

DXC (THC) CANNABINOIDS

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PURPOSE

To provide instructions for the qualitative determination of cannabinoids on the DXC 600/800.

PRINCIPLE

THC5 reagent, when used in conjunction with UniCel[®] Dx C 600/800 System(s) and SYNCHRON[®] Systems THC Urine Calibrators, is intended for quantitative determination of cannabinoids concentration in human urine.

This assay provides a rapid screening procedure for determining the presence of cannabinoids in urine, using a 50 ng/mL cutoff value. This test provides only a preliminary analytical result; a positive result by this assay should be confirmed by another generally accepted non-immunological method such as thin layer chromatography (TLC), gas chromatography (GC), or gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). GC/MS is the preferred confirmatory method.

Clinical consideration and professional judgment should be applied to any drug of abuse test result, particularly when preliminary positive results are used.

BACKGROUND

Clinical Significance

Cannabinoid hallucinogenic compounds include delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabidiol and cannabinol. Measurements of cannabinoids are used in the diagnosis and treatment of cannabinoid use or abuse, and in monitoring the presence of cannabinoids during clinical investigational use.

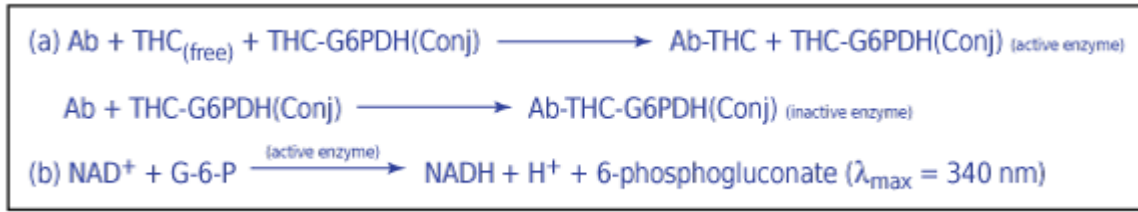
General Discussion

The major psychoactive agent in marijuana and hashish is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinoid (THC). THC is rapidly metabolized and distributed to body tissues, so that none is excreted in urine unchanged. 11-nor-delta-9-THC-9-carboxylic acid, the principle metabolite, becomes detectable in plasma, feces and urine within hours after exposure. In chronic users, THC may accumulate in fatty tissue faster than it can be excreted, leading to longer detection times in urine for chronic users than for occasional users. Passive inhalation of marijuana smoke can result in an elevation of urine THC concentration as high as 10 to 40 ng/mL.

Methodology

The THC5 assay utilizes a homogenous enzyme immunoassay method. The THC5 reagent is comprised of specific antibodies which can detect cannabinoid metabolite in urine. A drug-labeled glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDH) conjugate competes with any free drug from the urine sample for a fixed amount of specific antibody binding sites. In the absence of free drug from the sample, the drug-labeled G6PDH conjugate is bound by the specific antibody and enzyme activity is inhibited. This reaction creates a direct relationship between drug concentration and enzyme activity. The G6PDH enzyme activity is determined spectrophotometrically by measuring its ability to convert nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD) to NADH (reduced form).

The SYNCHRON® System(s) automatically proportions the appropriate sample and reagent volumes into the cuvette. The ratio for THC5 is one part sample to 10 parts reagent. The system monitors the change in absorbance at 340 nanometers to calculate and express a reaction rate. A qualitative result is reported based on a comparison of the sample rate to the calibrated cutoff rate.



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RELATED DOCUMENTS

R-PO-CH-0810	Quality Control Program General Laboratory
R-PO-CH-0809	Quality Control Westgard Rules Statistics
R-PR-AD-0540	Specimen Rejection/Cancellation Protocol
J-F-CH-0820	DXC 800 Controls
M-F-CH-0820	Chemistry Controls
J-F-CH-0826	DXC 800 Calibrators
M-F-CH-0826	Chemistry Calibrators

SPECIMEN

Type of Specimen

Freshly collected urine samples should be used for testing. Collect urine samples in glass or plastic (i.e., polypropylene, polycarbonate, polyethylene) containers. Some plastics absorb drugs. Urine samples should be collected in the manner routinely used for drug screening analysis. Samples should be at room temperature for testing.

