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A droplet PCR based Next Generation Sequencing assay to track plasma DNA mutation dynamics in estrogen receptor positive metastatic breast cancer --Manuscript Draft--

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1 **TITLE:**

2 **A Droplet PCR-Based Next Generation Sequencing Assay to Track Plasma DNA Mutation**
3 **Dynamics in Estrogen Receptor Positive Metastatic Breast Cancer**

4
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19
20 **KEYWORDS:**

21 breast cancer, plasma DNA, liquid biopsy, circulating tumor DNA, cell-free DNA, estrogen
22 receptor mutation, *ESR1*, *PIK3CA*, *TP53*

23
24 **SUMMARY:**

25 Here we describe a protocol that uses droplet polymerase chain reaction for target enrichment
26 followed by next generation sequencing of blood plasma circulating tumor DNA. This technique
27 was used to characterize mutations in the genes *ESR1* (all coding regions), *TP53* (all coding
28 regions), *PIK3CA* (hotspots), *PIK3R1* (hotspots) and *POLE* (exonuclease domain).

29
30 **ABSTRACT:**

31 The estrogen receptor gene (*ESR1*) is expressed in approximately two-thirds of breast cancers
32 (BCs) and predicts sensitivity to endocrine therapy. Mutations in *ESR1* have recently been
33 associated with endocrine therapy resistance in patients with estrogen receptor positive
34 metastatic breast cancer (ER+ MBC). Thus, monitoring the status of *ESR1* mutations may facilitate
35 personalized therapy decisions for ER+ MBC patients. Additionally, mutations in *PIK3CA* and *TP53*
36 are also prevalent in ER+ MBC and may influence therapeutic responses. Recent studies
37 demonstrate mutational heterogeneity in metastatic breast cancer (MBC), highlighting a need to
38 monitor for the emergence of new mutations over time. The analysis of blood plasma circulating
39 tumor DNA (ctDNA) by next generation sequencing (NGS) has emerged as an attractive approach
40 to address the mutation heterogeneity and evolution of MBC over time. However, the high costs
41 and intensive bioinformatics required for plasma ctDNA NGS analysis limit its utility in clinical
42 studies that require longitudinal monitoring. We have recently developed and validated an assay
43 for plasma ctDNA mutation profiling that utilizes droplet PCR-based multiplexed target
44 enrichment followed by NGS, which we have termed dPCR-Seq. Here we describe the protocol

45 for dPCR-Seq, illustrating its relative simplicity in library preparation and bioinformatics analysis
46 to detect *ESR1* (all coding regions), *TP53* (all coding regions), *PIK3CA* (hotspots), *PIK3R1*
47 (hotspots), and *POLE* (exonuclease domain) mutations in breast cancer patients. We have
48 validated a subset of the *ESR1* mutations identified by dPCR-Seq using allele-specific digital PCR
49 (dPCR) assays, demonstrating exceptional concordance in the measurement of mutant allele
50 frequency (MAF) in clinical plasma ctDNA specimens. We anticipate that dPCR-Seq may have
51 practical utility in future studies that investigate longitudinal monitoring of plasma ctDNA
52 mutations as potential biomarkers of therapeutic response in ER+ MBC patients.

53

54 **INTRODUCTION:**

55 Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women worldwide¹. Endocrine therapy,
56 which inhibits estrogen receptor signaling with tamoxifen, fulvestrant, or aromatase inhibitors
57 (AIs), is a mainstay of treatment for ER+ MBC²⁻⁵. However, most metastatic breast cancer patients
58 will develop resistance to endocrine therapy. Ligand-binding domain mutations in *ESR1* have
59 been identified as a key mechanism for acquired endocrine therapy resistance^{6,7}. Mutations in
60 four other genes (i.e., *PIK3CA*^{6,8,9}, *PIK3R1*¹⁰⁻¹², *POLE*¹³ and *TP53*¹⁴⁻²⁰) are also prevalent in breast
61 cancer patients. The ability to noninvasively profile and monitor tumor-specific mutations in
62 plasma circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) has immense potential to guide systemic therapy
63 decisions that are personalized and adaptive to an evolving landscape of gene mutations in
64 metastatic cancer patients^{21,22}. Indeed, recent studies suggest that monitoring ctDNA mutation
65 dynamics in ER+ MBC patients may be predictive of therapeutic sensitivity²³⁻²⁸. However, the
66 optimal strategy for analyzing plasma ctDNA mutations over time in clinical plasma samples has
67 not been established.

68

69 A cost-effective multiplexed droplet digital polymerase chain reaction (dPCR) assay based on
70 hydrolysis probes was found to be a quick and highly sensitive method to detect *ESR1* hotspot
71 mutations in ctDNA²⁹⁻³¹. Although dPCR-based detection has excellent sensitivity and specificity,
72 the assay is limited to detecting only the specific variant(s) for which the probes are designed. In
73 contrast, plasma ctDNA next generation sequencing (NGS)-based assays have the potential to
74 identify a broader genomic target region. However, concerns have arisen regarding their
75 accuracy when measuring mutant allele fractions (MAF) of target alleles in plasma ctDNA³².
76 Consequently, unique molecular identifiers were added to improve NGS accuracy when
77 determining the absolute number of particular molecular species and their relative abundance
78 during sequencing³³.

