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]

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 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 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 1-9, wherein the blood sample is serum or plasma.

[Claim 11]

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

[Claim 12]

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 13]

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 14]

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

[Claim 15]

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,

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.