

Q-STAIN® QSX-Enh EMA Antibody Reagent

For use on frozen tissue sections: QF31040-004– QSX-Enh-F EMA – 40 tests

For use on paraffin sections: QP31040-004– QSX-Enh-P EMA – 40 tests

Intended Use: For *In Vitro* Diagnostic Use on Q-STAIN X Autostainer

Q-STAIN (QSX™)-Enh EMA is intended for laboratory use to qualitatively identify by light microscopy the presence of EMA (aka MUC1) a glycoprotein that provides barrier function. In sections of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections or frozen tissues using immunohistochemistry (IHC) test methods. The clinical interpretation of any staining or its absence should be complemented by morphological studies using proper controls and should be evaluated within the context of the patient's clinical history and other diagnostic tests by a qualified pathologist/physician. These reagents have been formulated to ready-to-use concentration and optimized for IHC on specific tissue application use without further dilution.

Summary and Explanation:

QSX-Enh EMA is a ready to use mouse monoclonal antibody against EMA, a common epithelial marker, it is commonly used alongside other cytokeratin stains for differential diagnosis of cancers. For non-carcinomas, EMA is useful to distinguish meningioma, some hematopoietic tumors and malignant mesothelioma.^{1,2} See Q-STAIN X User's Guide to learn more about test protocols.

Reagents Provided:

Kit Part #	Component Part #	Σ	Description
QF31040-004	F31040-Q004	40	QSX-Enh-F EMA antibody reagent (for frozen tissue sections)
QP31040-004	P31040-Q004	40	QSX-Enh-P EMA antibody reagent (for paraffin sections)
Clone	Species	Total Protein Conc.	
C137	Mouse	10 mg/mL	

Key to Symbols			
	<i>In vitro</i> diagnostic medical device	QSX-Enh-F EMA	EMA antibody reagent for frozen sections
	Catalog Number	QSX-Enh-P EMA	EMA antibody reagent for paraffin sections
	Use by: YYYY-MM-DD		Manufacturer
	Consult Instruction for Use		Serial Number
	Batch Code		Contains sufficient for < n > tests
	Temperature Limitations		Global Trade Item Number
	CE Mark		Authorized European Representative

Storage and Handling:

This product is suitable for use until expiration date when stored at 2-8°C. Do not freeze. Do not use the product after expiration date. If the reagent is stored under any conditions other than those specified in the package insert, they must be verified by the user.

General Operating Notes:

Equilibrate reagents to room temperature prior to use. Gently mix reagents by swirling the reagent cartridge before use. **Do not vortex or invert.** Use care when handling Q-STAIN QSX cartridges: antibodies, Blocker, Enhancer and Chromogen reagents to avoid dispensing reagents inadvertently by applying downward pressure to the top of the cartridge. Remove reagent ventilation cap from the top and white cap from the bottom of the cartridge before placing it onto the Q-STAIN X reagent carousel.

Specimen Preparation:

Paraffin Sections: Tissues routinely processed with 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF) are suitable for use prior to paraffin embedding. Consult references.^{3,4} Variable results may occur as a result of prolonged fixation. Each section should be cut to the appropriate thickness (4-6µm) and placed on a positively charged glass slide. Slides containing the tissue section may be baked for at least one hour but not exceeding 24 hours in a 58-60°C±5°C oven. Osseous tissues should be decalcified prior to tissue processing to facilitate tissue cutting and prevent damage to microtome blades.^{3,4}

Frozen Tissue Sections: Frozen tissue is sectioned to the appropriate thickness (4-6µm) and placed on a positively charged glass slide. Tissues should be fixed in either 10% NBF or reagent grade acetone for 1-2 minutes immediately after sectioning. The choice of fixatives should be validated based on specific assays and tissue selection. In some cases, drying or heat fixation may help tissues adhere to the slide (~20 seconds). Other fixative solutions and fixation methods should be validated prior to use.

Warnings and Precautions:

1. Read and understand all of the NovodiAx Q-STAIN X operating instructions and reagent instructions for use (IFUs) before product use.
2. It is recommended that institutions incorporating new staining protocols undergo site-specific and regulatory body-specific validation for clinical use.
3. The formulated antibody reagents and QSX Enhancer are ready to use. Further dilution may reduce signal intensity or increase false-negative staining.
4. Use care when handling QSX reagent containers and re-capping the ventilation cap. Reagent cartridges are spring loaded so accidental dispenses are possible when pressure is applied to the top of the reagent cartridge. To store, place cartridge back into white reagent bottom cap, stow vertically.
5. To obtain best results with frozen tissues, it is desirable to process tissues as quickly as possible following excision.
6. Use NovodiAx recommended counterstain. Exercise caution and shorten incubation times when using intense hematoxylin counterstains such as Gills as these stains may tend to mask antibody staining.
7. Fixation is a vital part of the protocol and fixation times may vary with the fixative chosen, tissue type, e.g., containing fat and other parameters. Generally, an acetone or NBF fixation of 1-2 minutes is recommended. Place frozen tissue sections into fixation solution shortly after sectioning.
8. **Prolonged exposure to room or freezing temperatures may alter targeted epitopes.** Avoid slides drying out during staining process to prevent non-specific background staining.
9. Use protective equipment such as disposable gloves and lab coats when handling materials. Read Safety Data Sheets (SDS) prior to use. Avoid contact of reagents with eyes and mucous membranes. If reagents come in contact with sensitive areas, wash with copious amounts of water.
10. Patient specimens and all materials that come into contact with patient specimens should be handled as bio-hazardous materials and disposed of appropriately.
11. Consult local or state authorities with regards to recommended methods of disposal of biohazardous and hazardous chemical waste materials.
12. Use lab grade chemicals such as acetone or water when preparing reagents. Users should validate performance including stability for laboratory prepared reagents (at 1X).
13. Avoid microbial contamination of reagents and use charged slides to secure tissue adhesion.



