BD™ HLA-B27 Kit
Catalog No. 340183

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1. INTENDED USE

The BD™ HLA-B27 system is a qualitative two-color direct immunofluorescence method for the rapid detection of HLA-B27 antigen expression in erythrocyte-lysed whole blood (LWB) using the BD FACSCanto™ family of flow cytometers, or the BD FACSCalibur™, BD FACSort™, or BD FACScan™ flow cytometer.

2. SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

HLA-B27 is a major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I molecule. MHC class I molecules are cell-surface glycoproteins that are expressed on most nucleated human cells and platelets.¹

The presence of HLA-B27 antigen is strongly associated with ankylosing spondylitis (AS), a chronic inflammatory disease of the axial musculoskeletal system, and a few other rheumatic disorders (Reiter's syndrome, acute anterior uveitis, and inflammatory bowel disease).² HLA-B27 testing is routinely used to screen for AS since 90% of patients with AS have the HLA-B27 surface antigen compared to only 8% of healthy individuals.³

3. PRINCIPLES OF THE PROCEDURE

Cell Preparation
When Anti–HLA-B27 FITC/CD3 PE monoclonal antibody reagent is added to human whole blood, the fluorochrome-labeled antibodies bind specifically to leukocyte surface antigens. The stained samples are treated with BD FACS™ lysis solution to lyse erythrocytes and then washed and fixed before flow cytometric analysis.

Flow Cytometer Setup
Initial setup for any of the BD FACSCanto family of flow cytometers is done using BD FACSTM 7-color setup beads and BD FACSCanto™ clinical software. The BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, and
BD FACScan flow cytometers are initially set up using BD Calibrite™
beads with BD FACSComp™ software.

Thereafter, on the same day, the FITC/FL1 detector voltage is set
specifically for the assay using HLA-B27 calibration beads. The suffix
on the bead vial is the target value, in units of log median fluorescence
(LMF) for 256 channels full scale. The suffix must be entered correctly
in the software or results can be incorrect. The software then adjusts
the detector voltage until the bead attains the target value LMF. For the
BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, and BD FACScan instruments only, the
bead is used additionally to set the FSC gain. Reports are produced by
the appropriate software to verify correct setup. Figure 1 on page 7
shows the Application Setup Report for the BD FACSCanto family of
flow cytometers and Figure 2 on page 8 shows the HLA-B27
Calibration Report for the BD FACSCalibur, BD FACScan, or
BD FACSort instruments.

Sample Acquisition

Acquisition of the stained samples is done with BD FACSCanto clinical
software for the BD FACSCanto family of flow cytometers, or with
BD™ HLA-B27 software for the BD FACSCalibur flow cytometer.
Approximately 15,000 total events or 2,000 T lymphocytes are
acquired.

Sample Analysis

The acquisition software automatically analyzes the acquired sample.
T lymphocytes are gated in dot plots of CD3 PE (PE or FL2 detector)
versus scatter (Figure 3 on page 9 and Figure 4 on page 10). The T-
lymphocyte population is displayed in a FITC/FL1 histogram (Figure 3
and Figure 4), where the LMF is calculated. Samples with an LMF
greater than or equal to the decision marker should be considered
HLA-B27–positive (see Results for details), and samples with an LMF
less than the marker should be considered HLA-B27–negative. The
decision marker is set by the suffix on the reagent vial for HLA-B27
FITC/CD3 PE. The suffix is in units of LMF and must be entered
correctly into the software before sample acquisition, or assay results might be incorrect.