79

80 The dPCR technology^{34,35} provides a platform for unified dPCR and NGS-based analyses of plasma
81 ctDNA. We recently reported amplification of the complete coding sequences of *ESR1* and *TP53*
82 and hotspot regions in *PIK3CA*, *PIK3R1*, and *POLE* from highly fragmented plasma ctDNA using a
83 customized dPCR-based target enrichment assay. This was followed by NGS and bioinformatic
84 analysis to accurately identify plasma ctDNA mutations with high sensitivity (79%) and specificity
85 (100%) in a cohort of 58 breast cancer patients³⁶. We estimate that the lower limit of detection
86 for dPCR-Seq is 1.6% MAF. Significantly, we observed excellent concordance between MAF
87 measured by dPCR-Seq versus allele-specific dPCR assays ($R^{2+} = 0.96$). This indicates that dPCR-
88 Seq accurately maintains MAF during library preparation and subsequent NGS analyses. Our

89 analyses indicate that dPCR-Seq is more cost-effective, simpler, and bioinformatic analyses are
90 easier relative to alternative plasma ctDNA NGS assays, while also maintaining a favorable
91 analytical performance profile. Furthermore, dPCR-Seq should be adaptable to alternative
92 platforms for dPCR analyses that may comparably provide accurate multiplexed target
93 amplification for NGS applications. Thus, we anticipate that dPCR-Seq will be useful in future
94 studies of plasma ctDNA biomarkers of therapeutic sensitivity. Below, the dPCR-Seq protocol is
95 described in detail.

96

97 **PROTOCOL:**

98

99 The collection and analysis of blood samples follows the ethics guidelines of the University of
100 North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Informed written consent was obtained from each patient, and our
101 study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of University of North Carolina at Chapel
102 Hill.

103

104 **1. Blood collection from breast cancer patients**

105

106 1.1. Collect 10 mL of blood from breast cancer patients in a glass blood collection tube. Please
107 refer to Kumar et al. for patient characteristics³⁶.

108

109 1.2. After the blood collection, mix 8–10x by gentle inversion. Do not freeze specimens in the
110 collection tube.

111

112 NOTE: Process the collected blood ideally on the same day within 1–4 h of collection. However,
113 if immediate availability of the sample is not possible, the cell-free DNA (cfDNA) is stable for up
114 to 14 days if stored at 6 °C–37 °C.

115

116 **2. Plasma extraction from peripheral blood**

117

118 2.1. Centrifuge the blood samples 2x, first at 1,800 x *g* followed by 2,000 x *g*, for 10 min each time
119 and collect the plasma. Store the plasma at -80 °C until further use.

120

121 NOTE: Care should be taken to avoid collecting the middle whitish layer below the plasma.
122 Discard the blood by treating it with 10% bleach for 30 min or autoclave. Alternatively, follow any
123 other institution or company-approved protocol to process medical waste.

124

125 **3. Cell-free DNA extraction from peripheral blood**

126

127 3.1. Thaw the stored plasma samples in a 37 °C water bath for about 5 min.

128

129 3.2. Use a commercial kit (see **Table of Materials**) to extract the cfDNA from the plasma using
130 the manufacturer's protocol with one modification at the elution step: Wait for about 15–60
131 min at room temperature (RT) after adding the elution buffer and then elute the sample.

132 Process the sample using a vacuum manifold and elute the sample in a microfuge at 14,000 x g
133 for 1 min.

134

135 NOTE: A standard laboratory vacuum can be used for this step. If more concentrated cfDNA is
136 required, then elute the sample in a small volume or concentrate it using a speed vacuum.

137

138 3.3. Use 1–2 μL of cfDNA to quantify using a fluorimeter and store the eluted cfDNA at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
139 until further use.

140

141 4. Designing the NGS cancer panel

142

143 4.1. Design 272 primers to get 136 amplicons of 96 bp regions for targeted enrichment of *ESR1*
144 (all coding regions), *TP53* (all coding regions), *PIK3CA* (hotspots), *PIK3R1* (hotspots).

145

146 NOTE: A complete list of the primers used in this assay is given in **Appendix 1**. Use any appropriate
147 program to design the primers^{37,38,39}.

148

149 4.2. Synthesize each of the 272 individual primers as a 25 nM DNA oligonucleotide with standard
150 desalted formulation. Mix sense and antisense oligonucleotides for each amplicon together to a
151 final concentration of 100 μM in 60 μL of 10 mM Tris pH 8.0. Do this in a 96 well plate.

152

153 4.3. Divide the oligonucleotides into two sets for targeted amplification of the 68 genomic
154 regions in each set. So, 68 wells in both 96 well plates will have 60 μL of sense and antisense
155 oligos at a concentration of 100 μM .

156

157 NOTE: Both 96 well plates at this step will have 68 forward and 68 reverse primers.

158

159 4.4. Treat both plates separately to make two sets of oligonucleotide mixtures. Take out 1.6 μL
160 from each well on the plate and mix the oligonucleotides to prepare a mixture consisting of 0.16
161 nM of each primer (0.8 μM) in 200 μL of 10 mM Tris pH 8.0.

162

163 NOTE: This step will lead to two tubes of oligonucleotide mixtures. Each tube will have 68 forward
164 and 68 reverse primers. The primer sets for adjacent amplicons need to be separated into two
165 distinct reactions to avoid template competition during dPCR.

