

## T-Select MHC Tetramer

# HLA-DRB1\*01:01 EBV EBNA1<sub>515-527</sub>

## Tetramer-TSLYNLRRGTALA (20 tests)

For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

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### Background

T lymphocytes play a central role in immune system. Total T cell and T cell subset counts are measured by detection of various cell surface molecules. Enumeration of CD4<sup>+</sup> antigen-specific T cells requires cognate recognition of the T cell receptor (TCR) by a class II MHC/peptide complex. This can be done using T-Select MHC class II Tetramers which are composed of four MHC class II molecules each bound to the specific peptide and conjugated with a fluorescent protein. Thus, T-Select MHC Tetramer assays allow quantitation of the total T cell population specific for a given peptide complexed with a particular MHC molecule. Furthermore, since binding does not depend on functional pathways, this population includes specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells regardless of functional status. Measurements may be performed in whole blood or isolated lymphocyte/mononuclear cell preparations. In some cases where frequency is low, it may be necessary to perform an *in vitro* cell expansion. Specific cell staining is accomplished by incubating the sample with the T-Select MHC Tetramer reagent, then washing away excess Tetramer. The number of Tetramer positive lymphocytes is then determined by flow cytometry.

This Tetramer reagent comprises human class II HLA-DRB1\*01:01 and epitope peptide derived from EBV Epstein-Barr nuclear antigen 1 (EBNA1), and it can detect HLA-DRB1\*01:01-restricted EBV EBNA1-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells by flow cytometry.

Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is a latent  $\gamma$ -herpesvirus with high prevalence in human population worldwide. EBV was the first human virus found to be related with tumor. It is closely associated with a number of tumors such as Burkitt's lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) and some gastric carcinoma. Furthermore, recent studies suggested that EBV might also contribute to certain autoimmune diseases.

Because of its oncogenic importance, EBV-targeted immunotherapies are widely studied. The best characterized case is EBV-induced post-

transplant lymphoproliferative disorders (PTLD), which continues to be a major complication after solid organ or bone marrow transplantation in high-risk patients.

Several studies have shown that adoptive transfer of donor-derived EBV-specific T cells is an effective strategy for both prevention and treatment of PTLD. For other EBV-positive tumors, such as NPC, autologous cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) therapy has been evaluated in many clinical trials, with promising results.

EBNA1 is expressed in all EBV-associated tumors. EBNA1 is essential for the replication of EBV plasmid and has a glycine-alanine repetitive sequence. This sequence interferes with the antigen processing and MHC class I-restricted presentation. On the other hand, MHC class II-restricted antigen presentation of EBNA1 has been reported, and EBNA1-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells can efficiently recognize tumor cells<sup>1</sup>. Thus this tetramer is useful as a tool for studying immunology of EBV associated malignancies.

### HLA Restriction

HLA-DRB1\*01:01

### Origin and Sequence of CTL Epitope

EBV EBNA1 (515-527 aa, TSLYNLRRGTALA)

### Reagents

200  $\mu$ L liquid - 10  $\mu$ L/test

The Tetramer is dissolved in an aqueous buffer containing 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.2% BSA, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, and 0.1% Proclin™ 150.

### Conjugates

TC-M803-1

Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin (SA-PE)

Excites at 486-580 nm

Emits at 586-590 nm

TC-M803-2

Streptavidin-Allophycocyanin (SA-APC)

Excites at 633-635 nm

Emits at 660-680 nm

## Usage

This reagent is for use with standard flow cytometry methodologies.

## Storage Conditions

Store at 2 to 8°C. Do not freeze. Minimize exposure to light. The expiration date is indicated on the vial label.

## Evidence of Deterioration

Any change in the physical appearance of this reagent may indicate deterioration and the reagent should not be used. The normal appearance is a clear, colorless to pink (PE Tetramer), light blue (APC Tetramer).

## References for This Product

- 1) Khanna R, *et al. Int Immunol* **9**: 1537-1543 (1997)

## References for T-Select MHC Tetramer

- Altman JD, *et al. Science* **274**: 94-96 (1996)  
McMichael AJ, *et al. J Exp Med* **187**: 1367-1371 (1998)  
Bodinier M, *et al. Nat Med* **6**: 707-710 (2000)

## Statement of Warnings

1. Specimens, samples and material coming in contact with them should be handled as if capable of transmitting infection and disposed of with proper precautions.
2. Never pipette by mouth and avoid contact of samples with skin and mucous membranes.
3. Minimize exposure of reagent to light during storage or incubation.
4. Avoid microbial contamination of reagent or erroneous results may occur.
5. Use Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) when handling this reagent.

