WHO International Standard
Somatropin (Recombinant DNA-Derived Human Growth Hormone)
NIBSC code: 98/574

Instructions for use
(Version 5.0, Dated 07/03/2018)

1. INTENDED USE

The 2nd International standard for somatropin consists of a batch of ampoules containing lyophilised somatropin (recombinant DNA-derived growth hormone) plus excipients, coded 98/574. The material was ampuled under identical conditions to the first international standard for somatropin, (88/624), and was evaluated and calibrated in an international collaborative study by comparison with the 1st IS. At its 51st meeting, in 2001, the Expert Committee on Biological Standardization of WHO established the preparation as the 2nd International Standard for somatropin.

2. CAUTION

This preparation is not for administration to humans or animals in the human food chain.

The material is not of human or bovine origin. As with all materials of biological origin, this preparation should be regarded as potentially hazardous to health. It should be used and discarded according to your own laboratory’s safety procedures. Such safety procedures should include the wearing of protective gloves and avoiding the generation of aerosols. Care should be exercised in opening ampoules or vials, to avoid cuts.

3. UNITAGE

1.95 mg per ampoule (total somatropin protein, including higher molecular weight forms and related impurities)

3.0 International units per mg Somatropin

Uncertainty: The International Unit of 98/574 is assigned without uncertainty. Where required, the uncertainty of the ampoule content of 98/574 may be considered to be the coefficient of variation of the fill volume, which was determined to be 0.07%.

As with the previous standard (88/624) users should recognise that the % of somatropin is not defined. The active form of the molecule is generally considered to be the monomer, determined by size-exclusion HPLC. Since the exact percentage of monomer may depend on the specific assay method employed, the figure of 1.95mg/ampoule should therefore be corrected for % monomer, determined using the method practised in the user’s laboratory. For calibration of bioassay methods, the figure of 3.0IU/mg also relates to somatropin monomer, which should again be independently determined.

4. CONTENTS

Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.

Each ampoule contains the freeze dried residue of 1ml of solution which contained:

- Somatropin (rec.DNA human growth hormone)
- Glycine 20mg
- Mannitol 2mg
- Lactose 2mg
- Sodium Bicarbonate 2.5mg

5. STORAGE

Unopened ampoules should be stored at –20°C

Please note: because of the inherent stability of lyophilized material, NIBSC may ship these materials at ambient temperature.

6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING

DIN ampoules have an ‘easy-open’ coloured stress point, where the narrow ampoule stem joins the wider ampoule body. Tap the ampoule gently to collect the material at the bottom (labeled) end. Ensure that the disposable ampoule safety breaker provided is pushed down on the stem of the ampoule and against the shoulder of the ampoule body. Hold the body of the ampoule in one hand and the disposable ampoule breaker covering the ampoule stem between the thumb and first finger of the other hand. Apply a bending force to open the ampoule at the coloured stress point, primarily using the hand holding the plastic collar.

Care should be taken to avoid cuts and projectile glass fragments that might enter the eyes, for example, by the use of suitable gloves and an eye shield. Take care that no material is lost from the ampoule and no glass falls into the ampoule. Within the ampoule is dry nitrogen gas at slightly less than atmospheric pressure. A new disposable ampoule breaker is provided with each DIN ampoule.

7. USE OF MATERIAL

For all practical purposes each ampoule contains the same amount of the above materials. Dissolve the total contents in a known amount of suitable buffer solution with carrier protein (free of peptidase), where extensive dilution is required, to minimise loss by surface adsorption. No attempt should be made to weigh out portions of the freeze-dried powder.

For economy of use it is recommended that the solution be subdivided into several small containers, which are frozen rapidly to below -70°C and then stored below -30°C in the dark. Repeated freezing and thawing should be avoided.

The material has not been sterilized and contains no bacteriostat.

8. CHARACTERISATION AND PROPERTIES OF THE STANDARD

8.1 Bulk Material

Bulk Somatropin was generously donated by Novo Nordisk, through the good offices of Dr Anne Munk Jesperson. The preparation was supplied with a certificate of analysis showing the material to be consistent with current pharmaceutical grades of somatropin.

8.2 Preparation Of Ampoules

Ampoules were prepared according to procedures used for the preparation of WHO International Standards. Bulk somatropin (20g) was dissolved in carrier solution (see section 3) to give a 10 X concentrate. This was filtered through a 0.45u filter, diluted to a final volume of 10l with carrier solution, and distributed in 10 000 x 1ml aliquots into neutral glass ampoules. After lyophilisation the ampoules were sealed under nitrogen by heat fusion.

