p44/42 MAP Kinase Antibody

#9102 Store at –20°C

Cell Signaling TECHNOLOGY®

- Small 200 µl (20 Western mini-blots)
- Large 600 µl (60 Western mini-blots)

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rev. 01/07/08

This product is for *in vitro* research use only and is not intended for use in humans or animals.

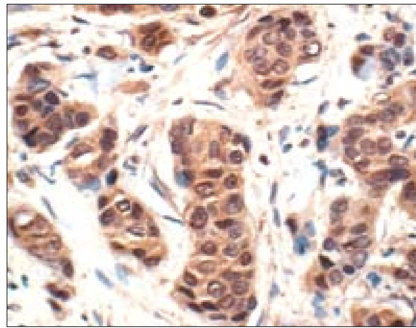
Entrez-Gene ID # 5594, 5595
Swiss-Prot Acc. # P27361, P28482

Applications	Species Cross-Reactivity	Molecular Wt.	Source
W, IP, IHC-P, IF-IC, F	H, M, R, Mk, Hm, B, Z	42, 44 kDa	Rabbit

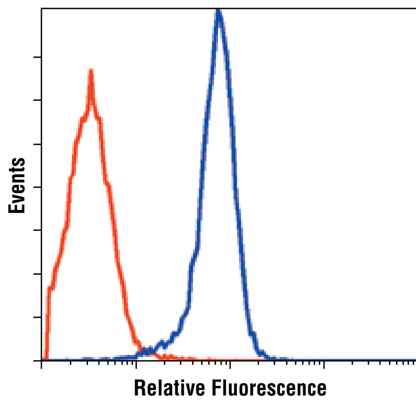
Background: Mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs) are a widely conserved family of serine/threonine protein kinases involved in many cellular programs such as cell proliferation, differentiation, motility, and death. The p44/42 MAPK (ERK1/2) signaling pathway can be activated in response to a diverse range of extracellular stimuli including mitogens, growth factors, and cytokines (1-3) and is an important target in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer (4). Upon stimulation, a sequential three-part protein kinase cascade is initiated, consisting of a MAP kinase kinase kinase (MAPKKK), a MAP kinase kinase (MAPKK), and a MAP kinase. While multiple ERK1/2 MAP3Ks have been identified, including the Raf family, Mos, and Tpl2/Cot, MEK1 and MEK2 are the primary MAPKKs in this pathway (5,6). MEK1 and MEK2 activate ERK1/p44 and ERK2/p42 through phosphorylation of activation loop residues Thr202/Tyr204 and Thr185/Tyr187, respectively. Several downstream targets of ERK1/2 have been identified, including p90RSK (7) and the transcription factor Elk-1 (8,9). ERK1/2 are negatively regulated by a family of dual-specificity (Thr/Tyr) MAPK phosphatases, known as DUSPs or MKPs (10), along with MEK inhibitors such as U0126 and PD98059.

Specificity/Sensitivity: p44/42 MAP Kinase Antibody detects endogenous levels of total p44/42 MAP kinase (Erk1/Erk2) protein. In some cell types, this antibody recognizes p42 MAPK more readily than p44 MAPK. The antibody does not recognize either JNK/SAPK or p38 MAP kinase.

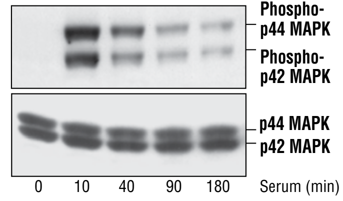
Source/Purification: Polyclonal antibodies are produced by immunizing rabbits with a synthetic peptide (KLH-coupled) derived from a sequence in the C-terminus of rat p42 MAP Kinase. Antibodies are purified by protein A and peptide affinity chromatography.



Immunohistochemical analysis of paraffin-embedded human breast carcinoma, showing nuclear and cytoplasmic localization, using p44/42 MAP Kinase Antibody.



Flow cytometric analysis of Jurkat cells, using p44/42 MAP Kinase Antibody (blue) compared to a nonspecific negative control antibody (red).