## Materials Required But Not Supplied

- 12 x 75 mm polypropylene test tubes
- Transfer pipettes
- Pipettors and disposable pipette tips
- Vortex mixer
- Centrifuge capable of 150 x g or 400 x g
- Aspirator
- PBS
- Red blood cell lysis reagent
- Anti-CD4-FITC, Beckman Coulter, Inc., PN A07750
- 7-AAD Viability Dye, Beckman Coulter, Inc., PN A07704
- Clear Back (human FcR blocking reagent), MBL, PN MTG-001

## Procedure for Whole Blood

1. Collect blood by venipuncture into a blood collection tube containing an appropriate anti-coagulant.

2. Add 10  $\mu$ L of T-Select MHC Tetramer to each 12 x 75 mm test tube.
3. Add 200  $\mu$ L of whole blood into each test tube.
4. Vortex gently.
5. Incubate for 30-60 minutes at 2-8°C or room temperature (15-25°C) protected from light.
6. Add any additional antibodies (e.g. anti-CD4) and vortex gently.
7. Incubate for 30 minutes at 2-8°C protected from light.
8. Lyse red blood cells using commercially available reagents.
9. Prepare samples according to description of the package insert.
10. Store prepared samples at 2-8°C protected from light for a minimum of 1 hour (maximum 24 hours) prior to analysis by flow cytometry.

## Procedure for Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells

1. Prepare peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) according to established procedures. Cells should be re-suspended at a concentration of  $2 \times 10^7$  cells/mL. 50  $\mu$ L of sample is required for each T-Select MHC Tetramer determination.
2. Add 10  $\mu$ L of Clear Back (human FcR blocking reagent, MBL, PN MTG-001) to each 12 x 75 mm test tube.
3. Add 50  $\mu$ L PBMC into each test tube (e.g.  $1 \times 10^6$  cells per tube).
4. Incubate for 5 minutes at room temperature.
5. Add 10  $\mu$ L of T-Select MHC Tetramer and vortex gently.
6. Incubate for 30-60 minutes at 2-8°C or room temperature (15-25°C) protected from light.
7. Add any additional antibodies (e.g. anti-CD4) and vortex gently.
8. Incubate for 30 minutes at 2-8°C protected from light.
9. Add 3 mL of PBS or FCM buffer (2% FCS/0.09%  $\text{NaN}_3$ /PBS).
10. Centrifuge tubes at 400 x g for 5 minutes.
11. Aspirate or decant the supernatant.
12. Resuspend the pellet in 500  $\mu$ L of PBS with 0.5% formaldehyde.
13. Store prepared samples at 2-8°C protected from light for a minimum of 1 hour (maximum 24 hours) prior to analysis by flow cytometry.

## Limitations

1. For optimal results with whole blood, retain specimens in blood collection tubes at room temperature, while rocking, prior to staining and analyzing. Refrigerated specimens may give aberrant results.
2. Recommended cell viability for venous blood specimens is > 90%.
3. Prolonged exposure of cells to lytic reagents may cause white blood cell destruction and loss of cells in the population of interest.

4. All red blood cells may not lyse under the following conditions: nucleated red blood cells, abnormal protein concentration or hemoglobinopathies. This may cause falsely decreased results due to unlysed red blood cells being counted as leukocytes.

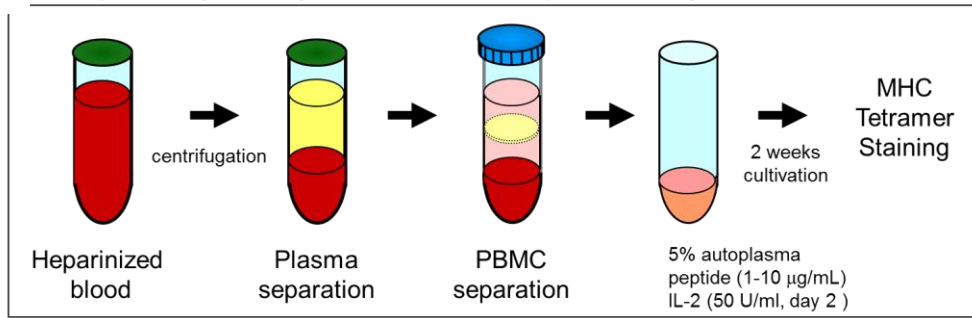
### **Technical Hints**

- A. If PBMC culture is needed, we recommend the use of heparin as an anti-coagulant.
- B. Clear Back reagent (human FcR blocking reagent) may effectively block non-specific binding caused by macrophages or endocytosis, resulting in clear staining when cells are stained with MHC Tetramer and antibodies. Please refer to the data sheet (MBL, PN MTG-001) for details.
- C. A Tetramer that is constructed with the same allele of interest and an irrelevant peptide may be used as a negative control.
- D. The use of CD45 antibody and gating of the lymphocyte population are recommended in order to reduce contamination of unlysed or nucleated red blood cells in the gate.
- E. Apoptotic, necrotic, and/or damaged cells are sources of interference in the analysis of viable cells by flow cytometry. Cell viability should be determined by 7-aminoactinomycin D (7-AAD) staining; intact viable cells remain unstained (negative).
- F. Cells do not require fixation prior to analysis if the stained cells are analyzed by flow cytometry within several hours.

