

IL-6 and IL-8 measurement

Serum concentrations of IL-6 and IL-8 were determined by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA). All samples were measured in duplicate and the average of the two values was used for data analyses. IL-6 was measured using the high-sensitivity Quantikine® colorimetric immunoassay kit from R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN (sensitivity > 0.10 pg/mL, detection range = 0.156-10.0 pg/mL). The inter-assay coefficients of variation for this assay were 14%, 11% and 13%, for low, medium and high ranges, respectively.

IL-8 was measured using the QuantiGlo® chemiluminescent immunoassay kit from R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN (sensitivity > 0.28 pg/mL, detection range = 1.6-5000 pg/mL). The inter-assay coefficients of variation for this assay were 14%, 15% and 12%, for low, medium and high ranges, respectively.

CRP was measured using an automated chemoluminescent immunoassay system (IMMULITE, Diagnostics Products Corporation, Los Angeles). This assay has a sensitivity of 0.10 µg/mL with a calibration range up to 150 µg/mL. The inter-assay coefficients of variation for this assay were 12%, 10% and 15%, for low, medium and high ranges, respectively.