

Store at 2–8 °C

For life science research only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures. FOR *IN VITRO* USE ONLY.

# M30 CytoDEATH™ Red

## 200 tests (Peviva Prod. No. 10850)

Mouse monoclonal antibody (Clone M30)

For the detection of caspase-cleaved keratin 18 neo-epitope M30

### 1. Product Description

Name: M30 CytoDEATH™ Red  
 Clone: M30  
 Isotype: IgG2b  
 Immunogen: Keratin 18 (K18) fragments purified from supernatant from human carcinoma cell line WiDr CCL218.  
 Epitope: K18 fragment aa284–396

#### 1.1 Formulation

Clear solution. 10 µg of M30 CytoDEATH™ Red monoclonal antibody provided in 200 µl PBS containing proprietary stabilizing components and 0.09 % sodium azide.

#### 1.2 Specificity

M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody is recommended for the detection of the formalin-resistant M30 neo-epitope on human, monkey and bovine caspase-cleaved keratin 18 (K18) cytoskeletal protein. M30 CytoDEATH™ Red does not recognise intact K18.

#### 1.3 Recommended applications

- Immunocytochemistry (ICC)
- Flow cytometry (FACS)

Only if used in combination with additional secondary signal enhancing reagents:

- immunohistochemistry (IHC) including formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded tissue sections (PS) and cryostat sections (FS).

#### 1.4 Working solution

M30 CytoDEATH™ Red is provided in a convenient ready-to-use stock solution. Use a dilution 1:100 in Incubation Buffer (final concentration 0.5 µg/ml).

#### 1.5 Storage and stability

The M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody is provided in a ready-to-use format and is stable at 2–8 °C through the expiration date printed on the label.

Do not freeze!

The antibody is shipped at ambient temperature.

#### 1.6 Quality control

The M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody is function tested using a cellular model: HeLa cells treated with recombinant TRAIL and CHX analysed by immunocytochemistry and flow cytometry.

#### 1.7 Spectral characteristics

The spectral characteristics are:

- excitation: ~655 nm
- emission: ~670 nm.

Use the Allophycocyanin (APC), Indocarbocyanine Cy5 channel for FACS and corresponding filter settings for immunofluorescence.

### M30 CytoDEATH™ – Key advantages

Benefits	Features
Early and specific detection of apoptosis	Detects caspase-cleaved keratin 18; caspase activity is one of the earliest and most common markers for apoptosis.
Sustained signal from cells at early to later stages of apoptosis	In contrast to measuring i. e. active caspase-3, where the signal is defined to a limited time window and decreases at later stages of apoptosis, the caspase-generated K18 neo-epitope can still be detected even after apoptotic cells have disintegrated.
Superior sensitivity	The keratin 18 neo-epitope is an accumulating substrate generated by few activated caspase molecules.
Assay is independent of the activation of a single caspase	Keratin 18 is cleaved <i>in vivo</i> by several effector caspases, including caspase-3, 6, 7 and 9.
Clear results	Apoptotic cells are clearly distinguishable from viable cells or necrotic cells.
Apoptosis specific  No false positive results in circumstances of DNA damage	Whereas TUNEL analysis can give rise to false positive results under conditions when DNA double-strand breaks occur, detection of the K18 neo-epitope using the M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody shows superior specificity for apoptotic cells compared to TUNEL.
Specificity for epithelial (i.e. carcinoma or liver tissue) apoptosis	Expression pattern of K18 is restricted to cells of epithelial origin. Lymphoid and neuronal cell apoptosis is not detected by M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody.

### M30 CytoDEATH™ Red – additional advantages

Benefits	Features
Added convenience for flow cytometry and immunocytochemistry	One-step tool for the detection of apoptosis in epithelial cells by flow cytometry and immunocytochemistry. No additional anti-mouse IgG fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibodies required.