### **Related Products**

Please check our website  
(<https://www.mbl-chinawide.cn>) for up-to-date  
information on products and custom MHC Tetramers

ILPC (Mixed-Lymphocyte-Peptide Cultures) modified by **MBL**



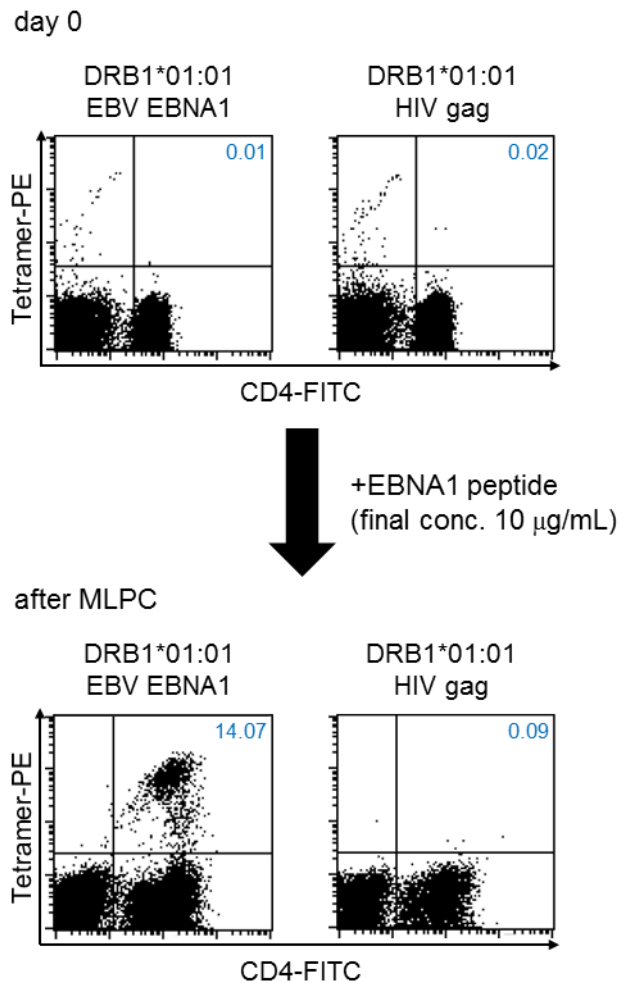
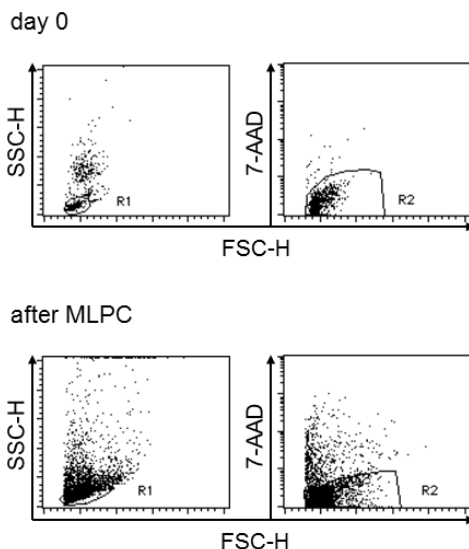
**Experimental Data**

PBMCs from HLA-DRB1\*01:01-positive healthy donor were collected from freshly isolated heparinized peripheral blood according to standard methods. Plasma was collected before PBMC separation by centrifugation at 3,000 rpm for 10 minutes, and stored at -30°C.

Aliquots of the PBMCs ( $1 \times 10^6$  cells) were stained with EBV EBNA1 Tetramer (MBL, PN TC-M803-1) and CD4 antibody (day 0). Another aliquots of PBMCs ( $1-3 \times 10^6$  cells/mL) were incubated in culture tubes (Round-Bottom Tube, BD, PN 352059) in the presence of a synthetic peptide ( $10 \mu\text{g/mL}$  of TSLYNLRRGTALA) and 5% (v/v) autologous plasma. After 48 h, an equal volume of medium containing 100 U/ml interleukin-2 (IL-2) was added to each culture tube, and every 2 to 3 days thereafter half of the medium was replaced with fresh medium containing IL-2 (50 U/ml). After 13 days, aliquots of these cells were stained with this MHC Tetramers, CD4 antibody, and 7-AAD (after MLPC).

The lymphocyte population was defined by an FSC/SSC gate (R1), and the viable cell population was defined by an FSC/7-AAD (R2). Data were analyzed by double gating on the lymphocyte and viable cell population (R1 and R2). Numbers in the top right quadrants represent the percentage of MHC Tetramer-positive cells in the total CD4<sup>+</sup> cells.

**Result**



To confirm specificity of MHC Tetramer staining, cells were stained with specific and negative control MHC Tetramer. HIV gag Tetramer (MBL, PN TC-M802-1) was used as a negative control, containing the peptide DYVDRFYKTLRAE derived from the human immunodeficiency virus gag (HIV gag) protein.

Results showed that HLA-DRB1\*01:01-restricted EBV EBNA1-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were detectable in the peptide stimulated PBMCs.