**Figure 1** Example of HLA-B27 Setup Report from BD FACSCanto clinical software for the BD FACSCanto system
Figure 2. Example of HLA-B27 Calibration Report from BD FACSComp software for the BD FACSCalibur system

HLA-B27 Calibration Report

Instrument ID: 092

Operator: AA

Date: Friday, July 13, 2009 11:15 AM

Software: FACSCalibur v5.3.1

Figure 2: HLA-B27 Calibration Report from BD FACSComp software for the BD FACSCalibur system.
Figure 3. Example of HLA-B27 Laboratory Report from BD FACSCanto clinical software for the BD FACSCanto system
Figure 4. Example of HLA-B27 Laboratory Report from BD HLA-B27 software for the BD FACSCalibur system

BD
HLA-B27 Laboratory Report

Conclusion: HLA-B27 positive sample

Comments:
Figure 5 on page 11 shows examples of HLA-B27–positive (bottom histogram) and HLA-B27–negative samples (top and middle histograms). The middle sample is also negative because the LMF is below the decision marker, but it is brighter than the sample in the top histogram. It is brighter because the Anti–HLA-B27-FITC antibody shows some cross-reactivity with some other HLA types, particularly HLA-B7.4,5

**Figure 5** Examples of HLA-B27–negative (top and middle) and HLA-B27–positive (bottom) samples
4. REAGENTS
Reagents Provided, Sufficient for 50 Tests
The BD HLA-B27 kit consists of one vial containing a combination of murine monoclonal antibodies, Anti–HLA-B27 conjugated with FITC and CD3 conjugated with PE; one bottle of 10X BD FACS lysing solution concentrate; and one vial of HLA-B27 calibration beads sufficient for 10 setups.

Reagent A, Anti–HLA-B27 FITC/CD3 PE
- Reagent A, sufficient for 50 tests, is provided in 1.5 mL of buffered saline with gelatin and 0.1% sodium azide. It contains FITC-labeled Anti–HLA-B27, clone GS145.2 (IgG1, kappa), for the identification of the HLA-B27 antigen, and PE-labeled CD3, clone SK7 (IgG1, kappa), for the identification of T lymphocytes. Store at 2°C–8°C.

Reagent B, 10X BD FACS Lysing Solution
Reagent B (30 mL) contains 10X buffered BD FACS lysing solution with less than 50% diethylene glycol and less than 15% formaldehyde. Store at 2°C–25°C.

To use, dilute 1:10 with room-temperature (20°C–25°C) reagent-grade water. When stored in a glass container at room temperature, the prepared solution is stable for one month.

Reagent C, HLA-B27 Calibration Beads
Reagent C, sufficient for 10 setups, is provided in 1.5 mL of buffered saline with Tween®* 20, gelatin, and 0.1% sodium azide. The beads are used to set up the cytometer specifically for the HLA-B27 assay. Store at 2°C–8°C.

* Tween is a registered trademark of Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC.
Concentration values are listed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reagent</th>
<th>Concentration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD3</td>
<td>4.2 µg/mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>5.0 µg/mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setup Beads</td>
<td>2.00 x 10⁷ beads/mL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Precautions

**CAUTION** The operator must not manually change any of the instrument settings after they have been established by the setup procedures. See the information in Flow Cytometry on page 19.

- For In Vitro Diagnostic Use,
- Not for use in tissue typing.
- When stored at 2°C–8°C, reagents are stable until the expiration date shown on the label. Do not use after the expiration date.
- The reagents must not be frozen or exposed to direct light during storage or incubation with cells. Keep the reagent vials dry.
- Stain within the times specified in Specimen Collection and Preparation on page 16. Before staining, store blood at room temperature (20°C–25°C). Do not use previously fixed cells. Use of times or temperatures other than those specified can cause errors in results. Blood samples refrigerated before staining can give aberrant results.
- For optimal results, analyze stained samples within 24 hours of staining.
- Alteration in the appearance of the reagents, such as precipitation or discoloration, indicates instability or deterioration. In such cases, the reagents should not be used.

The antibody reagent and setup beads contain sodium azide as a preservative; however, care should be taken to avoid microbial contamination which can cause erroneous results.
Reagent B contains 30.0% diethylene glycol, CAS number 111-46-6, 9.99% formaldehyde, CAS number 50-00-0, and 3.51% methanol, CAS number 67-56-1.