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Materials Needed but Not Provided:

The following reagents/supplies may be required in staining but are not provided:

1. Q-STAIN X Autostainer, see IFU-00061
2. QSX Blocker
3. QSX Enhancer
4. QSX DAB or other QSX Chromogen
5. Frozen section fixative (Acetone or 10% §NBF)
§ Neutral Buffered Formalin
6. Microscope slides, positively charged (required)
7. Positive and negative control tissues
8. ihc Wash Buffer (PBS-T)
9. Antigen retrieval buffer (FFPE tissue only)
10. Antigen retrieval device, e.g., DewaxAR
11. Hematoxylin, e.g., QSX Hematoxylin
12. Peroxide blocker
13. Xylene or Xylene substitute
14. Ethanol
15. Mounting medium
16. Cover slips
17. Light microscope (10 - 400x)

Quality Control Procedures:

Positive and negative controls should be run simultaneously with patient specimens. It is recommended that controls be included in Q-STAIN sample runs to validate reagent performance.

Positive Tissue Control: The recommended positive control tissues for this antibody are known EMA positive tissues. One positive tissue control for each set of test conditions should be included in each staining run. Previous tissue specimens that have been frozen and freshly cut or in some cases, an individual's own tissue may be used as a control.

The tissues used for the positive control should be selected from patient specimens with well-characterized positive target activity that gives staining results. Established positive tissue controls should only be utilized for monitoring correct performance of processed tissues and test reagents, rather than as an aid in formulating a specific diagnosis of patient samples. If positive tissue controls fail to demonstrate positive staining, patient specimen results should be considered invalid.

Negative Tissue Control: The same tissue may be used to provide positive and negative controls. Differentiation of cells present in most tissue sections provide internal negative control sites, but this should be verified by the user. Components that do not stain should lack antibody specific staining and provide an indication of non-specific background staining. If specific staining (false positive staining) occurs in the negative tissue control sites, results with the patient specimens should be considered invalid.

Troubleshooting:

If unexpected staining occurs on control tissues or patient samples, consider the following:

1. *No staining:* If no staining is evident on positive control slides, please verify (1) whether the Q-STAIN X chromogen is within stability claim after mixing, (2) for FFPE tissues, check to see that dewaxing and antigen retrieval were adequately performed. Take necessary corrective actions and repeat the procedure.
2. *Low signal or faint staining:* Please check whether (1) the reagents have not expired, (2) chromogen is within stability claim after mixing, (3) for FFPE tissue, that dewaxing and antigen retrieval were performed adequately, and (4) for frozen tissue, acetone or NBF are fresh and used as a fixative. Perform any required corrective actions and repeat the procedure.

If unexpected staining is observed on control tissues or patient samples which cannot be explained by variations in laboratory procedures or a problem with the antibody is suspected, contact NovodiAx Technical Support or your local distributor immediately at 1 (888) 439-2716 ext. 2 or 1 (510) 342-3043 ext. 2.

Expected Results:

Membranous staining of mesothelioma cells, cytoplasmic staining for carcinoma cells. Other types of cells in the same tissue are negative. Interpretation of the staining result is solely the responsibility of the user.

General Limitations:

Even though the Q-STAIN X automates multistep immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing other factors can influence the success of testing. IHC testing requires training in selection of the appropriate ancillary reagents and tissue selection, fixation, and preparation of each slide. Improper fixation, freezing, thawing, drying, heating, sectioning or contamination with other tissues or fluids, may produce artifacts or false negative results. Inconsistent results may be due to variations in fixation and embedding methods, or to inherent irregularities within the tissue.⁵

Performance Characteristics:

The QSX-Enh EMA test performance has been determined using frozen and FFPE tissue sections. NovodiAx has conducted studies to evaluate the performance of the antibody, accompanying reagents and ancillary supplies. The antibodies and systems have been found to be sensitive and show specific binding to the antigen of interest with minimal to no binding of non-specific tissues or cells. NovodiAx antibodies and accompanying reagents have shown reproducible and consistent results when used within a single run, between runs and between lots. These products have been determined to be stable for the periods of time specified on the labels either by standard real-time and/or accelerated methods. NovodiAx ensures product quality by testing each lot of material and by testing materials at regular intervals and via surveillance programs.

Instructions for Use (IFU) Access:

To obtain the latest electronic version of an IFU document, visit our website at <https://www.novodiox.com/literature/instructions-for-use-ifu/>. Printed copies of an IFU document may be obtained by contacting NovodiAx Technical Support or your local distributor.

Bibliography:

1. Chugh S., Biochim Biophys Acta. 2015 Dec;1856(2):211-25.
2. Ratan C., Curr Cancer Drug Targets. 2021;21(2):132-152.
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4. Sheehan DC and Hrapchak BB. Theory and Practice of Histotechnology. St. Louis: C.V. Mosby Co. 1980.
5. Nadji M, Morales AR. Immunoperoxidase, part I: the techniques and its pitfalls. Lab Med,1983;14:767-771.

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