## 2. Background Information

### 2.1 Caspase substrate K18 and apoptosis in epithelial cells

Apoptosis induced by either death-inducing receptors or other stimuli leads to activation of specific caspases [1, 2]. Subsequently, apoptotic cells are eliminated by an intrinsic suicide program, resulting in DNA fragmentation, nuclear condensation, cytoskeletal reorganisation, plasma membrane blebbing and loss of cell adhesion.

Keratin 18 (K18) is a type I intermediate filament protein and the major component of single-layer and glandular epithelial cells. It is expressed in most types of carcinomas such as lung, liver, prostate, breast and colon, and abundantly present in liver cells, whereas K18 is absent in lymphoid and neuronal cells and tissues. During apoptosis after initiation of effector caspases 3, 6, 7 and 9, K18 is cleaved into proteolytic fragments liberating neo-epitopes (NE) at the cleavage sites [3–6].

### 2.2 M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody for the specific detection of apoptosis

K18 is cleaved by caspases, liberating a neo-epitope (M30) that is specifically recognised by M30 CytoDEATH™ monoclonal antibody. Specific proteolytic cleavage of K18 is an event taking place before disruption of membrane asymmetry and induction of DNA strand breaks. Numerous studies confirm that M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody detects only apoptotic but not viable or necrotic cells. Reactivity of M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody in immunohistochemistry correlates to apoptosis measured by TUNEL and shows superior reliability in conditions when DNA double-strand breaks occur independent of apoptosis [7].

The capacity of M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody in flow cytometry and immunohistochemistry studies to distinguish between necrotic and apoptotic epithelial cells has been verified in several disease entities. Consequently, M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody represents a unique tool for easy and reliable determination of apoptosis from very early until well advanced stages in single cells and tissue sections of epithelial origin [8].

Moreover, there are two M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody-based ELISAs available:

- M30 CytoDeath™ ELISA (PEVIVA Prod. No.: 10900) is suggested to serve as a high-throughput assay for functional screening and *in vitro* characterisation of effective pro-apoptotic drugs using cell culture supernatants, and spheroid or tissue lysates.
- The CE-marked M30 Apoptosense® ELISA (PEVIVA Prod. No.: 10010) has been successfully used to determine elevated K18 neo-epitope levels in blood samples from patients as a useful biomarker to monitor response to treatment or disease staging [9–12].

## 3. Procedures and Materials Required

### 3.1 Procedure for immunofluorescence and flow cytometry

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

The following procedure describes the detection of apoptosis with M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody in immunofluorescence and flow cytometry.

If using other detection methods or sample material, the conditions may vary and have to be adapted.

#### Additional reagents required

- PBS, Methanol and BSA

#### Preparation of working solutions

Incubation Buffer: PBS containing 1 % BSA

Washing Buffer: PBS

#### Preparation of M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody working solution

Dilute the M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody stock solution 1:100 in Incubation Buffer (final concentration 0.5 µg/ml).

**Note:** The antibody solutions should be free of precipitate. If necessary, centrifuge the solution at high speed prior to use.

### 3.1.2 Immunofluorescence and flow cytometry protocol

Step	Action
1	Wash cells in PBS.
2	Fix cells in ice-cold pure methanol at -20 °C for 30 min.
3	Wash cells with Washing Buffer twice.
4	Remove Washing Buffer.
5	Incubate with 100 µl M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody for 30 min at 15–25 °C.
6	Wash cells with Washing Buffer twice.
7	Examine the cells on a slide under the fluorescence microscope, or, dilute cells in 0.5 ml PBS and store samples in the dark until analysis by flow cytometry.

### 3.2 Procedure for immunohistochemistry

#### Application note for M30 CytoDEATH™ Red use for immunohistochemistry

Due to the limited sensitivity of the M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody in immunohistochemistry this application requires the use of additional secondary signal enhancing reagents as it does for the unconjugated M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody (PEVIVA Prod. No.:10700).

#### 3.2.1 Introduction

The following procedure describes the detection of apoptosis with M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody in a three step method in immunohistochemistry (paraffin-embedded tissue) for maximal sensitivity.