All biological specimens and materials coming in contact with them are considered biohazards. Handle as if capable of transmitting infection\textsuperscript{11,12} and dispose of with proper precautions in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Never pipette by mouth. Wear suitable protective clothing, eyewear, and gloves.

\textbf{Danger}

- H311 Toxic in contact with skin.
- H311 Toxic if inhaled.
- H314 Suspected of causing genetic defects.
- H331 Toxic if inhaled.
- H335 May cause damage to organs. May cause respiratory irritation.
- H371-H375 May cause damage to the kidneys through prolonged or repeated exposure. Route of exposure: Oral.
- H373 May cause damage to the kidneys through prolonged or repeated exposure. Route of exposure: Oral.
- H373 May cause damage to organs. May cause respiratory irritation.
- H373 May cause damage to organs. May cause respiratory irritation.
- H373 May cause damage to organs. May cause respiratory irritation.
- H318 Causes serious eye damage.
- H312 Harmful if swallowed.
- H315 Causes skin irritation.
- H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.

Wear protective clothing / eye protection. Wear protective gloves. Avoid breathing mist/vapours/spray. IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. IF INHALED: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing. IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a doctor.
Testing has demonstrated that HLA-B27 expression is decreased over time in acid citrate dextrose solution B (ACD-B) blood collection tubes. This decrease can lead to incorrect results and therefore ACD-B tubes are not recommended for sample collection.

Storage and Handling
- Store Reagent A and Reagent C upright at 2°C–8°C. Do not use after the expiration date shown on the label.
- Store Reagent B, undiluted, at 2°C–25°C. When diluted, store at room temperature (20°C–25°C) for up to one month.
- Do not freeze the reagents or expose them to direct light during storage or incubation with cells. Keep reagent vials dry.

5. INSTRUMENT
The BD HLA-B27 kit is designed for use on the following BD FACS brand flow cytometer systems. For detailed information on use, refer to product-specific documentation.

BD FACSCanto or BD FACSCanto II System
- BD FACSCanto family of flow cytometers
- BD FACSCanto clinical software
- BD HLA-B27 application module

BD FACScalibur, BD FACSsort, or BD FACSscan System
- BD FACScalibur, BD FACSsort, or BD FACSscan flow cytometer
- BD FACSStation™ data management system (included in the BD FACScalibur, BD FACSsort, and BD FACSscan systems)
- BD HLA-B27 software
- BD FACSComp software

All performance characteristics were obtained using these instruments and software systems. Other systems can have different characteristics.
6. SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION
Collect blood aseptically by venipuncture, using BD Vacutainer® blood collection tubes.13 A minimum of 1 mL of whole blood is required for this procedure.

For the BD FACSort or BD FACScan System
Blood drawn into EDTA, heparin, or citrate-phosphate-dextrose (CPD) blood collection tubes can be stored up to 24 hours at room temperature (20°C–25°C) until ready for staining. Once stained, samples are stable up to 24 hours at 2°C–8°C.

For the BD FACS Calibur, BD FACSCanto, or BD FACSCanto II System
Blood drawn into EDTA, heparin, or ACD solution A (ACD-A) blood collection tubes can be stored up to 48 hours at room temperature (20°C–25°C) until ready for staining. Once stained, samples are stable up to 24 hours at 2°C–8°C.

Interfering Conditions
Do not use previously fixed and stored cells. Leucocyte samples or whole blood samples refrigerated before staining can give aberrant results. Reject hemolyzed samples or samples with less than 1 mL of whole blood in the collection tube.

