



CordStat[®] EtOH

Newborn alcohol testing
with umbilical cord tissue

CordStat[®] EtOH a new alcohol biomarker that tests at risk newborns for heavy exposure to alcohol in utero.

United States Drug Testing Laboratories (USDTL), a reference laboratory specializing in illicit drug and alcohol use testing, released a new assay testing umbilical cord for newborn alcohol exposure in utero. The CordStat[®] EtOH assay screens for the direct alcohol biomarker phosphatidylethanol (PEth), an abnormal phospholipid formed in cell tissues following alcohol exposure.

PEth in blood exists as a component of the red cell membrane, whereas in the umbilical cord tissue, PEth is a component of the various cord cells' membranes. PEth is a mid-term biomarker measurable after exposure of approximately a 6 drink binge, within 3 weeks prior to delivery. Sample amount is approximately 6 inches of umbilical cord.

Fetal alcohol exposure has been recognized as the leading cause of preventable mental retardation and birth defects. Each year in the United States approximately 40,000 alcohol exposed newborns are diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. This condition can result in a variety of physical, behavioral and learning disorders. A recent SAMHSA survey reviewing data collected in 2009-2010 reported that 4.7 percent of pregnant women admitted binge or heavy drinking. Early identification is a key factor to improving outcomes for this group. Currently, identification relies on maternal self-report or the presence of a set of unique physical characteristics. Self-report has limited value in determining alcohol exposure and the physical characteristics may not appear until later in child's development.

CordStat[®] EtOH is an ideal clinical assay for healthcare practitioners concerned with monitoring newborns at high risk for having been exposed to alcohol in utero and for developing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. The assay can be ordered as an add-on test to one of our standard CordStat[®] 5-, 7-, 9-, 12- and 13-drug panels. To order CordStat[®] EtOH, researchers and clinicians can contact Client Services at (800) 235-2367 or at customer.service@usdtl.com.

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CordStat® collection instructions

1. Cut a 6-inch segment of the umbilical cord and drain and discard blood.
2. Rinse the cord segment exterior with normal saline or an equivalent rinsing solution. *Important: avoid any contact of ethanol liquid or vapor with the umbilical cord.*
3. Pat the specimen dry, and place the umbilical cord segment into the umbilical cord container.
4. Place name and I.D. number on the USDTL requisition form and umbilical cord container. Sign the requisition form.
5. Place the barcode sticker from the requisition form over the top of the matching umbilical cord container.
6. Place the completed requisition form with tests ordered in the large pouch of the plastic specimen bag provided.
7. Place the umbilical cord container in the small pouch of the specimen bag, and seal the bag.
8. Place the specimen bag in the cardboard box, close the box, affix the box seal at the indicated place and initial the seal.
9. Contact your courier for pick-up. Umbilical cord specimens should be refrigerated in a secure area until they are ready to be shipped.
10. For more information on umbilical cord collection, visit www.usdtl.com and watch our CordStat® collection tutorial.