**Please note:** A biotin-conjugated M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody is available from PEVIVA (Prod. No: 10750), which can be used in combination with sensitive amplification reagents. If using other detection methods or sample material, the conditions may vary and have to be adapted.

#### 3.2.2 Recommended reagents

For preparation of samples:

- Xylol
- Ethanol 96 %
- Ethanol 70 %
- Methanol/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (3 %)
- Citric acid
- NaOH, 1 M
- Hematoxylin (i.e. from Merck)
- Mounting medium (i.e. Kaiser's glycerine gelatine from Merck)

For the immunohistochemistry procedure:

- Anti-mouse-IgG biotin (i.e. from DAKO)
- Streptavidin-POD (i.e. from DAKO)
- DAB or AEC substrate (i.e. from Zymed)
- PBS
- BSA

#### Preparation of working solutions

The following table lists the working solutions needed to perform the immunohistochemistry staining procedure.

Working Solution	Composition	Stability/storage	Use
Washing Buffer	PBS	4 weeks at 2–8 °C	Washing step
Incubation Buffer	PBS containing 1 % BSA	4 weeks at 2–8 °C	Preparation of antibody working solution
Citric Acid Buffer (0.01 M)	2 g/l citric acid, pH 6.0 adjusted with 1 M NaOH	4 weeks at 2–8 °C	Antigen retrieval

### Preparation of M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody working solution

Dilute the M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody stock solution 1:100 in Incubation Buffer (final concentration 0.5 µg/ml).

**Note:** The antibody solutions should be free of precipitate. If necessary, centrifuge the solution at high speed prior to use.

### Preparation of sample material

Before starting the immunohistochemical protocol, dewax paraffin-embedded tissue sections as described in the following table.

Step	Action
1	Place paraffin-embedded sections into an incubator at 37 °C over night to air-dry.
2	To dewax formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections, process the sections as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 coplin jars of xylol (2–5 min),</li><li>• 2 coplin jars of ethanol (96 %)</li><li>• 1 coplin jar of ethanol (70 %)</li><li>• 1 coplin jar of methanol/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (3 %) for 10 min at 15–25 °C.</li></ul>
3	Rinse 10 min in PBS.

**Note:** The sections should not be allowed to dry during this procedure.

### 3.2.3 Immunohistochemistry protocol

**Note:** For optimal results it is highly recommended to follow the below mentioned method for antigen retrieval.

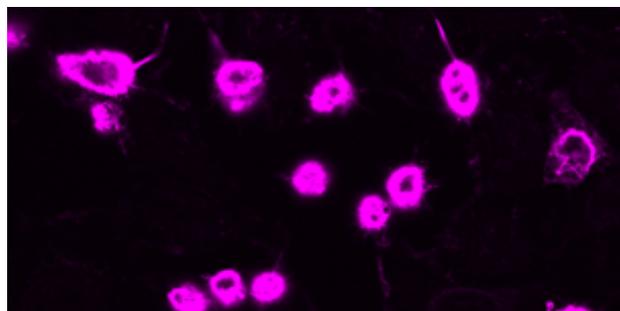
Step	Action
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prewarm citric acid buffer (0.01 M, pH 6.0) by incubation in a microwave oven at 750 W until the solution boils.</li><li>• When the solution is boiling, turn the setting of the microwave oven to “keep warm” (about 100 W).</li><li>• Place tissue section slides in a slide rack and put them into the heated citric acid solution (approx. 90 °C).</li><li>• Incubate at this setting for 20 min.</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For optimal morphology it is recommended to keep the solution shortly below the boiling point to avoid gas formation under the sections.</p>
2	Rinse 3 × in PBS and incubate 10 min in a separate jar of PBS to cool down.
3	Remove Incubation Buffer and add 100 µl M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody working solution. Incubate for 30 min at 15–25 °C in a humid chamber.
4	Wash slides in Washing Buffer (use 3 separate jars and dip 3 × into each jar).
5	Cover the section with 100 µl of anti-mouse-IgG biotin according to your established optimised procedure for the reagent from your selected supplier or use DAKO reagent at 1:400 dilution. Incubate for 30 min at 37 °C in a humid chamber.
6	Wash slides in Washing Buffer (use 3 separate jars and dip 3 × into each jar).
7	Cover the section with 100 µl of streptavidin-POD according to your established optimised procedure for the reagent from your selected supplier, or use DAKO reagent at 1:600 dilution. Incubate for 30 min at 15–25 °C in a humid chamber.
8	Wash slides in Washing Buffer (use 3 separate jars and dip 3 × into each jar).
9	Incubate slides in a freshly prepared substrate solution (i. e. AEC) at 15–25 °C until a clearly visible colour develops (1–5 min). A negative control should not show any development of colour during the incubation period.
10	Stop the reaction by extensive rinsing in double distilled water.
11	Subsequently, counterstain the preparation with hematoxylin and mount the section (i. e. Kaiser’s glycerine gelatine when using AEC).