◀ *Western blot analysis of extracts from serum-induced PC12 cells, using Phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Thr202/Tyr204) Antibody #9101 (upper) or control p44/42 MAP Kinase Antibody (lower).*

Storage: Supplied in 10 mM sodium HEPES (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 100 µg/ml BSA and 50% glycerol. Store at –20°C. *Do not aliquot the antibody.*

***Species cross-reactivity is determined by Western blot.**

Recommended Antibody Dilutions:

Western blotting	1:1000
Immunoprecipitation	1:50
Immunohistochemistry (Paraffin)	1:25
IHC Protocol: Unmasking buffer/wash buffer	Citrate:TBST
Immunofluorescence (IF-IC)	1:25
Flow Cytometry	1:25

Companion Products:

Phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Thr202/Tyr204) (20G11) Rabbit mAb #4376

Phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Thr202/Tyr204) (197G2) Rabbit mAb #4377

Phospho-p44/42 MAP Kinase (Thr202/Tyr204) Antibody #9101

Phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Thr202/Tyr204) (E10) Mouse mAb #9106

p44/42 MAP Kinase (137F5) Rabbit mAb #4695

p44/42 MAP Kinase (L34F12) Mouse mAb #4696

p44 MAP Kinase (Erk1) Antibody #4372

p42 MAP Kinase (3A7) Mouse mAb #9107

p42 MAP Kinase (Erk2) Antibody #9108

p44/42 MAP Kinase Control Proteins #9103

MEK1/2 HeLa Control Cell Extracts #9160

SignalSlide™ Phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Thr202/Tyr204) IHC Controls #8103

Anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked Antibody #7074

Prestained Protein Marker, Broad Range (Premixed Format) #7720

Biotinylated Protein Ladder #7727

20X LumiGLO® Reagent and 20X Peroxide #7003

IMPORTANT: For Western blots, incubate membrane with diluted antibody in 5% w/v BSA, 1X TBS, 0.1% Tween-20 at 4°C with gentle shaking, overnight.

Applications Key: **W**—Western **IP**—Immunoprecipitation **IHC**—Immunohistochemistry **IC**—Immunocytochemistry **IF**—Immunofluorescence **F**—Flow cytometry **E**—ELISA **D**—DELFIA®

Species Cross-Reactivity Key: **H**—human **M**—mouse **R**—rat **Hm**—hamster **Mk**—monkey **Mi**—mink **C**—chicken **X**—Xenopus **Z**—zebra fish **B**—bovine **All**—all species expected

Species enclosed in parentheses are predicted to react based on 100% sequence homology.

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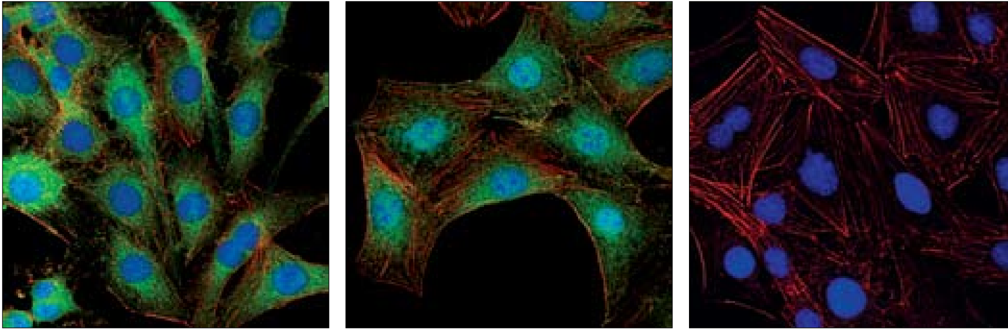

Confocal immunofluorescent images of C6 cells serum-starved (left) and serum-treated (center), labeled with p44/42 MAP Kinase Antibody (green) compared to an isotype control (right). Actin filaments have been labeled with Alex Fluor® 555 phalloidin. Blue pseudocolor = DRAQ5™ (fluorescent DNA dye).

Selected Application References:

Domina, A.M. et al. (2000) Myeloid cell leukemia 1 is phosphorylated through two distinct pathways, one associated with extracellular signal-regulated kinase activation and the other with G2/M accumulation or protein phosphatase 1/2A inhibition. *J. Biol. Chem.* 275, 21688–20984. Application: W.

Hayne, C. et al. (2000) Raf-1/MEK/MAPK pathway is necessary for the G2/M transition induced by nocodazole. *J. Biol. Chem.* 275, 31876–31882. Application: W.