For the fill 98/574, the recorded parameters were:

- Mean solution weight: 1.0088g/ampoule
- Relative standard deviation: 0.07%
- Residual moisture: 0.66%
- Relative standard deviation 6.5%

8.3 Collaborative Study

The preparation was evaluated by international collaborative study (16 laboratories, 9 countries), designed with the following aims:
i) to determine the suitability of the preparation to serve as the International Standard for somatropin by studying its performance in the current range of physico-chemical and biological assay methods employed for somatropin

ii) to assign a content in terms of the existing (1st) International Standard for somatropin, using the currently recognized assay procedure (SE HPLC)

iii) to confirm the specific biological activity of the candidate preparation

iv) to confirm the stability of the candidate preparation

Estimates of content, in terms of the 1st IS, were in the range 1.80 - 2.08mg per ampoule.
Estimates of purity by size-exclusion HPLC (dimer + aggregates) were in the range 96-99%.
Estimates of purity by techniques resolving monomeric impurities (Reverse phase or ion-exchange chromatography, capillary zone electrophoresis) were in the range 96-100%.

The mean of all bioassay estimates (in vivo + in vitro) was 5.8IU per ampoule.

Upon storage at elevated temperatures, the preparation exhibited no degradation leading to the production of dimers or higher aggregates. Production of monomeric degradation products was observed, but the predicted rate of degradation at -20°C was 0.017% per year.

Based on these findings, and with the advice and agreement of participants, WHO established the preparation as the 2nd International Standard for somatropin, with the formally assigned ampoule contents stated in section 4.

9. STABILITY

It is the policy of WHO not to assign an expiry date to their international reference materials. They remain valid with the assigned potency and status until withdrawn or amended.

Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities. Reference Materials should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label. For information specific to a particular biological standard, contact standards@nibsc.ac.uk.

In addition, once reconstituted, diluted or aliquoted, users should determine the stability of the material according to their own method of preparation, storage and use.

NIBSC follows the policy of WHO with respect to its reference materials.

Users who have data supporting any deterioration in the characteristics of any reference preparation are encouraged to contact NIBSC.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained as follows:

WHO Biological Standards:
http://www.who.int/biologicals/en/

JCTLM Higher order reference materials:
http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jctlm/

Derivation of International Units:
http://www.nibsc.org/standardisation/international_standards.aspx

Ordering standards from NIBSC:
http://www.nibsc.org/products/ordering.aspx

NIBSC Terms & Conditions:
http://www.nibsc.org/terms_and_conditions.aspx

11. CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Customers are encouraged to provide feedback on the suitability or use of the material provided or other aspects of our service. Please send any comments to enquiries@nibsc.org

12. CITATION

In all publications, including data sheets, in which this material is referenced, it is important that the preparation’s title, its status, the NIBSC code number, and the name and address of NIBSC are cited and cited correctly.

13. MATERIAL SAFETY SHEET

Classification in accordance with Directive 2000/54/EC, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008: Not applicable or not classified

**Physical and Chemical properties**

| Physical appearance: Freeze dried powder | Corrosive: No |
| Stable: Yes | Oxidising: No |
| Hygroscopic: Yes | Irritant: No |
| Flammable: No | Handling: See caution, Section 2 |

**Other (specify):**

**Toxicological properties**

| Effects of inhalation: Not established, avoid inhalation |
| Effects of ingestion: Not established, avoid ingestion |
| Effects of skin absorption: Not established, avoid contact with skin |

**Suggested First Aid**

| Inhalation: Seek medical advice |
| Ingestion: Seek medical advice |
| Contact with eyes: Wash with copious amounts of water. Seek medical advice |
| Contact with skin: Wash thoroughly with water. |

**Action on Spillage and Method of Disposal**

Spillage of ampoule contents should be taken up with absorbent material wetted with an appropriate disinfectant. Rinse area with an appropriate disinfectant followed by water. Absorbent materials used to treat spillage should be treated as biological waste.

14. LIABILITY AND LOSS

In the event that this document is translated into another language, the English language version shall prevail in the event of any inconsistencies between the documents.

Unless expressly stated otherwise by NIBSC, NIBSC’s Standard Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Materials (available at http://www.nibsc.org/About_Us/Terms_and_Conditions.aspx or upon request by the Recipient) (“Conditions”) apply to the exclusion of all other terms and are hereby incorporated into this document by reference. The Recipient’s attention is drawn in particular to the provisions of clause 11 of the Conditions.
15. INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY

| **Country of origin for customs purposes***: United Kingdom |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Defined as the country where the goods have been produced and/or sufficiently processed to be classed as originating from the country of supply, for example a change of state such as freeze-drying. |
| **Net weight**: 27mg |
| **Toxicity Statement**: Non-toxic |
| **Veterinary certificate or other statement if applicable, Attached**: No |

17. CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

NIBSC does not provide a Certificate of Analysis for WHO Biological Reference Materials because they are internationally recognised primary reference materials fully described in the instructions for use. The reference materials are established according to the WHO Recommendations for the preparation, characterization and establishment of international and other biological reference standards http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/publications/TRS932Annex2_Inter_biologicalstandardsrev2004.pdf (revised 2004). They are officially endorsed by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) based on the report of the international collaborative study which established their suitability for the intended use.