166

167 5. Droplet generation and target enrichment by first round of PCR

168

169 5.1. Thaw all reagents: genotyping master mix (2x), set 1 and set 2 primers, and ctDNA samples.
170 Vortex all reagents for 10–15 s and quickly spin to collect the contents. Keep the reagents on ice.

171

172 5.2. Prepare the master mix in a microcentrifuge tube using the following volumes per sample:
173 20 μL of 2x genotyping master mix, 1.6 μL of 25x droplet stabilizer, 2 μL of set 1 or set 2 primers.

174

175 NOTE: Make 10% more volume of the amount of master mix required to avoid shortage due to

176 potential pipetting errors.

177

178 5.3. Add 5.0 ng of ctDNA and adjust the volume to 40 μ L with water.

179

180 NOTE: Because the amount of cfDNA is very limited, the protocol was standardized to use the
181 minimum amount of cfDNA.

182

183 5.4. Load the 40 μ L reaction mixture on each well of the chip (e.g., RainDrop Source chip) for
184 droplet generation.

185

186 NOTE: Eight samples can be processed at one time using one chip. If more samples are
187 required, then set up the reaction multiple times in a set of eight samples each time.

188

189 5.5. Transfer the droplet emulsions from the chip to PCR tubes using a multichannel pipette.

190

191 5.6. Set up a PCR reaction for the droplet emulsions with the set 1 and set 2 primers for each
192 sample with the following conditions: 94 $^{\circ}$ C for 2 min; 55 cycles of 94 $^{\circ}$ C for 30 s, 54 $^{\circ}$ C for 30 s,
193 68 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 min; and finally one incubation at 68 $^{\circ}$ C for 10 min. Set a 1 $^{\circ}$ C/s temperature ramp
194 speed between each step.

195

196 6. Recovery of DNA from the droplets after PCR amplification

197

198 6.1. To break the emulsion, add 50 μ L of droplet destabilizer to the post-amplification droplets
199 and vortex them for 30 s. Centrifuge the preparation at 2,000 $\times g$ for 2 min to separate the
200 aqueous and oil phase.

201

202 6.2. Remove the oil phase from the bottom of the PCR tubes. To do so, insert the pipette tips
203 carefully through the upper aqueous phase and carefully remove the bottom oil.

204

205 NOTE: Once the oil is removed, the samples can be stored at 20 $^{\circ}$ C for up to 7 days. A total of 40
206 μ L of sample yields approximately 33 μ L of aqueous volume.

207

208 6.3. Resuspend solid phase reversible immobilization (SPRI) magnetic beads by inversion. Add
209 39.6 μ L of SPRI magnetic beads into each of the aqueous volumes to maintain 1.2x bead to
210 reaction volume ratio. Mix the beads plus the aqueous sample by pipetting up and down about
211 10x so that the slurry appears uniform in density.

212

213 6.4. Leave the PCR tubes at RT for 5 min. Firmly position the PCR strips with samples onto a 96
214 well magnetic plate. Leave it for 2–3 min or until pellets are formed and the supernatant is clear.

215

216 6.5. Remove the supernatant using a multichannel pipette.

217

218 NOTE: Avoid disturbing the pellet at this step. If a bead is also aspirated into the pipet tip, then
219 redeposit it into the well and wait for about 30 s or until the bead pellet is re-formed and the

220 supernatant is clear. Repipette the supernatant.

221

222 6.6. Leave the PCR tubes on the magnet and add 180 μL of freshly made 85% ethanol to each
223 tube. Mix by pipetting 5–6x. Leave for 1 min or until the supernatant is clear. Remove all the
224 ethanol carefully.

225

226 NOTE: The ethanol should be completely removed at this step. If any ethanol is visible, place the
227 tubes on the magnet once again, wait for 15 s, and remove the remaining ethanol.

228

229 6.7. Remove the PCR tubes from the magnet and leave at RT for 5 min maximum to dry the bead
230 pellets. Add 20 μL of 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 per well with a multichannel pipette. Vigorously
231 pipette 10x to resuspend the pellets.

232

233 6.8. Place the tubes at RT for 2 min and then place on the magnet for 2 min to separate the beads.
234 Use a multichannel pipette to collect 17 μL of eluent from each tube and deposit in a PCR tube.

235

236 7. Addition of adaptor and index sequences at the second round of PCR

237

238 7.1. Thaw all reagents: 10x buffer, 50 mM MgSO_4 , dNTP (10 mM each), 4 M betaine, 5 μM
239 universal forward primer, 5 μM index reverse primer and the first PCR template DNA from steps
240 5 and 6. Vortex all reagents for 10–15 s and quick spin to collect contents. Keep the reagents on
241 ice.

242

243 7.2. Prepare the master mix in a microcentrifuge tube using the following volume per sample:
244 3.25 μL of 10x buffer, 0.875 μL of 50 mM MgSO_4 , 1.124 μL of dNTP (10 mM each), 2.5 μL of 4 M
245 betaine, 1.25 μL of DMSO, 1.25 μL of 5 μM universal forward primer, and 0.5 μL of high fidelity
246 Taq polymerase.

247

248 NOTE: Make 10% more volume of the amount of master mix required to avoid shortage due to
249 potential pipetting errors.

250

251 7.3. Add 1.25 μL of 5 μM index reverse primer and 13 μL of the first PCR template DNA to make
252 25 μL of secondary PCR reactions.