Tan, J. et al. (2000) CD45 opposes beta-amyloid peptide-induced microglial activation via inhibition of p44/42 mitogen-activated protein kinase. *J. Neurosci.* 20, 7587–7594. Application: W.

Yu, C. et al. (2002) Pharmacologic Mitogen-activated Protein/Extracellular Signal-regulated Kinase Kinase/Mitogen-activated Protein Kinase Inhibitors Interact Synergistically with STI571 to Induce Apoptosis in Bcr/Abl-expressing Human Leukemia Cells. *Cancer Research* 62, 188–199. Application: W.

Rosenberger, C.M. and Finlay, B.B. (2002) Macrophages Inhibit Salmonella Typhimurium Replication through MEK/ERK Kinase and Phagocyte NADPH Oxidase Activities. *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* 277, 18753–18762. Application: W.

Wu, J. et al. (2002) Attenuation of Protein Kinase C and cAMP-dependent Protein Kinase Signal Transduction in the Neurogranin Knockout Mousee. *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* 277, 19498–19505. Application: W.

Dai, Y. et al. (2001) Pharmacologic Inhibitors of the Mitogen-activated Protein Kinase (MAPK) Kinase/MAPK Cascade Interact Synergistically with UCN-01 to Induce Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Apoptosis in Human Leukemia Cells. *Cancer Research* 61, 5106–5115. Application: W.

Background References:

(1) Roux, P.P. and Blenis, J. (2004) *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev* 68, 320–44.

(2) Baccarini, M. (2005) *FEBS Lett* 579, 3271–7.

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(4) Roberts, P.J. and Der, C.J. (2007) *Oncogene* 26, 3291–310.

(5) Rubinfeld, H. and Seger, R. (2005) *Mol Biotechnol* 31, 151–74.

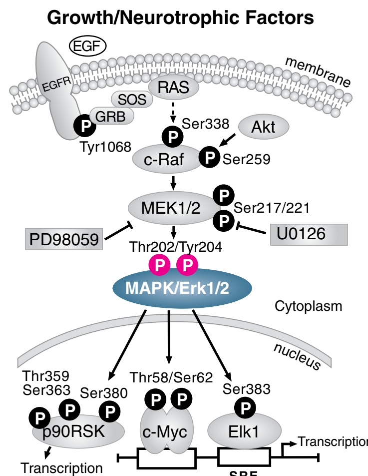
(6) Murphy, L.O. and Blenis, J. (2006) *Trends Biochem Sci* 31, 268–75.

(7) Dalby, K.N. et al. (1998) *J Biol Chem* 273, 1496–505.

(8) Marais, R. et al. (1993) *Cell* 73, 381–93.

(9) Kortenjann, M. et al. (1994) *Mol Cell Biol* 14, 4815–24.

(10) Owens, D.M. and Keyse, S.M. (2007) *Oncogene* 26, 3203–13.



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Western Immunoblotting Protocol (Primary Antibody Incubation in BSA)

For Western blots, incubate membrane with diluted antibody in 5% w/v BSA, 1X TBS, 0.1% Tween-20 at 4°C with gentle shaking, overnight.

A Solutions and Reagents

NOTE: Prepare solutions with Milli-Q or equivalently purified water.

1. 1X Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS)
2. **1X SDS Sample Buffer:** 62.5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8 at 25°C), 2% w/v SDS, 10% glycerol, 50 mM DTT, 0.01% w/v bromophenol blue or phenol red
3. **Transfer Buffer:** 25 mM Tris base, 0.2 M glycine, 20% methanol (pH 8.5)
4. **10X Tris Buffered Saline (TBS):** To prepare 1 liter of 10X TBS: 24.2 g Tris base, 80 g NaCl; adjust pH to 7.6 with HCl (use at 1X).
5. Nonfat Dry Milk (weight to volume [w/v])
6. **Blocking Buffer:** 1X TBS, 0.1% Tween-20 with 5% w/v nonfat dry milk; for 150 ml, add 15 ml 10X TBS to 135 ml water, mix. Add 7.5 g nonfat dry milk and mix well. While stirring, add 0.15 ml Tween-20 (100%).
7. **Wash Buffer:** 1X TBS, 0.1% Tween-20 (TBS/T)
8. Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA)
9. **Primary Antibody Dilution Buffer:** 1X TBS, 0.1% Tween-20 with 5% BSA; for 20 ml, add 2 ml 10X TBS to 18 ml water, mix. Add 1.0 g BSA and mix well. While stirring, add 20 µl Tween-20 (100%).
10. **Phototope®-HRP Western Blot Detection System** #7071**:** Includes biotinylated protein ladder, secondary anti-rabbit (#7074) antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (HRP), anti-biotin antibody conjugated to HRP, LumiGLO® chemiluminescent reagent and peroxide.
11. Prestained Protein Marker, Broad Range (Premixed Format) #7720
12. Biotinylated Protein Ladder Detection Pack #7727
13. **Blotting Membrane:** This protocol has been optimized for nitrocellulose membranes, which CST recommends. PVDF membranes may also be used.

