Ehrlich's Aldehyde Reagent

Ehrlich's aldehyde reagent is used to detect urobilinogen in urine.

**Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydrochloric acid, concentrated</td>
<td>100.0ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-dimethylamino benzaldehyde</td>
<td>4.0gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distilled water</td>
<td>100.0ml</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters**

**Directions**

To 10 ml of urine, add 1.0 ml Ehrlich's benzaldehyde reagent, mix and let it stand for about 10 minutes. Observe colour by looking down into the tube held over a white surface.

**Principle And Interpretation**

Ehrlich's aldehyde reagent is used to detect urobilinogen in urine. Urobilinogen is one of the bile pigments found in urine in case of liver defects, (epidemic icterus, cirrhosis) or as a result of excessive formation of bilirubin (haemolytic jaundice). The colourless urobilinogen reacts with Ehrlich's aldehyde reagent in an acidic medium to form pink-red condensing products.

It should be noted that Ehrlich's reagent reacts with substances other than urobilinogen e.g phenazopyridium and forms red colour.

**Quality Control**

**Appearance**

Light yellow coloured solution with characteristic odour.

**Clarity**

Clear solution with no insoluble particles.

**Test**

Reaction is observed by addition of 1ml of reagent to 10 ml of urine

**Results**

Cherry red colour : Increased amount of urobilinogen

Absence of colour : Decreased or normal amount of urobilinogen

**Storage and Shelf Life**

Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and away from bright light. Use before expiry date on label.

**Reference**

1. Bauer J.D., Ackermann P.G. and Toro G.(Eds.), 1974, Clinical Laboratory Methods, 8th ed., The C.V. Mosby Co. , St. Louis

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