7. PROCEDURE
Reagents Provided
See Reagents Provided, Sufficient for 50 Tests and Precautions, Section 4, Reagents.
Reagents and Materials Required But Not Provided

- BD Vacutainer EDTA blood collection tubes or equivalent
- Falcon® disposable 12 x 75-mm polystyrene test tubes or equivalent
- Vortex mixer
- Low-speed centrifuge (minimum speed 200g) with swinging-bucket rotor and 12 x 75-mm tube carriers
- Vacuum aspirator with trap
- Micropipettor with tips
- BD CellWASH™ (Catalog No. 349524) or a wash buffer of phosphate buffered saline (PBS) with 0.1% sodium azide
  NOTE  BD CellWASH solution is not available in all markets.
- BD CellFIX™ (Catalog No. 340181) or 1% paraformaldehyde solution in PBS with 0.1% sodium azide
  Store at 2°C–8°C in amber glass for up to 1 week.
  NOTE  BD CellFIX solution is not available in all markets.
- Reagent-grade (both distilled and deionized) water
- BD FACSFlow™ sheath fluid (Catalog No. 342003) or equivalent
  CAUTION  Use only BD FACSFlow sheath fluid to dilute HLA-B27 calibration beads.
- For the BD FACSCanto or BD FACSCanto II system: BD FACS 7-color setup beads (Catalog No. 335775). For instructions and warnings, refer to the instructions for use (IFU).
- For the BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, or BD FACScan systems: BD Calibrite beads (Catalog No. 349502). For instructions and warnings, refer to the IFU.

*  Falcon is a registered trademark of Corning Incorporated.
**Staining and Fixing the Cells**

The following procedure should be performed at room temperature (20°C–25°C) using room-temperature reagents. Use care to protect tubes from direct light. See Precautions on page 13.

1. For each sample, label a 12 x 75-mm tube with the sample identification number.
2. Place 30 µL of Reagent A into the tube.
3. For each sample tube, use a fresh micropipettor tip and carefully add 50 µL of well-mixed anticoagulated whole blood into the bottom of each tube. The recommended white blood cell (WBC) concentration is 3.5 to 9.4 x 10^3 WBC/µL. Vortex thoroughly at low speed for 3 seconds and incubate for 15 to 20 minutes at room temperature (20°C–25°C) in the dark.
   
   **NOTE**  Protect samples from direct light during this incubation procedure and use care to prevent blood from running down the side of the tube. If whole blood remains on the side of the tube, it will not be stained with the reagent.

4. Dilute 10X BD FACS lysing solution to 1X following the instructions in Section 4, Reagents. Add 2 mL of room temperature (20°C–25°C) 1X BD FACS lysing solution to each tube. Immediately vortex thoroughly at low speed for 3 seconds and incubate for 10 to 12 minutes at room temperature (20°C–25°C) in the dark. Do not exceed 12 minutes incubation.
   
   **CAUTION**  Avoid prolonged exposure of the cells to lytic reagents, which can cause white cell destruction.

5. Immediately after incubation, centrifuge tubes at 300 g for 5 minutes at room temperature (20°C–25°C).

6. Aspirate the supernatant, leaving approximately 50 µL of residual fluid in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet.
7. Vortex tubes thoroughly at low speed to resuspend the cell pellet in the residual fluid. Add 2 mL of BD CellWASH solution or PBS with 0.1% sodium azide to each tube. Vortex thoroughly at low speed for 3 seconds and centrifuge at 200g for 5 minutes at room temperature (20°C–25°C).

8. Aspirate the supernatant, leaving approximately 50 µL of residual fluid in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet.

9. Vortex the tube thoroughly at low speed to resuspend the cell pellet in the residual fluid. Add 0.25 mL of BD CellFIX solution, or 1% paraformaldehyde in PBS to each tube, and vortex thoroughly at low speed for 3 seconds. Make sure the cells are well mixed with the fixing solution.

10. Samples are now ready to be analyzed on the flow cytometer. Cap or cover and store the prepared tubes at 2°C–8°C in the dark until flow cytometric analysis. Analyze the fixed cells within 24 hours of staining. Vortex the cells thoroughly at low speed to reduce aggregation before analyzing them on the flow cytometer.