B Protein Blotting

A general protocol for sample preparation is described below.

1. Treat cells by adding fresh media containing regulator for desired time.
2. Aspirate media from cultures; wash cells with 1X PBS; aspirate.
3. Lyse cells by adding 1X SDS sample buffer (100 µl per well of 6-well plate or 500 µl per plate of 10 cm diameter plate). Immediately scrape the cells off the plate and transfer the extract to a microcentrifuge tube. Keep on ice.
4. Sonicate for 10–15 seconds to shear DNA and reduce sample viscosity.
5. Heat a 20 µl sample to 95–100°C for 5 minutes; cool on ice.
6. Microcentrifuge for 5 minutes.
7. Load 20 µl onto SDS-PAGE gel (10 cm x 10 cm).

NOTE: CST recommends loading prestained molecular weight markers (#7720, 10 µl/lane) to verify electrotransfer and biotinylated protein ladder (#7727, 10 µl/lane) to determine molecular weights.

8. Electrotransfer to nitrocellulose or PVDF membrane.

C Membrane Blocking and Antibody Incubations

NOTE: Volumes are for 10 cm x 10 cm (100 cm^2) of membrane; for different sized membranes, adjust volumes accordingly.

1. (Optional) After transfer, wash nitrocellulose membrane with 25 ml TBS for 5 minutes at room temperature.
2. Incubate membrane in 25 ml of blocking buffer for 1 hour at room temperature.
3. Wash three times for 5 minutes each with 15 ml of TBS/T.
4. Incubate membrane and primary antibody (at the appropriate dilution) in 10 ml primary antibody dilution buffer with gentle agitation overnight at 4°C.
5. Wash three times for 5 minutes each with 15 ml of TBS/T.
6. Incubate membrane with HRP-conjugated secondary antibody (1:2000) and HRP-conjugated anti-biotin antibody (1:1000) to detect biotinylated protein markers in 10 ml of blocking buffer with gentle agitation for 1 hour at room temperature.
7. Wash three times for 5 minutes each with 15 ml of TBS/T.

D Detection of Proteins

1. Incubate membrane with 10 ml LumiGLO® (0.5 ml 20X LumiGLO®, 0.5 ml 20X Peroxide and 9.0 ml Milli-Q water) with gentle agitation for 1 minute at room temperature.

NOTE: LumiGLO® substrate can be further diluted if signal response is too fast.

2. Drain membrane of excess developing solution (do not let dry), wrap in plastic wrap and expose to x-ray film. An initial 10-second exposure should indicate the proper exposure time.

NOTE: Due to the kinetics of the detection reaction, signal is most intense immediately following LumiGLO® incubation and declines over the following 2 hours.

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Immunoprecipitation Protocol / (For Analysis By Western Immunoblotting)

A Solutions and Reagents

NOTE: Prepare solutions with Milli-Q or equivalently purified water.

1. 1X Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS)
2. **1X Cell Lysis Buffer:** 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 1% Triton X-100, 2.5 mM Sodium pyrophosphate, 1 mM β-glycerophosphate, 1 mM Na_3VO_4, 1 µg/ml Leupeptin

NOTE: Add 1 mM PMSF immediately prior to use.

