dispose of contents/container to an approved waste disposal plant.

Product safety labeling follows EU GHS guidance.

Contact phone: all countries: +49-621-7590

All human material should be considered potentially infectious.

The calibrators (TOXOAV Cal1, TOXOAV Cal2) have been prepared exclusively from the blood of donors tested individually and shown to be free from HBsAg and antibodies to HCV and HIV.

The serum containing anti-Toxoplasma IgG (TOXOAV Cal2) was sterile filtrated.

The testing methods used assays approved by the FDA or cleared in compliance with the European Directive 98/79/EC, Annex II, List A.

However, as no testing method can rule out the potential risk of infection with absolute certainty, the material should be handled with the same level of care as a patient specimen. In the event of exposure, the directives of the responsible health authorities should be followed.^{11,12}

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

Reagent handling

The reagents (M, R1, R2, PT1, PT2) in the kit are ready-for-use and are supplied in **cobas e** packs.

Calibrators

The calibrators are supplied ready-for-use in bottles compatible with the system.

Unless the entire volume is necessary for calibration on the analyzer, transfer aliquots of the ready-for-use calibrators into empty snap-cap bottles (CalSet Vials). Attach the supplied labels to these additional bottles. Store the aliquots at 2-8 °C for later use.

Perform **only one** calibration procedure per aliquot.

All information required for correct operation is available via the **cobas** link.

Storage and stability

Store at 2-8 °C.

Do not freeze.

Store the **cobas e** pack **upright** in order to ensure complete availability of the microparticles during automatic mixing prior to use.

Stability of the cobas e pack:	
unopened at 2-8 °C	up to the stated expiration date
on the analyzers	16 weeks

Stability of the calibrators:	
unopened at 2-8 °C	up to the stated expiration date
after opening at 2-8 °C	16 weeks
on the analyzers at 20-25 °C	use only once

Store calibrators **upright** in order to prevent the calibrator solution from adhering to the snap-cap.

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.

Li-heparin, K₂-EDTA, K₃-EDTA and Na-citrate plasma.

Plasma tubes containing separating gel can be used.

Criterion: Slope 0.9-1.1 + intercept within ± 0.5 IU/mL + coefficient of correlation ≥ 0.95 .

Stable for 3 days at 20-25 °C, 3 weeks at 2-8 °C, 3 months at -20 °C (± 5 °C). The samples may be frozen 6 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.

Specimens should not be altered subsequently with additives (biocides, anti-oxidants or substances possibly changing the pH of the sample) in order to avoid erroneous findings. Pooled samples and other artificial material may have different effects on different assays and thus may lead to discrepant findings.

Centrifuge samples containing precipitates and thawed samples before performing the assay. Lyophilized samples and heat-inactivated samples can be used.

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

Due to possible evaporation effects, samples and calibrators 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] 10394246001, 20 x 250 sample cups, needed for the manual dilution step
 - [REF] 05802580190, PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity, 6 x 2.0 mL
 - [REF] 04618823190, PreciControl Toxo IgG, 16 x 1.0 mL
 - [REF] 11776576322, CalSet Vials, 2 x 56 empty snap-cap bottles
 - [REF] 07299001190, Diluent Universal, 45.2 mL sample diluent
 - General laboratory equipment
 - **cobas e** analyzer
- Additional materials for **cobas e** 402 and **cobas e** 801 analyzers:
- [REF] 06908799190, ProCell II M, 2 x 2 L system solution
 - [REF] 04880293190, CleanCell M, 2 x 2 L measuring cell cleaning solution
 - [REF] 07485409001, Reservoir Cup, 8 cups to supply ProCell II M and CleanCell M
 - [REF] 06908853190, PreClean II M, 2 x 2 L wash solution
 - [REF] 05694302001, Assay Tip/Assay Cup tray, 6 magazines x 6 magazine stacks x 105 assay tips and 105 assay cups, 3 wasteliners
 - [REF] 07485425001, Liquid Flow Cleaning Cup, 2 adaptor cups to supply ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean for Liquid Flow Cleaning Detection Unit
 - [REF] 07485433001, PreWash Liquid Flow Cleaning Cup, 1 adaptor cup to supply ISE Cleaning Solution/Elecsys SysClean for Liquid Flow Cleaning PreWash Unit
 - [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.

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Place the cooled (stored at 2-8 °C) **cobas e** pack on the reagent manager. Avoid foam formation. The system automatically regulates the temperature of the reagents and the opening/closing of the **cobas e** pack.

Calibrators:

Place the calibrators in the sample zone.

Read in all the information necessary for calibrating the assay.

cobas e flows

cobas e flows are procedures programmed into the system to enable a fully automated sequence of measurements and the calculation of assay combinations to perform decision algorithms. Different **cobas e** flows are available to automatically perform all steps necessary for the determination of Toxo IgG avidity in a sample. An avidity result message will be reported.