253

254 7.4. Set up a PCR reaction with the set 1 and set 2 primers for each sample with the following
255 conditions: 94 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 2 min; 10 cycles of 94 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 s, 56 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 s, 68 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 min; and finally
256 one incubation at 68 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min. Set a 1 $^\circ\text{C}/\text{s}$ temperature ramp speed between each step.

257

258 8. Recovery of DNA after the second round of PCR

259

260 8.1. Resuspend the SPRI magnetic beads by inversion. Add 22.5 μL of SPRI magnetic beads into
261 each of the aqueous volumes to maintain a 0.9x bead : reaction volume ratio for the second PCR.

262

263 8.2. Mix the beads plus the aqueous sample by pipetting up and down about 10x so that the

264 slurry appears uniform in density.
265
266 8.3. Leave the PCR tubes at RT for 5 min.
267
268 8.4. Firmly position the PCR strips with samples onto a 96 well magnetic plate. Leave it for 2–3
269 min or until pellets are formed and the supernatant is clear.
270
271 8.5. Remove supernatant using a multichannel pipette.
272
273 NOTE: Avoid disturbing the pellets at this step. If a bead is also aspirated into the pipet tip, then
274 redeposit it into the well and wait for about 30 s or until the bead pellet is re-formed and the
275 supernatant is clear. Repipette the supernatant.
276
277 8.6. Leave the PCR tubes on the magnet and add 180 μL of freshly made 85% ethanol to each
278 tube. Mix by pipetting 5–6x.
279
280 8.7. Leave for 1 min or until the supernatant is clear.
281
282 8.8. Remove all the ethanol carefully.
283
284 NOTE: The ethanol should be completely removed at this step. If any ethanol is visible, place the
285 tubes on the magnet once again, wait for 15 s, and remove the remaining ethanol.
286
287 8.9. Remove the PCR tubes from the magnet and leave at RT for 5 min maximum to dry the bead
288 pellets.
289
290 8.10. Add 20 μL of 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 per well with a multichannel pipette. Vigorously pipette
291 10x to resuspend the pellets.
292
293 8.11. Place the tubes at RT for 2 min and then place on the magnet for 2 min to separate the
294 beads.
295
296 8.12. Use a multichannel pipette to collect 17 μL of eluent from each tube and deposit in fresh
297 PCR tubes.

299 **9. DNA quantification on the bioanalyzer and pooling the libraries**

301 9.1. Check the quantity and quality of the libraries using automated electrophoresis in
302 accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
303
304 9.2. Run 1.0 μL of each library on the automated electrophoresis instrument.
305
306 9.3. Add up and record all product yields with expected target amplicons between 280–320
307 bp along with other off target non-specific amplicons (e.g., <250 bp and >300 bp) as a function

308 of molarity (nM/L) for each sample.

309

310 NOTE: **Figure 1** provides more details about selecting appropriate regions for DNA quantification.

311

312 9.4. Dilute each library to 2 nM/L (2 nM) using nuclease-free water as a diluent. Mix an equal
313 volume of each library in a tube to make an aggregate pooled sample concentration of 2 nM/L.

314

315 NOTE: The pooled library can be stored at 4 °C for up to 3 days. Pool the DNA libraries prepared
316 from the eight samples for each MiSeq run.

317

318 9.5. Quantify the pooled library on a fluorometer and automated electrophoresis instrument
319 with targeted sequencing.

320

321 10. Targeted sequencing protocol

322

323 10.1. Sequence each pooled library using custom sequencing primers (**Appendix 1**) and the
324 sequencing reagent kit (see **Table of Materials**) on a Next Generation Sequencer following the
325 manufacturer's instructions for 125 cycle paired-end sequencing.

326

327 10.2. Trim the reads in the FASTQ files to remove the adaptors and any low-quality bases at
328 the ends using the ea-utils module fastq-mcf. Use the default parameters except for $k = 2$.

329

330 10.3. Align the sequence against the human reference genome [hg38] using Bowtie2
331 (bowtie2-2.2.4). Use default parameters except --local -N 1 -p 5).

332

333 10.4. Select the two groups of aligned reads.

334

335 NOTE: Filter the reads to be ≥ 60 nucleotides in length and select two groups of aligned reads.
336 One group has both reads mapped to the same amplicon on the corresponding strands
337 allowing a 1-nucleotide mismatch in the PCR primer region. The other group has both reads
338 mapped to different amplicons within 1 kb of each other with primer sequences matching the
339 amplicons to which they mapped allowing a 1-nucleotide mismatch.

340

341 10.5. Using Samtools, create BAM files containing each of the two categories of reads in which
342 the 5'- and 3'-primer sequences were soft-clipped, and the alignment positions were adjusted.
343 Merge, sort, and convert the BAM files to mpileup files (samtools-1.19; mpileup with
344 parameters -A -B -d 1000000 -Q 30 -q 20).

345

346 10.6. Call variants using VarScan2 (VarScan.v2.3.5.jar mpileup2snp and mpileup2indel, --min-
347 coverage 100 --min-reads2 1 --min-avg-qual 30 --min-var-freq 0 --strand-filter 1 --p-value 0.01
348 --output-vcf 1). Annotate the variants by snpEff (default parameters). Annotated variants
349 unique to the patient samples are scored as true mutations.