1. **Transfer Buffer:** 25 mM Tris base, 0.2 mM glycine, 20% methanol (pH 8.5)
2. **Protein A or G Agarose Beads:** (Can be stored for 2 weeks at 4°C.) Please prepare according to manufacturer's instructions. Use Protein A for rabbit IgG pull down and Protein G for mouse IgG pull down.
3. **3X SDS Sample Buffer:** 187.5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8 at 25°C), 6% w/v SDS, 30% glycerol, 150 mM DTT, 0.03% w/v bromophenol blue

B Preparing Cell Lysates

1. Aspirate media. Treat cells by adding fresh media containing regulator for desired time.
2. To harvest cells under nondenaturing conditions, remove media and rinse cells once with ice-cold PBS.
3. Remove PBS and add 0.5 ml ice-cold 1X cell lysis buffer to each plate (10 cm) and incubate the plates on ice for 5 minutes.
4. Scrape cells off the plates and transfer to microcentrifuge tubes. Keep on ice.
5. Sonicate samples on ice three times for 5 seconds each.
6. Microcentrifuge for 10 minutes at 14,000 X g, 4°C, and transfer the supernatant to a new tube. If necessary, lysate can be stored at –80°C.

C Immunoprecipitation

Optional: It may be necessary to perform a lysate pre-clearing step to reduce non-specific binding to the Protein A/G agarose beads (See section below).

1. Take 200 µl cell lysate and add primary antibody. Incubate with gentle rocking overnight at 4°C.
2. Add either protein A or G agarose beads (20 µl of 50% bead slurry). Incubate with gentle rocking for 1–3 hours at 4°C.
3. Microcentrifuge for 30 seconds at 4°C. Wash pellet five times with 500 µl of 1X cell lysis buffer. Keep on ice during washes.
4. Resuspend the pellet with 20 µl 3X SDS sample buffer. Vortex, then microcentrifuge for 30 seconds.
5. Heat the sample to 95–100°C for 2–5 minutes and microcentrifuge for 1 minute at 14,000 X g.
6. Load the sample (15–30 µl) on SDS-PAGE gel (12–15%).
7. Analyze sample by Western blotting (see Western Immunoblotting Protocol).

Cell Lysate Pre-Clearing (Optional)

1. Take 200 µl cell lysate and add to either Protein A or G agarose beads (20 µl of 50% bead slurry).
2. Incubate at 4°C for 30 – 60 minutes.
3. Spin for 10 minutes at 4°C. Transfer the supernatant to a fresh tube.
4. Proceed to step 1 of Immunoprecipitation.

Flow Cytometry Protocol for Intracellular Staining Using Conjugated Secondary Antibodies

A Solutions and Reagents

1. **1X Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS):** Dissolve 8 g NaCl, 0.2 g KCl, 1.44 g Na_2HPO_4 and 0.24 g KH_2PO_4 in 800 mL distilled water (dH_2O). Adjust the pH to 7.4 with HCl and the volume to 1 liter. Store at room temperature.
2. Formaldehyde (methanol free)
3. **Incubation Buffer:** Dissolve 0.5 g bovine serum albumin (BSA) in 100mL 1X PBS. Store at 4°C

B Fixation

1. Collect cells by centrifugation and aspirate supernatant.
2. Resuspend cells briefly in 0.5-1 ml PBS. Add formaldehyde to a final concentration of 2-4% formaldehyde.
3. Fix for 10 minutes at 37°C.
4. Chill tubes on ice for 1 minute.

C Permeabilization

1. Permeabilize cells by adding ice-cold 100% methanol slowly to pre-chilled cells, while gently vortexing, to a final concentration of 90% methanol. Alternatively, to remove fix prior to permeabilization, pellet cells by centrifugation and resuspend in 90% methanol.
2. Incubate 30 minutes on ice.
3. Proceed with staining or store cells at –20°C in 90% methanol.

D Staining Using Unlabeled Primary and Conjugated Secondary Antibodies

NOTE: Allow for isotype matched controls for monoclonal antibodies or species matched IgG for polyclonal antibodies. Count cells using a hemacytometer or alternative method.