Flow Cytometry

See Flow Cytometer Setup on page 5, and refer to the appropriate instrument and software IFUs for specific setup instructions. Ensure that cytometer setup with BD Calibrite beads or BD FACS 7-color setup beads has passed instrument quality control criteria on the same day before proceeding with the HLA-B27 setup procedure.

Use the following instructions for flow cytometric analysis. See also Section 5, Instrument on page 15.
HLA-B27 Setup for All Supported Instruments

HLA-B27 setup must be performed each day samples are run. Prepare a fresh aliquot of HLA-B27 calibration beads each time the following setup procedure is performed. Dilute beads just before setup.

1. Gently and thoroughly vortex the HLA-B27 calibration bead vial.
2. Add 2 drops of beads to 1 mL of BD FACSFlow diluent in a 12 x 75-mm test tube.
3. Vortex the bead suspension thoroughly at low speed for 3 seconds.
4. Run the beads with BD FACSComp software on the BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, or BD FACScan flow cytometer, or with BD FACSCanto clinical software on the BD FACSCanto family of flow cytometers.

The event rate should be at least 400 events/sec before proceeding with setup. If the event rate is less than 400 events/sec, add another drop of beads to the tube.

The software will produce a report to confirm proper setup (see Figure 1 on page 7 and Figure 2 on page 8.

CAUTION Failure to follow the entire instrument setup procedure can cause erroneous results.

CAUTION Do not manually change any of the instrument settings after they have been established by these setup procedures.

Sample Acquisition and Analysis

Acquire all samples on the flow cytometer. For the BD FACSCanto family of flow cytometers, use BD FACSCanto clinical software. For the BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, or BD FACScan flow cytometer, acquire data using BD HLA-B27 software. Refer to the software IFU for detailed instructions. After acquisition, each software automatically analyzes the sample and produces a laboratory report showing details.
of the analysis and whether the sample is positive or negative for HLA-B27.

Quality Control

For optimal results, BD requires the setup procedure described in the *BD HLA-B27 Software Reference Manual* (for the BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, or BD FACScan flow cytometer) or in the *BD HLA-B27 Application Guide* (for the BD FACSCanto family of flow cytometers).

We recommend staining known HLA-B27–positive and HLA-B27–negative control samples and running as a QC check of the system each time the BD HLA-B27 system is used. Results from HLA-B27–positive and HLA-B27–negative subjects are illustrated in Figure 5 on page 11.

BD FACSCanto clinical software identifies CD3⁺ T-lymphocyte events. There must be adequate separation (as determined by the software) between the CD3-positive and CD3-negative populations. If the gate is misplaced, a QC message will appear. Refer to the software manual for information.

For the BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, or BD FACScan flow cytometer, BD HLA-B27 software uses the following criteria for evaluation of the dot plots and QC analysis of the data.

- A minimum of 2% of all events must be T lymphocytes (bright FL2 events) to allow the software to position the gate on the FSC vs FL2 dot plot.
- There must be adequate separation (as determined by the software) between the CD3-positive and CD3-negative populations.

If these conditions are not met, an error message appears. See Troubleshooting on page 31 for additional information. If the QC criteria are not met, results from the BD HLA-B27 system can be suspect.

Visually inspect the scatter versus CD3 PE (PE/FL2 detector) dot plot to ensure that the T-lymphocyte gate is set correctly.
8. RESULTS
BD instrument systems automatically display results for HLA-B27 antigen expression in the sample as shown in Figure 3 on page 9, Figure 4 on page 10, and Figure 5 on page 11. The sample is reported as either positive or negative for HLA-B27.

9. LIMITATIONS
The information obtained from the BD HLA-B27 system must be combined with other information and interpreted by a medically qualified physician to establish presence or absence of specific disease states.

Anti–HLA-B27 cross-reacts with several of the HLA-B antigens, most commonly with the HLA-B7 antigen.\textsuperscript{4,5} The LMF for HLA-B7–positive samples in the FITC/FL1 detector can thus be in the range of HLA-B27–positive samples, resulting in some false-positive results.