350

351 REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS:

352 **Detection of mutations *ESR1*, *PIK3CA*, *TP53*, *PIK3RA*, and *POLE* mutations**

353 The dPCR-SEQ assay was used to detect mutations in 31 metastatic breast cancer patients (single
354 time point samples from 24 patients, two time point samples from six patients and three time
355 point samples from one patient). Mutations found in *ESR1*, *PIK3CA*, *TP53*, *POLE*, and *PIK3RA*
356 genes by dPCR-Seq is shown in **Figure 2**. The median depth of coverage was 3,500. The clinical
357 significance of monitoring cumulative mutations in *ESR1*, *PIK3CA*, and *TP53* calculated using this
358 protocol is mentioned elsewhere³⁶.

359

360 **FIGURE AND TABLE LEGENDS:**

361 **Figure 1: Calculation of the DNA yield from the chromatogram.** Expected fragment sizes were
362 between 280–320 bp. However, all individual products on chromatogram were added to
363 calculate the total yields for each sample. The total yields were considered to make further
364 dilutions at the time of library pooling.

365

366 **Figure 2: Mutation heterogeneity in MBC patients.** Lollipop plots showing the number (vertical
367 axis) and position (horizontal axis) of mutations across the protein sequence of breast cancer
368 relevant genes (*ESR1*, *PIK3CA*, *TP53*, *POLE*, and *PIK3R1*). The plot was originally generated using
369 the cBioPortal. The green circle indicates missense mutations. The most prevalent missense
370 mutations are also mentioned.

371

372 **DISCUSSION:**

373 Digital PCR has become an important tool in translational research that is used widely to track
374 hotspot mutations in cancer patients. Genome-wide and targeted NGS of liquid and solid biopsy
375 samples has also successfully been used to identify mutations in breast cancer patients³⁶. We
376 have developed a five gene panel to track mutations in *ESR1*, *PIK3CA*, *PIK3R1*, *POLE*, and *TP53*
377 mutations in plasma ctDNA isolated from metastatic breast cancer patients. Alternative gene
378 panels may be designed for different clinical scenarios. It is also possible to design patient-specific
379 assays to monitor tumor-specific mutations that have been identified from tumor-normal
380 genomic analyses. A critical step in the protocol is the optimal design of primers for target
381 enrichment. These primers should be evaluated using a program such as MPD³⁸ or Oli2go³⁹ that
382 detects primer-dimer interactions. Optimization after dPCR-Seq may be necessary to replace or
383 adjust concentrations of primers that do not effectively amplify the genomic region of interest.

384

385 The dPCR-Seq protocol has several advantages relative to alternative NGS assays, including cost-
386 effectiveness (processing each sample costs ~\$300), rapid turnaround time (within 3 days), and
387 simplicity of bioinformatic analyses³⁶. It provides uniform amplicon coverage and high accuracy,
388 while requiring low amounts of starting cell-free DNA material. One limitation of dPCR-Seq is the
389 sensitivity to detect ctDNA mutations. Our analyses indicate that dPCR-Seq can reliably identify
390 mutations that are present at greater than 1.6% mutant allele frequency, in settings of de novo
391 discovery. It is plausible that if multiple tumor-specific mutant alleles are being monitored, this
392 level of sensitivity may be substantially increased. Of note, a similar strategy has been used in
393 recent studies for posttreatment surveillance and early detection of cancer recurrence^{40,41}. Thus,
394 dPCR-Seq may facilitate future studies in this clinically relevant setting.

395

396 Based on concordance analysis with allele-specific dPCR, we have found that one of the major
397 advantages of dPCR-Seq is that it accurately measures the MAF of plasma ctDNA mutations in
398 clinical samples from MBC patients. Of note, another recent method for multiplexed target
399 enrichment of plasma ctDNA followed by NGS has been described⁴². In this study, microfluidics-
400 based compartmentalization was used for multiplexed PCR to achieve target amplicon
401 enrichment. Interestingly, although the correlation coefficient observed between dPCR and the
402 NGS assay was favorable ($R^2 = 0.64$), it was not as high as what we observed with dPCR-Seq ($R^2 =$
403 0.96). Thus, we suggest that dPCR-Seq may be particularly useful in future studies investigating
404 ctDNA mutation dynamics as a predictive biomarker of therapeutic response in ER+ MBC
405 patients.

