CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A method for reducing a measurement error caused by a blood sample in a latex agglutination immunoassay, comprising a step of bringing the sample into contact, in a liquid phase, with latex particles carrying a substance having a specific affinity for an analyte in the presence of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof,

wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 75 mM and not more than 375 mM.

~~[Claim 2]~~

~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the blood sample is serum or plasma.~~

~~[Claim 3]~~

~~The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 37.5 mM and not more than 375 mM.~~

~~[Claim 4]~~

~~The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the latex agglutination immunoassay is based on a homogeneous method.~~

[Claim ~~5~~2]

A method for measuring an analyte in a blood sample by a latex agglutination

immunoassay, comprising a step of bringing the sample into contact, in a liquid phase, with latex particles carrying a substance having a specific affinity for the analyte in the presence of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof,

wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 75 mM and not more than 375 mM.

~~[Claim 6]~~

~~The method according to claim 5, wherein the blood sample is serum or plasma.~~

~~[Claim 7]~~

~~The method according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 37.5 mM and not more than 375 mM.~~

~~[Claim 8]~~

~~The method according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the latex agglutination immunoassay is based on a homogeneous method.~~

[Claim ~~9~~3]

A method for measuring an analyte in a blood sample by a latex agglutination immunoassay, comprising the following steps:

(1) bringing the sample into contact with imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof in a liquid phase,

wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt

thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 75 mM and not more than 375 mM;

(2) adding latex particles carrying a substance having a specific affinity for the analyte to the liquid phase after the step (1); and

(3) measuring an agglutination reaction between the analyte and the latex particles after the step (2).

[Claim 4]

The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of (3) measuring an agglutination reaction between the analyte and the latex particles is a step of optically or electrochemically observing the degree of agglutination of latex particles.

[Claim 5]

The method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the step of optically observing the degree of agglutination of latex particles is performed by a method which measures the intensity of scattered light, the absorbance, or the intensity of transmitted light by means of an optical apparatus.

[Claim 6]

The method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the step of optically observing the degree of agglutination of latex particles comprises a step of calculating the ~~concertation~~concentration of the analyte contained in the sample.

[Claim 7]

The method according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the step of optically

observing the degree of agglutination of latex particles is a step of optically observing the degree of agglutination of the latex particles due to the formation of a sandwich-type immune complex.

[Claim 8]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the substance having a specific affinity for the analyte, carried on latex particles, is composed of a plurality of types.

[Claim 9]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein different types of latex particles, which differ in the material or in the particle size, is used in combination.

[Claim 10]

The method according to any one of claims 1 ~~to~~ 9, wherein the blood sample is serum or plasma.

~~[Claim 11]~~

~~The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof in the step (3) of measuring the agglutination reaction of the latex particles is not less than 37.5 mM and not more than 375 mM.~~

[Claim ~~12~~11]

The method according to any one of claims ~~9~~ 1 to ~~11~~10, wherein the latex agglutination immunoassay is based on a homogeneous method.

[Claim ~~13~~12]

~~A~~ Use of a reagent kit for measuring an analyte in a blood sample by a latex agglutination immunoassay, the kit comprising:

(1) a first reagent containing a buffer solution containing imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof; and

(2) a second reagent containing latex particles carrying a substance having a specific affinity for the analyte,

wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 75 mM and not more than 375 mM.

~~[Claim 14]~~

~~The reagent kit according to claim 13, wherein imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof is contained in such an amount as to be capable of adjusting the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof to be not less than 37.5 mM and not more than 375 mM when measuring the analyte in the blood sample by the latex agglutination immunoassay.~~

~~[Claim 15]~~

~~The reagent kit according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the latex agglutination immunoassay is based on a homogeneous method.~~

[Claim ~~16~~13]

~~A~~ Use of a liquid reagent for measuring an analyte in a blood sample by a latex

agglutination immunoassay, comprising imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof,

wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 75 mM and not more than 375 mM.

~~[Claim 17]~~

~~The liquid reagent according to claim 16, wherein imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof is contained in such an amount as to be capable of adjusting the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof to be not less than 37.5 mM and not more than 375 mM when measuring the analyte in the blood sample by the latex agglutination immunoassay.~~

[Claim ~~18~~14]

The ~~liquid reagent~~use according to claim ~~16~~ 12 or ~~17~~13, wherein the latex agglutination immunoassay is based on a homogeneous method.

[Claim ~~19~~15]

~~An~~ Use of an agent comprising imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof as an active ingredient for reducing a measurement error caused by a blood sample in a latex agglutination immunoassay, ~~comprising imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof as an active ingredient~~

wherein the concentration of imidazole or an imidazole derivative, or a salt thereof upon measurement of an agglutination reaction is not less than 75 mM and not more than 375 mM.