Visually inspect the scatter vs CD3 PE dot plot to ensure that the T-lymphocyte gate is set correctly. In one out of 4,000 donor samples (BD FACScan system), the gate was incorrectly set on the granulocyte population. In such a case, the operator is advised to re-test the sample.

Performance characteristics of this product have not been established on samples with WBC counts outside the normal range of the participating laboratory. The recommended range of the WBC concentration is 3.5 to 9.4 x 10\textsuperscript{3} WBC/µL.

10. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS
BD FACSCanto and BD FACSCanto II Systems
Agreement
An agreement study between the BD FACSCanto II and the BD FACSCanto systems was performed at BD Biosciences. A total number of 125 samples were compared, with each sample collected in
duplicate on both systems (Table 1). Agreement is calculated as follows:

\[
\frac{100\% \times (\text{positive on both platforms} + \text{negative on both platforms})}{\text{(total number of samples)}}
\]

(a) Overall agreement is 100%.

(b) Both replicates for one sample agreed between the test and comparative methods but disagreed within the method itself (one replicate positive and one replicate negative on each system within two channels).

An agreement study between the BD FACSCanto and the BD FACSCalibur systems was performed at one reference laboratory. A total number of 397 samples were compared, of which 323 samples were negative for the HLA-B27 antigen and 74 samples were positive (Table 2). There were no discordant samples. Agreement is calculated as follows:

\[
\frac{100\% \times (\text{positive on both platforms} + \text{negative on both platforms})}{\text{(total number of samples)}}
\]
Precision

BD FACSCanto II system precision was estimated using ten samples, five positive and five negative for the HLA-B27 antigen. Samples were run in duplicate for two days, two runs each day, using three instruments and three operators. The standard deviation (SD) for the mean of the values for HLA-B27 FITC LMF for each of the variables was calculated. See Table 3 on page 24.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test method (BD HLA-B27 system on BD FACSCanto system)</th>
<th>Comparative method (BD HLA-B27 system on BD FACS Calibur system)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Overall agreement is 100%.
b. Results calculated based on 95% lower confidence interval= 99% agreement

Precision

BD FACSCanto II system precision was estimated using ten samples, five positive and five negative for the HLA-B27 antigen. Samples were run in duplicate for two days, two runs each day, using three instruments and three operators. The standard deviation (SD) for the mean of the values for HLA-B27 FITC LMF for each of the variables was calculated. See Table 3 on page 24.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precision</th>
<th>SD of LMF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within run</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between runs</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between days</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System total</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BD FACSCanto system precision was estimated using ten samples, five positive and five negative for the HLA-B27 antigen. Samples were run in duplicate for two days, two runs each day, using three
BD FACSCanto instruments and three operators. The SD for the mean of the values for HLA-B27 FITC LMF for each of the variables was calculated (Table 4).

### Table 4 Precision study—overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precision</th>
<th>SD of LMF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within run</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between instruments</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between days</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System total</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cross-Reactivity Characterization**

The Anti–HLA-B27 antibody, clone GS145.2, used in the BD HLA-B27 system, has been shown to cross-react, most commonly with HLA-B7. The LMF for some cross-reacting samples can fall on the positive side of the decision marker, thus resulting in false-positive results. A study was performed to characterize this cross-reactivity. Twenty-nine samples with known HLA-B cross-reactive antigens and six HLA-B27–positive samples, as determined by cytotoxicity or low resolution molecular testing, were stained in triplicate and acquired by each of three operators on two BD FACSCanto instruments. Results are shown in Figure 6 on page 26. All six of the confirmed HLA-B27–positive specimens were above the decision marker. The five false-positive specimens were predominately HLA-B7, in agreement with published studies. Based on the population tested, the cross-reactive samples that fell on the positive side of the decision marker (LMF channel 144) were within 144 and 154 LMF (Figure 6). This ten-channel zone is also supported by current literature. Results that fall within this zone should be confirmed by an alternate method.
The prevalence and distribution of HLA-B antigen cross-reactivity can vary.3-5 We recommend that laboratories confirm this gray zone by performing their own studies.

