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Product Information

VRK2, active, GST-tagged, human
PRECISIO® Kinase
recombinant, expressed in *Sf*9 cells

Catalog Number **SRP5289**
Storage Temperature –70 °C

Product Description

VRK2 (also known as vaccinia related kinase 2) is a member of the vaccinia-related kinase (VRK) family of serine/threonine protein kinases. VRK2 is widely expressed in human tissues and highly expressed in actively dividing cells, such as those in testis, leukocytes, fetal liver, and carcinomas.[1] VRK2 can be used to phosphorylate casein and itself undergo autophosphorylation. VRK2 interacts specifically with Epstein-Barr virus BHRF1, a homologue of Bcl-2, and this interaction is involved in protecting cells from apoptosis.[2]

Recombinant human VRK2 (1-375) was expressed by baculovirus in *Sf*9 insect cells using an N-terminal GST-tag. The VRK2 gene accession number is NM_006296. It is supplied in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM glutathione, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.25 mM DTT, 0.1 mM PMSF, and 25% glycerol.

Molecular mass: ~66 kDa

Precautions and Disclaimer

This product is for R&D use only, not for drug, household, or other uses. Please consult the Material Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling practices.

Storage/Stability

The product ships on dry ice and storage at –70 °C is recommended. After opening, aliquot into smaller quantities and store at –70 °C. Avoid repeated handling and multiple freeze/thaw cycles.

Figure 1.
SDS-PAGE Gel of Typical Lot:
≥70% (SDS-PAGE, densitometry)

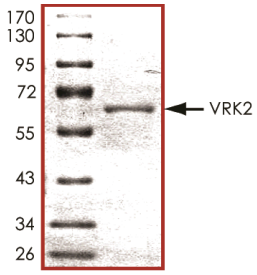
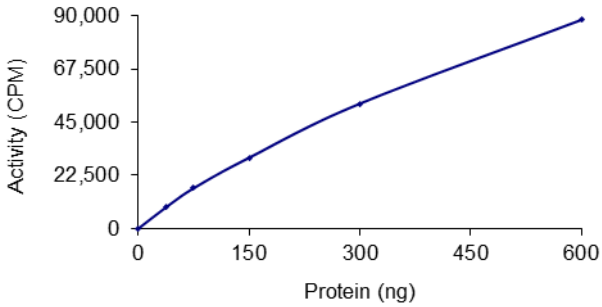


Figure 2.
Specific Activity of Typical Lot:
9.6–14.4 nmole/min/mg



Procedure

Preparation Instructions

Kinase Assay Buffer – 25 mM MOPS, pH 7. 2, 12.5 mM glycerol 2-phosphate, 20 mM $MgC1_2$, 12.5 mM $MnC1_2$, 5 mM EGTA, and 2 mM EDTA. Just prior to use, add DTT to a final concentration of 0.25 mM.

Kinase Dilution Buffer – Dilute the Kinase Assay Buffer 5-fold with a 50 ng/µL BSA solution.

Kinase Solution – Dilute the active VRK2 (0.1 μg/μL) with Kinase Dilution Buffer to the desired concentration. Note: The specific activity plot may be used as a guideline (see Figure 2). It is recommended the researcher perform a serial dilution of active VRK2 kinase for optimal results.

10 mM ATP Stock Solution – Dissolve 55 mg of ATP in 10 mL of Kinase Assay Buffer. Store in 200 μL aliquots at –20 °C.

γ-^{33}P-ATP Assay Cocktail (250 μM) – Combine 5.75 mL of Kinase Assay Buffer, 150 μL of 10 mM ATP Stock Solution, 100 μL of γ-^{33}P-ATP (1 mCi/100 μL). Store in 1 mL aliquots at –20 °C.

Substrate Solution – Dissolve the protein substrate in distilled water at a final concentration of 1 mg/mL.

1% phosphoric acid solution – Dilute 10 mL of concentrated phosphoric acid to a final volume of 1 L with water.

Kinase Assay

This assay involves the use of the ^{33}P radioisotope. All institutional guidelines regarding the use of radioisotopes should be followed.

1. Thaw the active VRK2, Kinase Assay Buffer, Substrate Solution, and Kinase Dilution Buffer on ice. The γ-^{33}P-ATP Assay Cocktail may be thawed at room temperature.
2. In a pre-cooled microcentrifuge tube, add the following solutions to a volume of 20 μL:
   - 10 μL of Kinase Solution
   - 5 μL of Substrate Solution
   - 5 μL of cold water (4 °C)
3. Set up a blank control as outlined in step 2, substituting 5 μL of cold water (4 °C) for the Substrate Solution.
4. Initiate each reaction with the addition of 5 μL of the γ-^{33}P-ATP Assay Cocktail, bringing the final reaction volume to 25 μL. Incubate the mixture in a water bath at 30 °C for 15 minutes.
5. After the 15 minute incubation, stop the reaction by spotting 20 μL of the reaction mixture onto an individually precut strip of phosphocellulose P81 paper.
6. Air dry the precut P81 strip and sequentially wash in the 1% phosphoric acid solution with constant gentle stirring. It is recommended the strips be washed a total of 3 times of ~10 minutes each.
7. Set up a radioactive control to measure the total γ-^{33}P-ATP counts introduced into the reaction. Spot 5 μL of the γ-^{33}P-ATP Assay Cocktail on a precut P81 strip. Dry the sample for 2 minutes and read the counts. Do not wash this sample.
8. Count the radioactivity on the P81 paper in the presence of scintillation fluid in a scintillation counter.
9. Determine the corrected cpm by subtracting the blank control value (see step 3) from each sample and calculate the kinase specific activity

Calculations:

1. Specific Radioactivity (SR) of ATP (cpm/nmole)

$$SR = \frac{\text{cpm of 5 μL of γ-}^{33}\text{P-ATP Assay Cocktail}}{\text{nmole of ATP}}$$

   cpm – value from control (step 7)
   nmole – 1.25 nmole (5 μL of 250 μM ATP Assay Cocktail)

2. Specific Kinase Activity (SA) (nmole/min/mg)

$$\text{nmole/min/mg} = \frac{\Delta\text{cpm} \times (25/20)}{SR \times E \times T}$$

SR = specific radioactivity of the ATP (cpm/nmole ATP)
Δcpm = cpm of the sample – cpm of the blank (step 3)
25 = total reaction volume
20 = spot volume
T = reaction time (minutes)
E = amount of enzyme (mg)

References

1. Nezu, J. et al., Identification of two novel human putative serine/threonine kinases, VRK1 and VRK2, with structural similarity to vaccinia virus B1R kinase. Genomics, **45**, 327-331 (1997).
2. Li, L.-Y. et al., The cellular protein PRA1 modulates the anti-apoptotic activity of Epstein-Barr virus BHRF1, a homologue of Bcl-2, through direct interaction. J. Biol. Chem., **276**, 27354–27362 (2001).

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