Specimen Storage and Stability

If the sample cannot be analyzed immediately, it may be stored at +2°C to +8°C for up to 7 days.^{2,9} If longer storage is required or when a split sample collection method is used, samples should be stored frozen at -20°C or less.

Sample Type	Volume	Sample Stability
Urine	0.5mL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze at Room Temp • Refrigerated 7 days • Frozen (-20°C) >7 days

Criteria for Unacceptable Specimens

See Specimen Rejection/Cancellation Protocol

Sample Volume

A filled 0.5 mL sample cup is the optimum volume. For optimum primary sample tube volumes in primary tube samples and minimum volumes, refer to the Primary Tube Sample Template for your system.

REAGENTS

Contents

Each kit contains the following items:
One THC5 Reagent Cartridge (1 x 250 tests)

Volume per Test	
Sample Volume	25 uL
Total Reagent Volume	250 uL
Cartridge Volumes	A 200 uL B 50 uL C --

Reactive Ingredients	
Antibody/Substrate Reagent: Monoclonal anti- Δ^9 -THC antibodies (mouse) Glucose-6-phosphate (G6P) Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD) Tris buffer	69mL
Enzyme Conjugate Reagent: Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDH) labeled with Δ^9 -THC Tris buffer	18mL

Also non-reactive chemicals necessary for optimal system performance.

Reagent Preparation

No preparation is required.

Acceptable Reagent Performance

The acceptability of a reagent is determined by successful calibration and by ensuring that quality control results are within acceptance criteria. Refer to the Quality Control section of this chemistry information sheet for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guidelines.

Reagent Storage and Stability

THC5 reagent when stored unopened at +2°C to +8°C, will remain stable until the expiration date printed on the cartridge label. Once opened, the reagent is stable for 90 days at +2°C to +8°C. Do not use beyond the manufacturer's expiration date. DO NOT FREEZE.

CALIBRATION

Calibrator Required

SYNCHRON Systems DAT Negative Urine Calibrator (0 ng/mL 11-nor- Δ^9 -THC-9-carboxylic acid)
SYNCHRON Systems 50 ng/mL (cutoff) THC Urine Calibrator (50 ng/mL 11-nor- Δ^9 -THC-9-carboxylic acid)
SYNCHRON Systems 100 ng/mL THC Urine Calibrator (100 ng/mL 11-nor- Δ^9 -THC-9-carboxylic acid)

Calibrator Preparation

No preparation is required.

Calibrator Storage and Stability

SYNCHRON® Systems THC Urine Calibrators is stable until the expiration date printed on the calibrator bottle if capped and stored in the original container at +2°C to +8°C.

Calibration Information

1. The DAT assays require three levels of calibrators. The calibration measures the separation between calibrators to ensure reagent integrity. **The calibration factor generated is non-functional for sample result calculation.**
2. The system must have a valid calibrator cutoff value in memory before controls or patient samples can be run. The cutoff value for each DAT chemistry represents the mean reaction rate of the Low Calibrator, and is reported in mA/min units on patient and control reports. Cutoff values are stored in memory until the next successful calibration.
3. Under typical operating conditions the THC5 reagent cartridge must be calibrated every 14 days and also with certain parts replacements or maintenance procedures, as defined in the UniCel DxC 600/800 System *Instructions For Use* (IFU) manual. This assay has within-lot calibration available. Refer to the UniCel DxC 600/800 System *Instructions For Use* (IFU) manual for information on this feature.
4. For detailed calibration instructions, refer to the UniCel DxC 600/800 System *Instructions For Use* (IFU) manual.
5. The system will automatically perform checks on the calibration and produce data at the end of calibration. In the event of a failed calibration, the data will be printed with error codes and the system will alert the operator of the failure. For information on error codes, refer to the UniCel DxC 600/800 System *Instructions For Use* (IFU) manual.

TRACEABILITY

For Traceability information refer to the Calibrator instructions for use.

