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Fast, Precise, Efficient Monitoring of Neuroendocrine Tumors

B·R·A·H·M·S Chromogranin A and Neuron-Specific Enolase Immunodiagnostic Assays



Chromogranin A (CgA) – Marker for neuroendocrine tumors

Function of CgA as prohormone

The chromogranins comprise an entire family of glycoproteins, of which Chromogranin A (CgA) and Chromogranin B (CgB) are the best-known representatives. CgA has a molecular weight of 49 kDA and is produced in high concentrations in endocrine and neuroendocrine cells, e.g. in the pancreas, stomach and intestines.³

Its biological function has not yet been determined conclusively, but it is believed that CgA is a prohormone. The precursor molecule of CgA is made up of several peptides such as chromo-statin, pancreastatin and catestatin, which appear individually once the prohormone has been proteolytically processed by various proteases.⁴

CgA and its proteolytic fragments are secreted from the tissue into the blood. Therefore CgA is increasingly important as a marker for endocrine cells and neuroendocrine tumors.⁴

Clinical utility of CgA in neuroendocrine tumors (NETs)

CgA elevations occur in diverse NETs but are usually more pronounced in GEP-NETs (small intestinal, gastric, and pancreatic NETs; GEP = Gastroenteropancreatic). CgA elevations may occur in carcinomas with a complete or a partial neuroendocrine phenotype (Figure 1).³

CgA's particular strengths as a serum tumor marker include:⁴

- It is already part of the established diagnostic and monitoring procedure for neuroendocrine tumors
- It can be used to track further progress of the tumor disease
- It presents the option of evaluating the success of a treatment

When using CgA, consider:

- Patients who are being treated with proton pump inhibitors (e.g. gastritis) may have an elevated CgA^{1,6,7}
- Renal failure may increase detectable CgA by reducing glomerular filtration of CgA-related peptides^{1,6,7}
- Patients with chronic/acute infl ammation and cardiac insuffi ciency may have an elevated CgA³
- Patients with non malignant gastro intestinal disorders (e.g. pancreatitis, chronic hepatitis) may have an elevated CgA³





Figure 1: Neoplastic causes of elevated CgA (adapted from Lawrence et al.³)

First and only fully automated CgA assay

Shortest time to result

The automated Thermo Scientific[™] B·R·A·H·M·S[™] KRYPTOR[™], a random access analyzer, provides fast, repro ducible results and is significantly less labor intensive than other commercially available CgA assays.²

When assessing response to therapy and disease burden clin icians expect results in a timely manner. Results on KRYPTOR are **available within 29 minutes** (Figure 2) and could be reported to clinicians the same day. Labs can now provide to clinicians a reliable monitoring indicator for response to targeted therapy of neuroendocrine tumors.²

Superior precision

KRYPTOR provides exceptional intraand interassay precision due to homogeneous assay design without any washing or separation step.

The extraordinary assay precision supports confi dent decision making on the patient's clinical status and further therapy for optimal patient management.

Short incubation time (29 min) enables reliable monitoring



Figure 2: Incubation time (min) of various CgA assays



Broadest measuring range

Each dilution requires an extra determination. On KRYPTOR less samples have to be diluted compared to other current commercially available assays because of the broader direct measuring range (Figure 3).

The Thermo Scientific B·R·A·H·M·S CgA II KRYPTOR assay therefore meets the challenge to provide reliable results over a wide range, **vastly improving the assessment of patients receiving treatment regimes for neuroendocrine tumors**.²



Figure 2: Incubation time (min) of various CgA assays

"The patient group that has been most positively affected by the Chromogranin A assay on KRYPTOR are the **patients with extensive neuroendocrine or carcinoid tumors**. In this group CgA is often extraordinarily high and samples have to be diluted. Accurately quantifying CgA in these patients allows for **improved assessment of disease activity and response to therapy**."

CgA expert user

Neuron-Specific Enolase (NSE) – Marker in poorly differentiated NETs

Excellent precision for confident cancer monitoring

NSE is formed in the neuroendocrine cells of various tissues and subsequently secreted into the blood. NSE is widely used as a marker of neuroendocrine differentiation. It is a cytosolic protein, whose presence does not correlate with granular density. For this reason it is particularly useful for the diagnosis of poorly granulated neoplasm, i.e. poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas.⁵

However, its expression is not exclusively restricted to neuroendocrine tissue, NSE is also frequently increased in patients with e.g. Increased values for NSE often indicate an increased tumor burden, but it does not correlate with the size of the tumor.

The combination of NSE and CgA results in higher specificity than with the two parameters individually.

- Small cell lung cancer (SCLC)
- Medullary thyroid cancer
- Pheochromocytoma





Neuroendocrine tumor markers on KRYPTOR Systems

Thermo Scientific B·R·A·H·M·S CgA II KRYPTOR

Article number: 839.050

Assay characteristics

Determinations	50	
Sample volume	14 µL	
Sample type	Serum/EDTA plasma	
Incubation time	29 min	
Direct measurement	11.83 000 ng/mL	
Measuring range with automatic dilution	11.81000 000 ng/mL	
Detection limit	11.8 ng/mL	
Kit stability on board	29 days	
Calibrator	1 point	
Calibration stability	15 days	

Thermo Scientific B·R·A·H·M·S NSE KRYPTOR

Article number: 821.050

Assay characteristics

Determinations	50	
Sample volume	70 µL	
Sample type	Serum	
Incubation time	59 min	
Direct measurement	0.8 200 ng/mL	
Measuring range with automatic dilution	0.8 10 000 ng/mL	
Detection limit	0.8 ng/mL	
Kit stability on board	15 days	
Calibrator	2 points	
Calibration stability	15 days	

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Thermo Scientific B·R·A·H·M·S Tumor Markers	
A broad range of markers available	
Brain NSE, CEA	ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) SCC, CYFRA 21-1, CEA
Pituitary Gland Prolactin	Thyroid MTC: Calcitonin, Chromograpin A. CEA
Lung SCLC: NSE, CYFRA 21-1, Chromogranin A	DTC: Thyroglobulin, CEA Esophagus
NSCLC: SCC, CYFRA 21-1, CEA	SCC, CYFRA 21-1, CEA Breast
AFP, CEA, CA 19-9, Chromogranin A	Stomach
Gallbladder CA 19-9, CEA	Chromogranin A Pancreas
Adrenal Gland Chromogranin A Kidney	CA 19-9, CEA, Chromogranin A
CEA, NSE Colon	Chromogranin A, NSE Ovary
CEA, CA 19-9, Chromogranin A	CA 125 II, CEA, AFP, hCG+β
CYFRA 21-1, CEA, NSE Prostate	Uterus SCC, hCG+β, CYFRA 21-1 Cervix
Total PSA, Free PSA Testicle	SCC, CYFRA 21-1, CEA Vagina, vulva
AFP, hCG+β Bone Metastases Ostoocalcin	SCC

Clinical Diagnostics

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