

Figure 1: VNTR-FLA Process Flow Diagram

Patient skin biopsy or slit skin smear containing *M. leprae*
(preserved in ethanol)



Digestion and DNA extraction using Qiagen
DNEasy™ Blood and Tissue kit



Polymerase Chain Reaction using multiplex primer
combinations to amplify the bacterial DNA



Agarose gel electrophoresis and imaging to
verify presence of DNA PCR products



Capillary electrophoresis of PCR products for
Fragment Length Analysis (FLA)



Analysis of data files using *Peak Scanner*™ and
determination of numbers of Short Tandem Repeats



Generation of allele and haplotypes for further
interpretation and/or computation. Examination of
individual loci and their alleles for characteristics and
patterns give insight into distribution of clinical strains.