Handling of sample for the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay:

Toxo IgG titer of the respective sample needs to be defined with the Elecsys Toxo IgG assay ([REF] 07028008190) prior to avidity measurement. Depending on the Toxo IgG titer the respective **cobas e** flow procedure has to be selected according to the table below.

Value in Elecsys Toxo IgG assay	cobas e flow to be selected	Description
≥ 6 to ≤ 500 IU/mL	TOXOA L	Toxo IgG Avidity Low Titer
> 500 to < 1500 IU/mL	TOXOA M	Toxo IgG Avidity Medium Titer
≥ 1500 IU/mL to < 4000 IU/mL	TOXOA H	Toxo IgG Avidity High Titer
≥ 4000 IU/mL	TOXOA VH	Toxo IgG Avidity Very High Titer

Please note:

- If the concentration of the sample is < 6 IU/mL the avidity calculation cannot be performed.
- If the result of the **cobas e** flow TOXOA VH is above the measuring range, a manual predilution of the sample is necessary.

Calibration

Traceability: This method has been standardized against the 3rd International Standard for anti-Toxoplasma serum (TOXM) from the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), UK.

The predefined master curve is adapted to the analyzer using TOXOAV Cal1 and TOXOAV Cal2.

Calibration frequency: Calibration must be performed once per reagent lot using TOXOAV Cal1, TOXOAV Cal2 and fresh reagent (i.e. not more than 24 hours since the **cobas e** pack 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 28 days when using the same **cobas e** pack on the analyzer
- as required: e.g. quality control findings outside the defined limits

Quality control

For quality control, use PreciControl Toxo IgG for verification of calibration and PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity for verification of functionality of the PT2 Avidity Diluent (DiToxoAv).

Use **cobas e** flow **TOXOA L** for determination of the PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity.

- Verification of calibration using PreciControl Toxo IgG: The target values and ranges (IU/mL) of the PreciControl Toxo IgG were determined and evaluated by Roche. They were obtained using the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay reagents and analyzers available at the time of testing. The control values obtained during testing must be within the control ranges (IU/mL). The exact lot-specific target values and ranges are printed on the electronically available value sheet.

- Verification of functionality of the PT2 Avidity Diluent (DiToxoAv) using PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity:

As part of the **cobas e** flow **TOXOA L** the avidity (Avi%) is calculated from the reference measurement and the DiToxoAv-treated measurement automatically. The target range for the calculated avidity result (Avi%) of PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity 1 is < 70 Avi%, while the respective range for PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity 2 is ≥ 80 Avi%.

It is recommended to run PreciControl Toxo IgG 1 and 2 as well as PreciControl Toxo IgG Avidity 1 and 2 at the beginning of each working day and after every calibration.

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 in IU/mL for both measurements (reference measurement and DiToxoAv-treated measurement) and determines the avidity as follows:

Avi(%) = 100 -

$$\frac{\text{IU/mL of aliquot treated with DiToxoAv}}{\text{IU/mL of aliquot treated with DiUni}} \times 100$$

Interpretation of the results

Results obtained with the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay are interpreted as follows:

Avidity (Avi%)	Interpretation
< 70	low avidity
70-79	gray-zone
≥ 80	high avidity

No clinical interpretation can be deduced from a low or gray-zone result.

The recommendation in these cases is to take a follow-up sample within an appropriate period of time (e.g. 2-4 weeks) and repeat testing. Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity results should be used in conjunction with the patient's medical history, clinical symptoms, and other laboratory tests, e.g. Toxo-specific IgG and IgM results. If a Toxo IgG avidity result is discordant with the patient's medical history, clinical symptoms and other laboratory tests, e.g. Toxo-specific IgG and IgM results, further tests should be performed to verify the result and testing of a follow-up sample is recommended. The Toxo IgG avidity results in a given specimen, as determined by assays from different manufacturers, can vary due to differences in assay methods and reagents used. Therefore, the results reported by the laboratory to the physician should include the statement: "The following results were obtained using the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay. Results from assays provided by other manufacturers cannot be used interchangeably." In rare cases a value of 0 % avidity or negative percentage avidity might be observed; these results are classified as low avidity.

Limitations - interference

The results in HIV patients, in patients undergoing immunosuppressive therapy, or in patients with other disorders leading to immune suppression, should be interpreted with caution.

Specimens from neonates, cord blood, pre-transplant patients or body fluids other than serum and plasma, such as urine, saliva or amniotic fluid have not been tested.