## 4. Results

### Immunocytochemistry

HeLa (human cervical cancer) cells were grown to 80–90 % confluence on coated cover slides in a 24-well plate and either treated with cycloheximide (CHX) at 20 µg/ml final concentration for 2.5 h alone or in the presence of recombinant human TRAIL (KillerTRAIL™, ALEXIS Corporation, Lausen, Switzerland) at 100 ng/ml final concentration for further 1.5 h.

A.



B.



**Figure:** Slides with cells were then fixed and stained with M30 CytoDEATH™ Red and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy.

**A:** HeLa cells that received combined treatment with CHX and TRAIL show a sustained and strong caspase activity and concomitant caspase-cleaved K18 accumulation as detected by the M30 CytoDEATH™ Red antibody compared to treatment with low non-toxic concentrations of CHX alone (**B**).

## 5. Appendix

K18 positive cell lines and tissues successfully analyzed with the M30 CytoDEATH™ antibody:

### Human epithelial cell lines:

Breast cancer: MDA-MB-231, MCF-7, HBL100  
Colon cancer: WiDr, HCT 116, HT29, SW620  
Cervical cancer: HeLa  
Kidney cancer: ACHN, A498  
Head & neck cancer: SCC9, SCC25, FaDu  
Prostate cancer: PC-3, LNCaP, DU 145  
Bladder cancer: RT4, J82

### Human epithelial tissues:

Breast, lung, liver, colon, pancreas, intestine, kidney, salivary gland, trophoblast, endometrium, bladder, oral epithelium.

## 6. PEVIVA Products

M30 CytoDEATH™	Prod. No. 10700
M30 CytoDEATH™ Biotin	Prod. No. 10750
M30 CytoDEATH™ Fluorescein	Prod. No. 10800
M30 CytoDEATH™ Orange	Prod. No. 10830
M30 CytoDEATH™ Red	Prod. No. 10850

### Keratin 18 antibodies

M5 Keratin 18 mAb	Prod. No. 10600
M6 Keratin 18 mAb	Prod. No. 10650

### ELISA kits

M30 Apoptosense® ELISA	Prod. No. 10010
M65® ELISA	Prod. No. 10020
M65 EpiDeath® ELISA	Prod. No. 10040
M30 CytoDeath™ ELISA	Prod. No. 10900

## 7. References

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6. Dinsdale D, Lee JC, Dewson G, Cohen GM, Peter ME. (2004) Intermediate filaments control the intracellular distribution of caspases during apoptosis. *Am J Pathol.* 164: 395-407.
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## 8. M30 CytoDEATH™ Application References

### Immunocytochemistry (ICC)

MacFarlane M, Merrison W, Dinsdale D, Cohen GM. (2000) Active caspases and cleaved cytokeratins are sequestered into cytoplasmic inclusions in

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### Flow cytometry (FACS)

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### Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

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For further, up-to-date information and to order, please visit [www.peviva.se](http://www.peviva.se).



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