406

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415

416 **DISCLOSURES:**

417 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

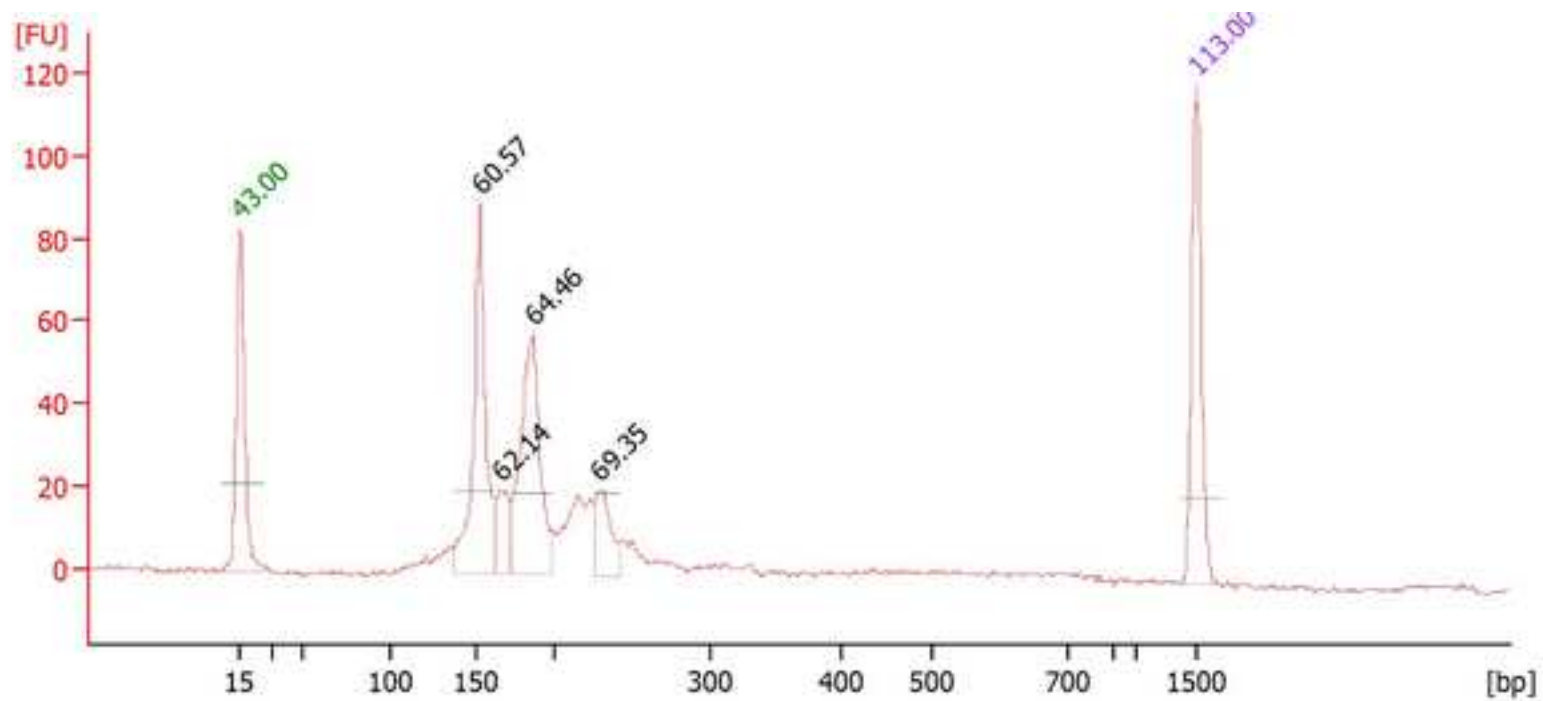
418

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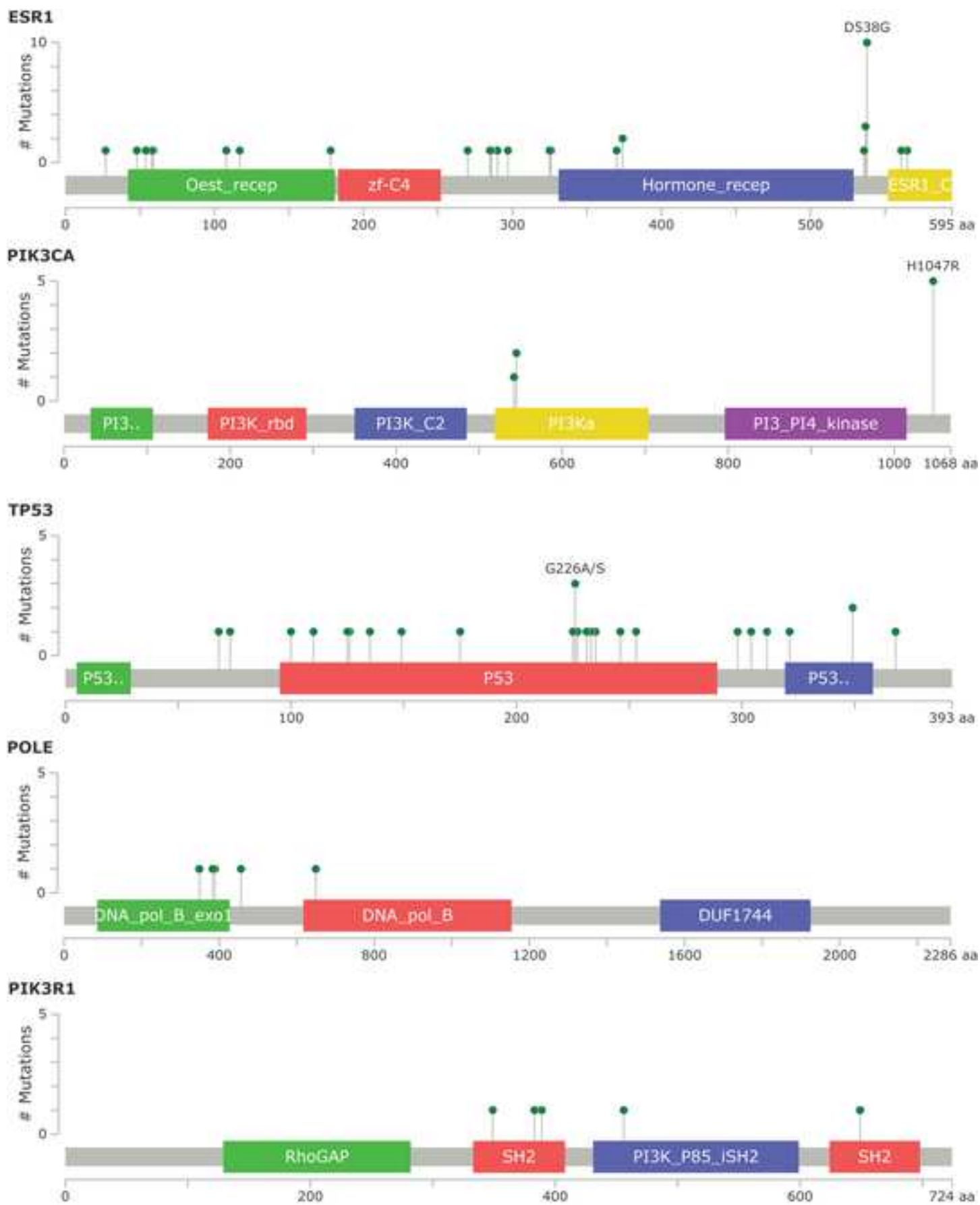
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- 516
517
518