1. Aliquot 0.5-1x10^6 cells into each assay tube (by volume).
2. Add 2-3 ml Incubation Buffer to each tube and rinse by centrifugation. Repeat.
3. Resuspend cells in 100 µl Incubation Buffer per assay tube.
4. Block in Incubation Buffer for 10 minutes at room temperature.
5. Add the primary antibody at the appropriate dilution to the assay tubes (see individual antibody data sheet for the appropriate dilution).
6. Incubate for 30-60 minutes at room temperature.
7. Rinse as before in Incubation Buffer by centrifugation.
8. Resuspend cells in fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibody*, diluted in Incubation Buffer according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
9. Incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature.
10. Rinse as before in Incubation Buffer by centrifugation.
11. Resuspend cells in 0.5 ml PBS and analyze on flow cytometer.

*Recommended Secondary Antibodies from Invitrogen.
A-11070 Alexa Fluor® 488 F(ab')2 fragment of goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) (1:1000 dilution)
A-11017 Alexa Fluor® 488 F(ab')2 fragment of goat anti-mouse IgG (H+L) (1:1000 dilution)

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Immunohistochemistry Protocol (Paraffin)

***IMPORTANT:** See product data sheet for the appropriate wash buffer and antigen unmasking procedure. **IHC Protocol:** Unmasking buffer/wash buffer.

A Solutions and Reagents

1. Xylene
2. Ethanol, anhydrous denatured, histological grade (100% and 95%)
3. Deionized water (dH_2O)
4. Hematoxylin (optional)
5. ***Wash Buffer:**
   a. **PBST:** 1X PBS/0.1% Tween-20 (wash buffer): To prepare 1 L add 100 ml 10X PBS to 900 ml dH_2O. Add 1ml Tween-20 and mix.

   10X Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS): To prepare 1 L add 80 g sodium chloride (NaCl), 2 g potassium chloride (KCl), 14.4 g sodium phophate, dibasic (Na_2HPO_4) and 2.4 g potassium phosphate, monobasic (KH_2PO_4) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 7.4.

   b. **TBST:** 1X TBS/0.1% Tween-20 (wash buffer): To prepare 1 L add 100 ml 10X TBS to 900 ml dH_2O. Add 1 ml Tween-20 and mix.
   10X Tris Buffered Saline (TBS): To prepare 1 L add 24.2 g Trizma® base ($C_4H_{11}NO_3$) and 80 g sodium chloride (NaCl) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 7.6 with concentrated HCl.
6. ***Antigen Unmasking Solution:**
   a. **Citrate:** 10 mM Sodium Citrate Buffer: To prepare 1 L, add 2.94 g sodium citrate trisodium salt dihydrate ($C_6H_5Na_3O_7 \bullet 2H_2O$) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 6.0.
   b. **EDTA:** 1 mM EDTA: To prepare 1 L add 0.372 g EDTA ($C_{10}H_{14}N_2O_8Na_2 \bullet 2H_2O$) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 8.0.
   c. **Alternative Unmasking: 10 mM Tris:** To prepare 1 L add 1.21 g Trizma® Base ($C_4H_{11}NO_3$) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 10.0.
   d. **Pepsin:** 1 mg/ml in Tris-HCl pH 2.0.
7. **3% Hydrogen Peroxide:** To prepare, add 10 ml 30% H_2O_2 to 90 ml dH_2O.
8. **Blocking Solution:** 5% horse serum or goat serum diluted in recommended wash buffer.
9. Biotinylated secondary antibody.
10. **ABC Reagent:** (Vectastain ABC Kit, Vector Laboratories, Inc., Burlingame, CA) Prepare according to manufacturer's instructions 30 minutes before use.
11. **DAB Reagent or suitable substrate:** Prepare according to manufacturer's recommendations.

B Deparaffinization/Rehydration

NOTE: Do not allow slides to dry at any time during this procedure.

NOTE: Consult product data sheet for recommended wash buffer.

1. **Deparaffinize/hydrate sections:**
   a. Incubate sections in three washes of xylene for 5 minutes each.
   b. Incubate sections in two washes of 100% ethanol for 10 minutes each.
   c. Incubate sections in two washes of 95% ethanol for 10 minutes each.
2. Wash sections twice in dH_2O for 5 minutes each.

C *Antigen Unmasking

NOTE: Consult product data sheet for specific recommendation for the unmasking solution.