**Figure 6** Cross-reactivity characterization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>False negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BD FACSCalibur, BD FACSort, or BD FACScan System**

Performance of the BD HLA-B27 system on the BD FACScan system was established by testing at three European clinical centers and at BD Biosciences laboratories in Erembodegem, Belgium and in San Jose, California, USA. An in-house study showed equivalency of the
BD FACSCalibur and BD FACSort systems with the BD FACScan system.

**BD HLA-B27 System versus Comparative Methods**

In these studies, lysed whole blood samples from 1,418 subjects, including 258 HLA-B27–positive subjects, were analyzed on the BD FACScan system, using the BD HLA-B27 system and the microcytotoxicity method (Table 5). Agreement is calculated as follows:

\[
100\% \times \frac{\text{positive on both platforms} + \text{negative on both platforms}}{\text{total number of samples}}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test method (BD HLA-B27 system on BD FACScan system)</th>
<th>Comparative method (microcytotoxicity method on BD FACScan system)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>258</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5 BD HLA-B27 system versus comparative method for HLA-B27 marker validation**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>1,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Overall agreement is 97.9%.

**Within-Sample Reproducibility**

Lysed whole blood samples from each of five HLA-B27–positive, five HLA-B7–positive/HLA-B27–negative, and five HLA-B27–negative/HLA-B7–negative individuals were obtained. Each sample was divided into three aliquots. Each aliquot was stained with Anti–HLA-B27 FITC/CD3 PE reagent, lysed, washed, and fixed within 6 hours of sample collection. Flow cytometric analysis was performed on a
BD FACScan flow cytometer within 8 hours of staining. Within-sample variability observed did not alter the determinations for the presence or absence of HLA-B27 antigen. Results demonstrated acceptable within-sample reproducibility.

**Between-Instrument Reproducibility**

Blood samples from two HLA-B27–positive subjects and two HLA-B27–negative subjects were obtained, aliquoted (three times), stained with Anti-HLA-B27 FITC/CD3 PE reagent, lysed, washed, and fixed within 6 hours of sample collection. Flow cytometric analysis was performed on three BD FACScan flow cytometers in the same laboratory within 8 hours of staining. Flow cytometers were set up using a fresh dilution of BD Calibrite beads with BD Autocomp software and calibrated using a fresh dilution of HLA-B27 calibration beads for FL1 and BD HLA-B27 software before each stained sample was acquired. There were no differences between instruments in the determination of the presence or absence of the HLA-B27 antigen.

**Between-Laboratory Reproducibility**

Samples from 1,418 subjects, including 258 HLA-B27–positive subjects, were evaluated at three European centers in Bremen, Germany; Gent, Belgium; and Strasbourg, France. Among these sites, the HLA-B27–positive populations were tested for agreement of MFI by flow cytometry. Since the analytical procedure requires a predetermined lot-specific marker value, separating negative from positive results, the stability of the MFI of a stained sample is critical to reproducibility. The site-to-site determinations were found to be similar based on the mean and standard deviation estimates of B27-positive sample MFI for the three sites.

**Day-to-Day Reproducibility**

Day-to-day (longitudinal) reproducibility was assessed at Bremen, Germany. Blood samples were collected from five HLA-B27–positive donors, five HLA-B27–negative/B7–positive donors and five HLA-
B27–negative/B7–negative donors. Samples from each donor were collected and analyzed on three separate days to assess the longitudinal variability for this assay.

Results demonstrate acceptable day-to-day reproducibility. No variability observed in donor samples altered the determinations for the presence or absence of the HLA-B27 antigen.

