IDEXX xChek*: Creating a User-Defined Assay for the IDEXX APP-ApxIV Ab Test

Creating a user-defined assay is an easy process of two tasks—editing an xChek* file to allow you to create an assay, and then creating the assay within xChek.

To edit the xChek.ini file:

1. From the task bar, choose **Start> Run**, and type "xchek.ini" into the text box. Click **OK**.
2. After the xChek.ini file opens, locate the line labeled "AllowNewAssays."
3. If the value for that line is "0," change it to "1." If the value is already "1," do not do anything.
4. Locate the line labeled "[BasicGraphs]" and scroll to the end of the section.
5. Enter "APP=17."
6. From the menu bar, choose **File> Save**, and then choose **File> Exit**.

To create the assay:

1. From the task bar, choose **Start> Programs> xChek> xChek** to open the xChek program.
2. If prompted to log in, enter your initials, and then click **OK**.
3. From the menu bar, choose **Database> Assays> All** to open the Assay dialog box.
4. Click **New** and enter "APP ApxIV Antibody Test" into the Name field, "APP" into the Code field, and "Unknown" into the Kit Lot field. Today's date (mm/dd/yyyy) is automatically entered into the Expiration field.

   Note: When you begin testing, update the information in the Kit Lot and Expiration fields with the actual kit lot number and expiration date.

5. Click the **Basic** button, and select or enter the following information for the respective fields:

   Case Type: Animal   Samp Filter: 450
   Template: SIV Vert   Ref. Filter: 0
   Species: Cattle   Dilution: 10
   Technology: ELISA   Wells: 1

   Note: Due to a problem with selecting swine as the species type in versions 3.2 and 3.3 of xChek, the species used for this user-defined assay is cattle.

6. Click **OK** to save the settings.
7. Click the **Calculations** button, and select or enter the following information:

        Formulas:
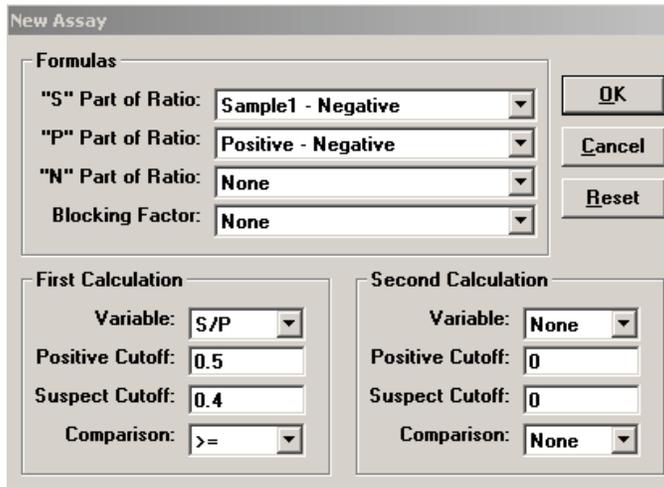   "S" Part of Ratio: Sample1 - Negative
            "P" Part of Ratio: Positive - Negative
            "N" Part of Ratio: None
            Blocking Factor: None

        First Calculation:
            Variable: S/P
            Positive Cutoff: 0.5
            Suspect Cutoff: 0.4
            Comparison: >=

Note: xChek does not support the S/P% calculation. Instead, xChek calculates an S/P value. The cutoff values have been updated to match the new calculation and the interpretation is the same.

8. Click **OK** to save these settings, and then click **OK** to save the assay to the database. You can now test for APP-ApxIV antibodies using the xChek Assay Management System.

Note: xChek does not evaluate controls or results for validity when you use a user-defined assay. You must evaluate the results from each assay in accordance with good laboratory practices. To evaluate your assay validity, please refer to the insert provided with this test.

Setting Up Additional Display Variables

Only OD values are displayed in the reporting options for this user-defined assay. To set up additional display variables, follow the directions below.

1. From the xChek menu bar, choose **Reports> Analyze Cases** to open the Filter Criteria for Analyze dialog box.

2. Enter the desired search criteria and click **OK**. The Select Cases for Analyze dialog box appears.

3. Select the desired cases and click **OK**. The Analyze Report dialog box appears.

4. Click the **Variables** button to open the Display Variables dialog box.

5. Select the desired options and click **OK**. Click **OK** again to save the settings.

For more information, call IDEXX Technical Service at 1-800-548-9997, contact your local area manager or visit us on the web at idexx.com.