Non WHO Reference Material
Follicle Stimulating Hormone/ Luteinizing Hormone, Human, Pituitary
NIBSC code: 94/632
Instructions for use
(Version 5.0, Dated 23/09/2010)

This material is not for in vitro diagnostic use.

1. INTENDED USE

Stocks of the 2nd International Reference Preparation for Follicle Stimulating Hormone/Luteinizing Hormone (ICSH), Human, Pituitary for Bioassay, (Code number 78/549) (1 & 2) are exhausted. Because this preparation was widely used for calibration of commercial diagnostic kits for FSH determination and because the International Standard for Follicle Stimulating Hormone, Pituitary (Code 83/575) appeared to be unacceptable for this purpose a further batch of ampoules (Coded 94/632) was filled with material contained in master ampoules (Code 69/133) used for preparation of the 1st and 2nd IRP (Coded 69/104 and 78/549 respectively). The preparation in ampoules coded 94/632 was made available as an interim reference preparation to replace the 2nd IRP pending the completion of an International Collaborative Study to evaluate candidate standards for rDNA-derived human follicle stimulating hormone. This study has now been completed and although ampoules of 94/632 are still available users of this material should pay particular attention to section 9 of this memorandum.

2. CAUTION

This preparation is not for administration to humans or animals in the human food chain.

The preparation contains material of human origin, and either the final product or the source materials, from which it is derived, have been tested and found negative for HBsAg, anti-HIV and HCV RNA. As with all materials of biological origin, this preparation should be regarded as potentially hazardous to health. It should be used and discarded according to your own laboratory’s safety procedures. Such safety procedures should include the wearing of protective gloves and avoiding the generation of aerosols. Care should be exercised in opening ampoules or vials, to avoid cuts.

3. UNITAGE

For use in immunoassays, users of this material are recommended to assume a unitage of 20 IU FSH per ampoule.

Uncertainty: the International Unit of 94/632 is assigned without uncertainty. Where required, the uncertainty of the ampoule content of 94/632 may be considered to be the co-efficient of variation of the fill volume, which was determined to be 0.23%.

4. CONTENTS

Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.

Each ampoule contains the residue, after freeze drying and secondary desiccation, of 1.0 ml of a solution which contained:

- Extract of human pituitaries: 1.0 mg
- Lactose: 2.5 mg
- Dry nitrogen at slightly less than atmospheric pressure.

5. STORAGE

Unopened ampoules should be stored at –20°C

Please note: because of the inherent stability of lyophilized material, NIBSC may ship these materials at ambient temperature.

6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING

DIN ampoules have an ‘easy-open’ coloured stress point, where the narrow ampoule stem joins the wider ampoule body. Various types of ampoule breaker are available commercially. To open the ampoule, tap the ampoule gently to collect material at the bottom (labelled) end and follow manufactures instructions provided with the ampoule breaker.

7. USE OF MATERIAL

For practical purposes each ampoule contains the same amount of the same materials. Dissolve all the contents in a known amount of buffer solution.

No attempt should be made to weigh portions of the freeze dried powder. For economy of use the solution can be kept for several months if an anti bacterial preservative is added and the solution is subdivided into several small containers, which are frozen rapidly to below 70°C and then stored below 30°C in the dark; repeated freezing and thawing should be avoided.

If extensive dilutions are prepared, a carrier protein (0.1% w/v) should be added, which is free of peptidase. (3)

The material has not been sterilised and contains no bacteriostat.