**White Blood Cell Concentration**

All lots of the BD HLA-B27 system are tested against cell suspensions (whole blood sample) to ensure optimal performance at 50 µL of whole blood. For this study, the normal range was 3.5 x 10³ to 9.4 x 10³ WBC/µL. Results are shown to be accurate from 3.5 x 10³ to 9.4 x 10³ WBC/µL.

Blood samples were collected from four HLA-B27–positive donors. To validate that a blood sample with a total leucocyte (WBC) count within the normal concentration range of 3.5 to 9.4 x 10³ WBC/µL would yield accurate and reproducible results, a range of concentrations was tested from 100 WBC/µL to 3.3 x 10⁵ WBC/µL of each sample and compared to the result for the whole blood sample from that donor. All samples still tested positive in the cell concentration range of 100 WBC/µL to 4.6 x 10⁴ WBC/µL. Results indicate accuracy within the normal range of peripheral WBC counts.

**Whole Blood Stability and Stained Stability**

**BD FACSCanto and BD FACSCalibur Systems**

A study was performed on BD FACSCanto and BD FACSCalibur systems with 30 donors (11 of whom were positive) using EDTA and ACD-A blood collection tubes. Results showed that EDTA and ACD-A samples stored at room temperature (20°C–25°C) were stable up to 48 hours before staining. Once stained and stored at 2°C–8°C, samples were stable up to 24 hours. Testing has shown that HLA-B27 expression is decreased over time in ACD-B blood collection tubes,
which can lead to incorrect results. Therefore, ACD-B tubes are not recommended for sample collection.

A second study was performed on the BD FACSCanto system with 16 donors (five of whom were positive) using EDTA and heparin blood collection tubes. Results showed that EDTA and heparin samples stored at room temperature (20°C–25°C) were stable up to 48 hours before staining. Once stained and stored at 2°C–8°C, samples were stable up to 24 hours.

These studies demonstrate that the use of EDTA, heparin, and ACD-A as anticoagulants produces equivalent results across both platforms.

**BD FACSort and BD FACScan Systems**

A study was performed on the BD FACScan system with ten donors (five of whom were positive) collected in either EDTA, heparin, or CPD blood collection tubes. Results showed that EDTA, heparin, and CPD samples stored at room temperature (20°C–25°C) were stable up to 24 hours before staining. Once stained and stored at 2°C–8°C, samples were stable up to 24 hours.
## TROUBLESHOOTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Possible Causes</th>
<th>Recommended Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No acceptable gate found</td>
<td>Fewer than 2% of events are T lymphocytes, which can be due to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrect instrument settings</td>
<td>Verify that all instrument settings agree with current setup report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incomplete red blood cell lysis</td>
<td>Verify that all steps in the procedure were followed correctly. See item 4 under Staining and Fixing the Cells on page 18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrect reagents used</td>
<td>Check that correct reagents are being used; prepare fresh sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instrument failure</td>
<td>Recalibrate the instrument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too few T lymphocytes acquired</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acquire more events; change software stopping criteria, if necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate separation between CD3+ and CD3− populations due to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper sample preparation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare a fresh sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood sample too old (see Specimen Collection and Preparation on page 16)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Obtain a fresh blood sample from the subject and restain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stained preparation too old (&gt;24 hours after staining)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare and stain fresh samples; analyze within 24 hours of staining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate separation between CD3+ and CD3− populations due to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Possible Causes</th>
<th>Recommended Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No acceptable gate found (continued)</td>
<td>Reagent expired or not used according to instructions</td>
<td>Check the reagent expiration date, make sure the reagent has been stored and handled according to conditions stated in this IFU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrect instrument setup</td>
<td>Verify that all instrument settings agree with current setup report. Verify that the correct suffix for the HLA-B27 calibration bead was used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed control samples</td>
<td>Setup not performed</td>
<td>Perform instrument setup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improper sample preparation</td>
<td>Prepare a fresh sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrectly entered bead or reagent suffixes, or both</td>
<td>Re-enter correct suffix numbers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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REFERENCES