1. **For Citrate:** Bring slides to a boil in 10 mM sodium citrate buffer pH 6.0 then maintain at a sub-boiling temperature for 10 minutes. Cool slides on bench top for 30 minutes.
2. **For EDTA:** Bring slides to a boil in 1 mM EDTA pH 8.0 followed by 15 minutes at a sub-boiling temperature. No cooling is necessary.
3. **Alternate:** Bring slides to a boil in 10 mM Tris pH 10.0 followed by 10 minutes at a sub boiling temperature. Cool slides on bench top for 30 minutes.
4. **For Pepsin:** Digest for 10 minutes at 37°C.

D Staining

1. Wash sections in dH_2O three times for 5 minutes each.
2. Incubate sections in 3% hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes.
3. Wash sections in dH_2O twice for 5 minutes each.

NOTE: Consult product data sheet for recommended wash buffer.

4. Wash section in wash buffer for 5 minutes.
5. Block each section with 100-400 µl blocking solution for 1 hour at room temperature.
6. Remove blocking solution and add 100-400 µl diluted primary antibody to each section. (Dilute antibody in blocking solution.) Incubate overnight at 4°C.
7. Remove antibody solution and wash sections in wash buffer three times for 5 minutes each.
8. Add 100-400 µl secondary antibody, diluted in blocking solution per manufacturer's recommendation, to each section. Incubate 30 minutes at room temperature.
9. If using ABC avidin/biotin method, make ABC reagent according to the manufacturer's instructions and incubate solution for 30 minutes at room temperature.
10. Remove secondary antibody solution and wash sections three times with wash buffer for 5 minutes each.
11. Add 100-400 µl ABC reagent to each section and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature.
12. Remove ABC reagent and wash sections three times in wash buffer for 5 minutes each.
13. Add 100-400 µl DAB or suitable substrate to each section and monitor staining closely.
14. As soon as the sections develop, immerse slides in dH_2O.
15. If desired, counterstain sections in hematoxylin per manufacturer's instructions.
16. Wash sections in dH_2O two times for 5 minutes each.
17. Dehydrate sections:
    a. Incubate sections in 95% ethanol two times for 10 seconds each.
    b. Repeat in 100% ethanol, incubating sections two times for 10 seconds each.
    c. Repeat in xylene, incubating sections two times for 10 seconds each.
18. Mount coverslips.

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Immunofluorescence Protocol

***IMPORTANT:** Please refer to the **APPLICATIONS** section on the front page of the data sheet to determine **IF THIS PRODUCT** is validated and approved for the specific protocol you will be using.

A Solutions and Reagents

NOTE: Prepare solutions with Milli-Q or equivalently purified water.

1. **10X Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS):** To prepare 1 L add 80 g sodium chloride (NaCl), 2 g potassium chloride (KCl), 14.4 g sodium phosphate, dibasic (Na_2HPO_4) and 2.4 g potassium phosphate, monobasic (KH_2PO_4) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 7.4.
2. Formaldehyde, 16%, methanol free, Polysciences, Inc. (cat# 18814), use fresh, store opened vials at 4°C in dark, dilute in PBS for use.
3. Xylene
4. Ethanol, anhydrous denatured, histological grade, 100% and 95%
5. Distilled water (dH_2O)
6. **1X PBS/0.3% Triton X-100 (PBS/Triton):** To prepare 1 L, add 100 ml 10X PBS to 900 ml dH_2O. Add 3 ml Triton X-100 and mix.
7. **10 mM Sodium Citrate Buffer:** To prepare 1 L, add 2.94 g sodium citrate trisodium salt dihydrate ($C_6H_5Na_3O7 \bullet 2H_2O$) to 1 L dH_2O. Adjust pH to 6.0.
8. **1X PBS, high salt (0.4M) (high salt PBS):** To prepare 1L, add 100 ml 10X PBS to 900 ml dH20. Add 23.38 g NaCl and mix.
9. Fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibody

NOTE: When using any primary or fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibody for the first time, titrate the antibody to determine which dilution allows for the strongest specific signal with the least background for your sample.

10. Prolong® Gold Antifade Reagent (Invitrogen, Eugene, OR, Cat# P36930)

B Specimen Preparation

I. Cultured Cell Lines (IF-IC)

IMPORTANT: Please check the **APPLICATIONS** section of the data sheet to verify that this product is validated and approved for **(IF-IC).**

NOTE: This general fixation protocol will work with most antibodies and cell lines. However, we recommend you try different IF/IC fixation methods (methanol or acetone alone, aldehyde alone, or combinations of these) to identify the optimal fixation protocol for each antibody and/or cell line.