8. PREPARATION OF AMPOULES AND ACTIVITY OF CONTENTS

A batch of 1162 ampoules was prepared using the content of three master ampoules (Code 69/133) using procedures as similar as possible to those used for preparing the 1st and 2nd International Reference Preparation. (4)

9. INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR FSH, HUMAN, RECOMBINANT.

The Second International Reference Preparation for FSH and LH, human pituitary (in ampoules coded 78/549) has been used as a universal calibrator for diagnostic immunoassays. However, supplies of this preparation are now exhausted and NIBSC has therefore recently issued an interim reference preparation which was derived from the same master ampoules as the IRP described in this memorandum. Supplies of this material are also limited and when stocks become exhausted it will not be possible to replace it with a similar material. Moreover the material from which both the First and Second IRPs and the interim reference preparation were derived is very impure and therefore poorly defined in terms of the gonadotrophin content and therefore does not represent an ideal standard for calibration of different immunoassay systems. The relative impurity has been a contributing factor to the difficulty experienced in calibrating candidate standards for highly purified FSH either by immunoassay or bioassay whilst maintaining a continuity of unitage.

Following completion of the International Collaborative Study to evaluate candidate International Standards for recombinant DNA derived FSH, the First International Standard for FSH, human, recombinant for bioassay, 92/642, was established by ECBS of WHO. However, at that time no decision was made regarding the establishment of any preparation to serve as an International Standard for Immunoassay. The issues surrounding this particular problem were discussed in some detail at a workshop held at NIBSC in March 1996 (5) and the materials included in the collaborative study were included in two distributions through the UK NEQAS scheme (6).

Having reviewed the available data from these studies and considering the availability of current preparations used for calibration of diagnostic immunoassays a proposal was made for establishing the ampouled preparation of recombinant DNA derived human FSH coded 92/510 as an International Standard for immunoassay and the Committee on Biological Standardization of WHO at its forty eighth meeting in 1997 established this preparation of recombinant DNA derived human FSH (in ampoules coded 92/510) as the First International Standard for Follicle Stimulating Hormone, Human, Recombinant for Immunoassays with an assigned unitage of 60 IU per ampoule in order to maintain supplies of standard for calibration of diagnostic immunoassays (7).
While stocks of the interim reference preparation are still available for distribution it will be of great use for individual users to compare the IS with the interim reference preparation in their own assay systems and to report their observations to NIBSC.

10. STABILITY

In the absence of stability data, users should assume the interim reference preparation to exhibit the potency as described at establishment

It is the policy of WHO not to assign an expiry date to their international reference materials. They remain valid with the assigned potency and status until withdrawn or amended.

Once reconstituted, diluted or aliquoted, users should determine the stability of the material according to their own method of preparation, storage and use.

Users who have data supporting any deterioration in the characteristics of any reference preparation are encouraged to contact NIBSC.

11. REFERENCES

5. Jeffcoate SL Clinical Endocrinology (1997) 46 527 529

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained as follows;
This material: enquiries@nibsc.org
WHO Biological Standards:
http://www.who.int/biologicals/en/
JCTLM Higher order reference materials:
http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jctlm/
Derivation of International Units:
http://www.nibsc.org/standardisation/international_standards.aspx
Ordering standards from NIBSC:
http://www.nibsc.org/products/ordering.aspx
NIBSC Terms & Conditions:
http://www.nibsc.org/terms_and_conditions.aspx

13. CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Customers are encouraged to provide feedback on the suitability or use of the material provided or other aspects of our service. Please send any comments to enquiries@nibsc.org

14. CITATION

In all publications, including data sheets, in which this material is referenced, it is important that the preparation’s title, its status, the NIBSC code number, and the name and address of NIBSC are cited and cited correctly.

15. MATERIAL SAFETY SHEET

Classification in accordance with Directive 2000/54/EC, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008: Not applicable or not classified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical and Chemical properties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical appearance: Freeze dried powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygroscopic: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flammable: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify): Contains material of human origin</td>
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</tbody>
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16. LIABILITY AND LOSS

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17. INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY

| Country of origin for customs purposes*: United Kingdom |
| Toxicity Statement: Non-toxic |
| Veterinary certificate or other statement if applicable. Attached: No |

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WHO International Laboratory for Biological Standards, UK Official Medicines Control Laboratory