QUALITY CONTROL

See Related Documents J-F-CH0820 DXC 800 Controls & M-F-CH0820 Chemistry Controls

STEPS

1. If necessary, load the reagent onto the system.
2. After reagent load is completed, calibration may be required.
3. Program controls for analysis.
4. After loading controls onto the system, follow the protocols for system operation. To load samples manually refer to the FHS DXC Series Manual Sample Programming procedure. For detailed testing procedures, refer to the UniCel DxC 600/800 System *Instructions For Use* (IFU) manual.

CALCULATIONS

The system performs all calculations internally to produce the final qualitative result, reported as POSITIVE or NEGATIVE. The qualitative result is based on a comparison of the sample rate to the calibrated cutoff rate; a sample rate greater than or equal to the cutoff rate is reported as POSITIVE. A POSITIVE result (≥ 50 ng/mL) from this assay indicates only the presence of cannabinoids and does not necessarily correlate with the extent of physiological and psychological effects. A NEGATIVE test result indicates that cannabinoids are either not present, or are present at levels below the cutoff threshold of the test.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Reference Range

Sample Type	Normal
Urine	"Not Detected"

Analyte	Normal Results	Suspect Results (Adulterated)
Creatinine	>20 mg/mL	<20 mg/mL

If results for Creatinine are outside normal parameters for urine drug testing, **DIL1** comment will be appended to screen results.

Reporting results

Result	Reported As
Negative	"Not Detected"
Positive	"Detected"

Relative Sensitivity and Specificity

One hundred twenty-one clinical urine specimens were collected and tested. Using the SYNCHRON CX7 DELTA System as a reference method, 45 samples tested positive and 73 tested negative. The cutoff value of the SYNCHRON Systems Cannabinoid 50 ng assay is 50 ng/mL.

Relative Sensitivity: 98%

Relative Specificity: 97%

Overall Agreement: 98%

LIMITATIONS

1. The test is designed for use with human urine only.
2. Do not dilute the urine samples since this is a qualitative assay. Dilution of samples may produce erroneous results.
3. Interference has been demonstrated from mefenamic acid, a nonopioid analgesic.
4. Adulteration of the urine sample may cause erroneous results. Alteration of a urine specimen may be detected by checking the appearance, temperature, pH, specific gravity, and creatinine levels of a sample. If adulteration is suspected, obtain another sample and forward both specimens to the laboratory for testing.

5. An effort should be made to keep pipetted samples free from gross debris. It is recommended that highly turbid specimens be centrifuged before analysis.

Cross Reactivity

Various THC metabolites and potential interfering substances in a human urine matrix were tested for cross-reactivity with the SYNCHRON Systems THC5 assay. The following table summarizes the results obtained at the concentrations tested for each potential cross-reactant.^a

Compound	Concentration (µg/mL)	Effect
l-11-Nor- Δ^9 -THC-9-COOH (cutoff) ^c	0.05	Positive
Cannabinol	0.15	Positive
l-11-Nor- Δ^8 -THC-9-COOH	0.07	Positive
8- β -11-Dihydroxy- Δ^9 -THC	0.08	Positive
11-Hydroxy- Δ^9 -THC	0.13	Positive
8- β -Hydroxy- Δ^9 -THC	0.14	Positive
Δ^9 -THC	0.05	Positive
Acetaminophen	1000	Negative
Acetylsalicylic Acid	1000	Negative
Albuterol	1000	Negative
Amobarbital	1000	Negative
d-Amphetamine	1000	Negative
Benzoylcegonine	1000	Negative
Caffeine	100	Negative
Cannabidiol	10	Negative
Cocaine	200	Negative
Codeine	1000	Negative
Dextromethorphan	1000	Negative
Ibuprofen	1000	Negative
Meperidine	1000	Negative
Methadone	1000	Negative
d-Methamphetamine	1000	Negative
Morphine	200	Negative
d-11-Nor- Δ^9 -THC-9-COOH ^d	0.1	Negative
Oxazepam	500	Negative
Phencyclidine	1000	Negative
Phenobarbital	1000	Negative
Propoxyphene	1000	Negative
Secobarbital	1000	Negative


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more detailed information on UniCel DxC Systems, refer to the appropriate system manual.

REFERENCES

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