NOTE: Cells should be grown, treated, fixed, and stained directly in multiwell plates, chamber slides, or on coverslips.

1. Rinse cells briefly in PBS.
2. Aspirate PBS, cover cells to a depth of 2-3 mm with 2-4% formaldehyde in PBS.

NOTE: Formaldehyde is toxic, use only in fume hood.

3. Allow cells to fix for 15 minutes at room temperature.
4. Aspirate fixative, rinse three times in PBS for 5 minutes each.

5.Methanol Permeabilization Step (if required, please refer to front page): After formaldehyde fixation, cover cells with ice-cold 100% methanol (use enough to cover cells completely to a depth of 3-5 mm, DO NOT LET CELLS DRY), incubate cells in methanol for 10 minutes in freezer, rinse in PBS for 5 minutes.

6. Proceed with Immunostaining section C.

II. Paraffin Sections (IF-P)

IMPORTANT: Please check the **APPLICATIONS** section of the data sheet to verify that this product is validated and approved for **(IF-P).**

Deparaffinization/Rehydration:

1. Incubate sections in three washes of xylene for 5 minutes each.
2. Incubate sections in two washes of 100% ethanol for 10 minutes each.
3. Incubate sections in two washes of 95% ethanol for 10 minutes each.
4. Rinse sections twice in dH_2O for 5 minutes each.

Antigen Unmasking:

1. Place slides in room temperature 10 mM sodium citrate buffer pH 6.0.
2. Bring slides to boiling in sodium citrate buffer using water bath or microwave, then maintain at 95-99°C for 10 minutes.
3. Cool slides for 30 minutes on bench top.
4. Rinse sections in dH_2O three times for 5 minutes each.
5. Rinse sections in PBS for 5 minutes.
6. Proceed with Immunostaining section C.

III. Frozen/Cryostat Sections (IF-F)

IMPORTANT: Please check the **APPLICATIONS** section of the data sheet to verify that this product is validated and approved for **(IF-F).**

NOTE: Fresh frozen/unfixed sections should be fixed immediately in 2-4% formaldehyde as follows to preserve signaling epitopes.

1. Cover sections with 2-4% formaldehyde in PBS

NOTE: Formaldehyde is toxic, use only in fume hood.

2. Allow cells to fix for 15 minutes at room temperature.
3. Rinse slides three times in PBS for 5 minutes each.

C Immunostaining

NOTE: All subsequent incubations should be carried out at room temperature unless otherwise noted in a humid light-tight box or covered dish/plate to prevent drying and fluorochrome fading.

1. Block specimen in 5% normal serum from same species as secondary antibody (eg. normal goat serum, normal donkey serum) in PBS/Triton for 60 minutes.
2. While blocking, prepare primary antibody by diluting as indicated on datasheet in PBS/Triton. You will need 50-100 µl per section, 25-50 µl per coverslip, chamber, or well (48 or 96 well plate).
3. Aspirate blocking solution, apply diluted primary antibody.

NOTE: For double-labeling, prepare a cocktail of mouse and rabbit primary antibodies at their appropriate dilutions in PBS/Triton.

4. Incubate overnight at 4°C.
5. Rinse three times in PBS for 5 minutes each.

OPTION: To decrease background stain, rinse in high salt PBS for two minutes between second and third PBS rinses. Be aware, this may reduce specific staining of some antibodies.

NOTE: If using primary antibodies directly conjugated with AlexaFluor® fluorochromes, then skip to step C8.

6. Incubate in fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibody diluted in PBS/Triton for 1-2 hours at room temperature in dark.

NOTE: For double-labeling, prepare a cocktail of fluorochrome-conjugated anti-mouse and anti-rabbit primary antibodies at their appropriate dilutions in PBS/Triton.

7. Rinse in PBS/high salt PBS as in step 5.
8. Coverslip slides with Prolong® Gold Antifade Reagent or apply just enough to cover cells in multiwell plate.
9. Seal slides by painting around edges of coverslips with nail polish.
10. Examine specimens immediately using appropriate excitation wavelength, depending on fluorochrome for best results or store flat at 4°C in dark.

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