

# Reference Protocol for biotinylated Anti-CD4 (HS-360 117BT) Immunohistochemistry using DAB as Chromogen

## Tissue Fixation

- 3.7% formaldehyde (24 h), 3.5 µM paraffin sections

## Materials and Reagents

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Food Steamer   | Braun, Multigourmet |
| • Staining Containers with slide holders (e.g. Tissue-Tek)                                   |                     |
| • Protein Block, Serum-Free  | Agilent X0909       |
| • Antibody diluent   | Agilent S2022       |
| • ABC HRP Kit, Standard  | Vectorlabs PK-4000  |
| • ImmPACT DAB  | Vectorlabs SK-4105  |
| • Hydrogen peroxide 30%  | Merck 1.07298.0250  |
| • PBS (pH 7.4)   |                     |
| • TBST (TBS, 0.05% Tween 20, pH 7.6)   |                     |
| • Antigen Retrieval buffer:<br><b>Citrate Buffer (10 mM Citrate, 0.05% Tween 20, pH 6.0)</b> |                     |
| • Xylene, 100% ethanol, 90% ethanol, 80% ethanol and 70% ethanol, 2-propanol                 |                     |
| • Optional: Hematoxylin Solution (Mayer's, Modified) or other nuclear counterstain           |                     |
| • Optional: Avidin/Biotin Blocking Kit   | Vectorlabs SP-2001  |
| • Non-aqueous mounting medium  |                     |

## Method

### 1. Deparaffinize and hydrate tissue sections

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| a. Xylol           | 2 x 5 min  |
| b. 100% EtOH       | 2 x 2 min  |
| c. 90% EtOH        | 1 x 2 min  |
| d. 80% EtOH        | 1 x 2 min  |
| e. 70% EtOH        | 2 x 2 min  |
| f. Deionized Water | 1 x 20 sec |
| g. PBS             | 1 x 2 min  |

\*Keep the slides in PBS until ready to perform the Antigen Retrieval.  
Do not allow the slides to dry out\*

## 2. Antigen Retrieval (AR) using a food steamer

- a. Heat the steamer with a suitable staining container filled with Antigen Retrieval buffer to ~97°C
- b. Transfer the sections into the staining box, wait until the temperature reaches 97°C
- c. Incubate the sections in the steamer for 30 min
- d. Remove the staining container from the steamer and allow the slides to cool down for 20 min (target end temperature ~60°C)

3. Wash slides in PBS, 3 x 1 min

## 4. Blocking endogenous peroxidase activity

- a. Incubate the sections with 3% hydrogen peroxide in PBS (freshly prepared!) for 5 min

5. Wash slides in PBS, 2 x 1 min

6. Wash slides in TBST, 1 x 2 min

7. **Optional:** Perform Avidin-Biotin-Block according to manufacturer's instructions.

*Note: Certain tissues (e.g. liver, kidney) contain high levels of endogenous biotin. The Avidin-Biotin blocking step is recommended when using the ABC system for these tissues. If the background problem persists, consider trying a polymer-based detection system instead of biotinylated secondary antibody / ABC system.*

8. Block in Protein Block, Serum-Free for 10 min

9. **Drain slides (do not rinse)**

10. **Apply primary antibody diluted in Antibody Diluent** and incubate in a humidified chamber for 1 h at room temperature

**\*Suggested dilution: 1:50 in Antibody Diluent\***

**\*Perform step 11 in the interim\***

11. **Prepare the ABC-reagent:** 5 ml PBS + 1 drop A + 1 drop B, incubate for 30 min

12. Wash slides in TBST, 3 x 2 min

13. **Apply the ABC reagent for 30 min at room temperature**

14. Wash slides in TBST, 3 x 2 min

15. **Apply the DAB substrate, 1-10 min**

\*Observe the staining with a microscope!

Development times may differ depending upon the level of antigen\*

16. Stop the DAB reaction with deionized water

17. **Optional: Counterstain**

- a. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for counterstaining and bluing

18. Wash slides in deionized water for 1 min

19. **Dehydrate tissue sections:**

- a. 70% EtOH 2 x 10 sec
- b. 80% EtOH 1 x 10 sec
- c. 90% EtOH 1 x 10 sec
- d. 2-Propanol 2 x 1 min
- e. Xylol 3 x 2 min

20. **Mount slides in a suitable organic mounting medium and add coverslip**

**Note:** The SYSY standard protocol generates good results in the SYSY labs and may be used as a reference. However, to achieve the highest specific signal and lowest non-specific background signal, the best antigen retrieval condition, antibody concentration, incubation temperature, and incubation time must be determined individually. Please also refer to our general protocols.