Peak	Size [bp]	Conc. [ng/ μ l]	Molarity [nmol/l]	Observations
1	15	4.20	424.2	Lower Marker
2	152	4.17	41.4	
3	166	0.89	8.1	
4	187	4.03	32.7	
5	230	1.02	6.7	
6	1,500	2.10	2.1	Upper Marker

$$\text{Yield} = 41.4 + 8.1 + 32.7 + 6.7 = 88.9 \text{ nmol/l}$$

Figure 1



Name of Material/ Equipment

10 µL Aerosol Barrier tips
10 mL Serological Pipettes
10-100 µL 8-channel pipette
1250 µL Aerosol Barrier tips
2 µL Aerosol Barrier tips
20 µL Aerosol Barrier tips
200 µL Aerosol Barrier tips
20-200 ul 8-channel pipette
2100 Bioanalyzer
5 mL Serological Pipettes
8-strip 0.2 mL PCR tubes & caps
Absolute Ethanol
Agilent DNA 1000 Kit
Betaine Anhydrous
Bio-Rad's C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler with 96-Deep Well Reaction Module
Cell-Free DNA BCT tubes, RUO
Centrifuge 5810R
DMSO
dNTP Solution Mix
DynaMag-96 magnetic plate
Falcon 15ml Conical Centrifuge Tubes
Falcon 50mL Conical Centrifuge Tubes
Heating block (for 1.7 ml microcentrifuge tubes)
Microcentrifuge
MiSeq Reagent Kit v3
MiSeq Sequencer
Nuclease Free Water
P10 pipettes
P1000 pipettes
P2 pipettes
P20 pipettes
P200 pipettes
Platinum Taq DNA Polymerase High Fidelity
Portable Pipet-Aid XP Pipette Controller
QIAamp Circulating Nucleic Acid Kit
Qubit fluorimeter
Qubit Assay Tubes
Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit
RainDrop System Source Instrument
SPRIselect Reagent Kit
TaqMan Genotyping Master Mix

ThunderBolts Cancer Panel Consumables Pack

Tris Base

Vortex mixer

Company	Catalog Number
VWR	10017-062
VWR	13-675-20
Eppendorf	3125000036
VWR	10017-092
VWR	10010-364
VWR	10017-064
VWR	10017-068
Denville Scientific	463230067
Agilent	G2939BA
VWR	13-675-22
Axygen	PCR-0208-CP-C
Sigma	E7023-500ML
Agilent	5067-1504
Sigma	B2629-100G
Bio-Rad	1851197
Streck	218962
Eppendorf	22625101
Sigma	D8418-100ML
New England Biolabs	N0447L
Life Technologies	12331D
Corning	352096
Corning	352098
Denville Scientific	I0540
Eppendorf	5424
Illumina	MS-102-3003
Illumina	SY-410-1003
Integrated DNA Technologies	11-05-01-04
Denville Scientific	355022105
Denville Scientific	455060205
Denville Scientific	455010336
Denville Scientific	355032002
Denville Scientific	45505009
Life Technologies	11304-029
Drummond Scientific	4-000-101
Qiagen	55114
Thermo Fisher Scientific	Q33226
Thermo Fisher Scientific	Q32856
Thermo Fisher Scientific	Q32851
Raindance	20-04401
Beckman Coulter	B23318
Life Technologies	4371355

Raindance
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Denville Scientific

20-07205
BP152-500
Vortexer 59A

Comments/Description

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Suitable for 15 ml conical tubes; Can be replaced with other equivalent instrument

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Suitable for 1.5-2.0 ml tubes; Can be replaced with other equivalent instrument

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

Can be replaced with other equivalent product

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Author(s): Sunil Kumar, Dennis A. Simpson, and Gaorav P. Gupta

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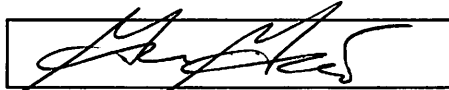
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Editorial comments:

Changes to be made by the author(s):

1. Please take this opportunity to thoroughly proofread the manuscript to ensure that there are no spelling or grammar issues. The JoVE editor will not copy-edit your manuscript and any errors in the submitted revision may be present in the published version.

Response: We have made the appropriate changes.

2. Authors and affiliations: Please provide an email address for each author.

Response: Email address of each author is now included on title page.

3. Please use SI abbreviations for all units: L, mL, μ L, h, min, s, etc. Please use the micro symbol μ instead of u and abbreviate liters to L (L, mL, μ L) to avoid confusion.

