

**International Blood Group  
Reference Laboratory**500 North Bristol Park  
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<b>Antigen</b>	Human Blood Group Rh D (ISBT No. 4001) / CD240D
<b>Clone</b>	HAM A
<b>Product Code</b>	9485
<b>Immunoglobulin Class</b>	Human IgM, kappa light chain

**Protein Development  
and Production Unit**

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The Rh D antigen (Rh<sub>1</sub> or Rh<sub>0</sub>) is clinically the most important of the Rh blood group system. It is expressed on the extracellular loops of a transmembrane polypeptide of around Mr 30000<sup>1</sup>. Estimated numbers of Rh D sites recognised by HAM A on Rh D positive cells are between 15,200 to 19,800 on CDe/cDE (R<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>) cells<sup>2</sup>. In humans the Rh D antigen is expressed solely on the erythrocytes of Rh D positive individuals. 85% of Caucasians are Rh D positive.

**Clone**

The cell line producing HAM A is a human heterohybridoma derived from the fusion of EBV transformed B cells, from the peripheral blood of a donor producing high levels of anti-D, with X63Ag8.653 myeloma cells<sup>3</sup>. HAM A reacts as a direct agglutinin with all Rh D positive red cells except those of DV<sup>a</sup> and D<sup>VI</sup>, DFR, DBT, HMi, HMii, DRS and Ro<sup>Har</sup>. Only reacts with "high grade" weak D. The designated epitope has been confirmed as epD5<sup>4,5,6</sup>. HAM A has a functional affinity constant of 1.0 x 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> at normal ionic strength<sup>2</sup>. On reducing the ionic strength by one third to 0.05M NaCl, the affinity constant increases to 6.3 x 10<sup>8</sup>.

**References**

1. Cartron, J-P, (1994) *Blood Reviews* **8**, 199-212.
2. Hughes-Jones *et al* (1990) *Vox Sang*, **59**, 112-115.
3. Melamed *et al* (1987) *J. Immunol. Methods*, **104**, 245-251.
4. Lomas *et al* (1989) *Vox Sang*, **57**, 261-264.
5. Jones J. *et al*, (1996) *Vox Sang* **71**, 176-183.
6. Avent N.D. *et al*, (1997) *Blood* **89**, 1779-1786.