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	≤ 1129 μmol/L or ≤ 66 mg/dL
Hemoglobin	≤ 0.62 mmol/L or ≤ 1000 mg/dL
Intralipid	≤ 2000 mg/dL

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Compound	Concentration tested
Biotin	≤ 287 nmol/L or ≤ 70 ng/mL
Rheumatoid factors	≤ 1200 IU/mL
Albumin	≤ 7.0 g/dL
IgG	≤ 7.0 g/dL
IgA	≤ 1.6 g/dL
IgM	≤ 1.0 g/dL

Criterion: Recovery 80-120 % (percent deviation based on IU/mL).

Samples should not be taken from patients receiving therapy with high biotin doses (i.e. > 5 mg/day) until at least 8 hours following the last biotin administration.

Pharmaceutical substances

In vitro tests were performed on 16 commonly used pharmaceuticals. No interference with the assay was found.

In addition, the following special drugs used in toxoplasmosis therapy during pregnancy were tested. No interference with the assay was found.

Special drugs

Drug	Concentration tested mg/L
Spiramycine	≤ 3000
Sulfadiazine	≤ 2500
Pyrimethamine	≤ 500
Folinic acid	≤ 3

In rare cases, interference due to extremely high titers of antibodies to 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

Reference measurement:

0.18-650 IU/mL (defined by the Limit of Detection and the maximum of the master curve). Values below the Limit of Detection are reported as < 0.18 IU/mL. Values above the measuring range are reported as > 650 IU/mL.

Limit of Blank and Limit of Detection

An internal study was performed based on guidance from the CLSI protocol EP17-A2. Limit of Blank and Limit of Detection were determined to be the following:

Limit of Blank = 0.10 IU/mL

Limit of Detection = 0.18 IU/mL

The Limit of Blank is the 95th 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 %).

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, samples 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 402 and cobas e 801 analyzers					
		Repeatability		Intermediate precision	
Sample	Mean Avi%	SD Avi%	CV %	SD Avi%	CV %
Human serum 1	38	1.30	3.4	2.07	5.4
Human serum 2	76	0.699	0.9	0.802	1.1
Human serum 3	91	0.351	0.4	0.388	0.4
PC ^c Toxo IgG Avidity 1	57	1.61	2.8	1.76	3.1
PC Toxo IgG Avidity 2	88	0.418	0.5	0.543	0.6

c) PC = PreciControl

Analytical specificity

232 potentially cross-reacting samples were tested with the Elecsys Toxo IgG assay (equivalent to the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity formulation) and a comparison Toxo IgG assay comprising specimens:

- containing antibodies against HBV, HCV, HIV*, CMV, EBV, HSV, VZV*, Parvovirus B19, Rubella, Treponema pallidum, Malaria**, Amebiasis, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea
- containing autoantibodies (AMA, ANA)
- after vaccination against HBV and Influenza

An overall agreement of 97.8 % (221/226) was found in these samples with the Elecsys Toxo IgG assay and the comparison test. 127 samples were found concordantly negative and 94 samples were found concordantly positive. 6 samples were found indeterminate either with the Elecsys Toxo IgG assay or the comparison test and were not included in the agreement calculation.

* VZV: 1 discordant positive sample; HIV: 1 discordant negative sample with the Elecsys Toxo IgG assay

** Malaria: 3 samples which were found discordant positive with the Elecsys Toxo IgG assay, revealed also a positive result by a direct agglutination assay.

Clinical studies

Overall 455 single and sequential samples (collected and classified by reference laboratories) were investigated with the Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay and two commercially available comparison methods at two different sites. The presumed onset of infection of investigated samples was determined as accurately as possible based on diagnostic testing and if available, clinical indications. The following 3 cohorts were analyzed:

- 135 samples from pregnant women with a presumed onset of infection within less than 4 months (referred to as acute infection).
- 159 samples from pregnant women with a presumed onset of infection within more than 4, but less than 9 months (referred to as late acute infection).
- 161 samples from pregnant women with a presumed onset of infection later than 9 months ago (referred to as remote infection).

The distribution of samples tested within the indicated assays is given in the table below:

Clinical status	Avidity	Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay	Comparison method A	Elecsys Toxo IgG Avidity assay	Comparison method B
		n = 239 samples; site 1		n = 216 samples; site 2	
Acute infection	Low	64	68	65	65
	Gray-zone	4	0	2	2
	High	0	0	0	0
Late acute infection	Low	58	61	50	52
	Gray-zone	30	19	8	5
	High	12	20	1	2
Remote infection	Low	9	4	31	27
	Gray-zone	16	3	10	10
	High	46	64	49	53

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References


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- 10 Murat JB, L'Ollivier C, Fricker Hidalgo H, et al. Evaluation of the new Elecsys Toxo IgG avidity assay for toxoplasmosis and new insights into the interpretation of avidity results. Clin Vaccine Immunol. 2012;19:1838-1843.
- 11 Occupational Safety and Health Standards: Bloodborne pathogens. (29 CFR Part 1910.1030). Fed. Register.
- 12 Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work.

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 for definition of symbols used):

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

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