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d) an electron mediator and
 e) a buffer having a pH above 8.5
 and measuring by electrochemical, spectrophotometric or
 fluoro metric means, or by comparison of the develop color
 to a preestablish color intensity standard, the amount of
 β -hydroxyrate in the sample.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein the tetrazo-
 lium dye precursor is NBT or INT.

21. A method according to claim 19 wherein the electron
 mediator is a diaphorase enzyme.

22. A method for monitoring the level of combined
 acetoacetate and β -hydroxybutyrate in a sample of human
 bodily fluid which comprises contacting the sample with a
 mixture of the following ingredients:

- a) β -HBD
- b) NAD
- c) a tetrazolium dye precursor,
- d) an electron mediator, and
- e) a buffer having a pH that is over 7.0 but less than 8.5,
 and measuring by electrochemical, spectrophotometric or
 fluorometric means, or by comparison of the color devel-
 oped to a preestablished color intensity standard, the com-
 bined amount of β -hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate present
 in the sample.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the sample
 is urine or another fluid that can be noninvasively obtained
 and the β -HBD is either (I) obtained from Alcaligenes or
 another source such that it is not inhibited by chloride ions,
 (ii) or else has been obtained from a source such that it is
 inhibited by chloride ions and is present in an excess amount
 from about 10 to 20 times the amount utilized when the
 β -HBD is not inhibited by chloride ions.

24. A method according to claim 22 wherein the tetrazo-
 lium dye precursor is NBT or INT.

25. A method according to claim 22 wherein the electron
 mediator is a diaphorase enzyme.

26. A method for monitoring the level of combined
 acetoacetate and hydroxybutyrate in a sample of human
 bodily fluid which comprises contacting said sample with a
 mixture comprising the following ingredients:

- a) β -HBD,
- b) NAD,
- c) a nitroprusside salt or a diazonium salt in a quantity
 sufficient to react with endogenous acetoacetate in the
 sample and acetoacetate obtained by conversion thereto
 of β -hydroxybutyrate in the sample, and
- d) a buffer having a pH of about 8.5 or higher
 and measuring by electrochemical, spectrophotometric or
 fluorometric means, or by comparison of the color devel-
 oped to a preestablished color intensity standard, the amount
 of combined acetoacetate and β -hydroxybutyrate in the
 sample.

27. A method according to claim 26 wherein the sample
 is urine or another fluid that can be noninvasively obtained

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and the β -HBD is either (i) obtained from Alcaligenes or
 another source such that it is not inhibited by chloride ions,
 or else (ii) has been obtained from a source such that it is
 inhibited by chloride ions and is present in an excess amount
 from about 10 to 20 times the amount utilized when the
 β -HBD is not inhibited by chloride ions.

28. A method according to claim 26 wherein the tetrazo-
 lium dye precursor is NBT or INT.

29. A method according to claim 26 wherein the electron
 mediator is a diaphorase enzyme.

30. A method according to claim 26 wherein ingredient (c)
 is a nitroprusside salt.

31. A method according to claim 26 wherein ingredient (c)
 is a diazonium salt.

32. A method according to claim 31 wherein ingredient (c)
 is 4-nitrobenzene diazonium fluoborate.

33. A method for monitoring the level of total ketone
 bodies in a sample of human bodily fluid which comprises
 contacting said sample with a mixture comprising the fol-
 lowing ingredients:

- a) β -HBD,
- b) NAD,
- c) a nitroprusside or diazonium salt in an amount suffi-
 cient to
 (i) react instantaneously with and stabilize acetone in
 the sample,
 (ii) also react with endogenous acetoacetate in the
 sample and
 (iii) also react with acetoacetate formed by conversion
 thereto of β -hydroxybutyrate in the sample, and
- d) a buffer having a pH of about 8.5 or higher,
 and measuring by electrochemical, spectrophotometric or
 fluorometric means, or by comparison of the color devel-
 oped to a preestablished color intensity standard the amount
 of total ketone bodies in the sample.

34. A method according to claim 33 wherein the sample
 is urine or another fluid that can be noninvasively obtained
 and the β -HBD is either (i) obtained from Alcaligenes or
 another source such that it is not inhibited by chloride ions,
 or else (ii) has been obtained from a source such that it is
 inhibited by chloride ions and is present in an excess amount
 from about 10 to 20 times the amount utilized when the
 β -HBD is not inhibited by chloride ions.

35. A method according to claim 33 wherein the tetrazo-
 lium dye precursor is NBT or INT.

36. A method according to claim 33 wherein the electron
 mediator is a diaphorase enzyme.

37. A method according to claim 33 wherein ingredient (c)
 is a nitroprusside salt.

38. A method according to claim 33 wherein ingredient (c)
 is a diazonium salt.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein ingredient (c)
 is 4-nitrobenzene diazonium fluoborate.

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