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Response: All the trademark symbols are now removed from the manuscript.

5. Please adjust the numbering of the Protocol to follow the JoVE Instructions for Authors. For example, 1 should be followed by 1.1 and then 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 if necessary. Please refrain from using bullets, dashes, or indentations.

Response: We are presenting our data in 8 sections/headings. We do not have the subsections/subheading. All the steps within each section is numbered following the guidelines. We have now removed some indentations in the updated version.

6. In the JoVE Protocol format, “NOTE” should be concise and used sparingly. They should only be used to provide extraneous details, optional steps, or recommendations that are not critical to a step. Any text that provides details about how to perform a particular step should either be included in the step itself or added as a sub-step. Please consider moving some of the notes about the protocol to the discussion section.

Response: We have made some changes in the protocol to follow this guideline. A track change version is also uploaded.

7. Line 97: What volume of blood is collected?

Response: We have made the following changes to reflect the volume of collected blood.

“Collect 10 ml of the blood from breast cancer patient in Cell-Free DNA BCT tubes, RUO”.

8. Line 276: Please describe how this is actually done. Alternatively, include a relevant reference.

Response: We have modified the text to indicate that this process is done in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

9. Please combine some of the shorter Protocol steps so that individual steps contain 2-3 actions and maximum of 4 sentences per step.

Response: We have made some changes in the protocol to follow this guideline. A track change version is also uploaded.

10. Please apply single line spacing throughout the manuscript, and include single-line spaces between all paragraphs, headings, steps, etc.

Response: The manuscript now follows this instruction.

11. After you have made all the recommended changes to your protocol (listed above), please highlight 2.75 pages or less of the Protocol (including headings and spacing) that identifies the essential steps of the protocol for the video, i.e., the steps that should be visualized to tell the most cohesive story of the Protocol.

Response:

12. Please highlight complete sentences (not parts of sentences). Please ensure that the highlighted part of the step includes at least one action that is written in imperative tense. Notes cannot usually be filmed and should be excluded from the highlighting.

Response:

13. Please include all relevant details that are required to perform the step in the highlighting. For example: If step 2.5 is highlighted for filming and the details of how to perform the step are given in steps 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, then the sub-steps where the details are provided must be highlighted.

Response:

14. Discussion: Please describe critical steps within the protocol and any limitations of the technique.

Response:

15. References: Please do not abbreviate journal titles.

Response:

16. Table of Materials: Please remove trademark (™) and registered (®) symbols. Please sort the items in alphabetical order according to the name of material/equipment.

Response:

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1:

Manuscript Summary:

The authors have devised a method called dPCR-seq as a new ctDNA detection method, and have described the details of the specific experimental procedure. This paper seems to provide sufficient information necessary to reproduce the experiment.

Major Concerns:

None

Minor Concerns:

None

Response: Thank you for your careful review.

Reviewer #2:

Manuscript Summary:

The authors of the manuscript "A droplet PCR based Next Generation Sequencing assay to track DNA mutation dynamics in estrogen receptor positive metastatic breast cancer" describe a method that combines digital PCR with NGS. This method is said to combine the advantages of both techniques, and uses droplet PCR for multiplexed target enrichment which is subsequently sequenced and showed to have a lower limit of detection of 1.6% MAF. The authors described the different protocols of their dPCR-seq method well and in detail, however, only a few results were shown. It is of interest that they only need 5ng of cfDNA for their method, since often cfDNA yields are (very) low in patients.

Major Concerns:

a) The authors describe the dPCR-Seq well, however, details about the NGS is partially missing. For example, median on target reads depth coverage is an important factor in NGS (and determines costs, limit of detection, etc) but was not described or was this indicated by 125 cycles (point 10) MiSeq protocol line 301 page 6)?

Response: We have edited the manuscript to include information about median of the depth of coverage in result section. The NGS results including cost was previously discussed in separate article (NPJ Breast Cancer. 2018; 4: 39. PMID: 30534596, doi: 10.1038/s41523-018-0093-3). We also have added this information in the Discussion section.

b) Moreover, they state high sensitivity (79%) and specificity (100%) (line 80, page 1) , but what is their "gold" standard? Actually, does this mean that in 20% of cases the mutation is missed by their method? Or did the patients not have mutations in their plasma for the genes analysed?

Response: Thank you for raising this point. Sensitivity and specificity indicate specific mutations found in patients. All of the patients that were not detected by our method had mutation levels that were below the detection limit (MAF 1.6%) of dPCR-Seq. Detailed analyses of the data is now referenced to our npj Breast Cancer article (NPJ Breast Cancer. 2018; 4: 39. PMID: 30534596, doi: 10.1038/s41523-018-0093-3). The relevant reference is now included as mentioned below.

“This can be followed by NGS and bioinformatic analysis to accurately identify plasma ctDNA mutations with high sensitivity (79%) and specificity (100%) in a cohort of 58 breast cancer patients (ref 36).”

c) How is the limit of detection of the dPCR-Seq compared to allele-specific dPCR assays? Results shown do not illustrate well the performance of their method. Due to the lack of results, it is also difficult to compare their findings with those obtained with alternative (standard) methods.

Response: This manuscript mainly highlights the experimental method. However, the results from this experiment are discussed in detail at different place as below. Following reference discusses the comparison of dPCR-Seq and selected allele-specific digital PCR assay .

(NPJ Breast Cancer. 2018; 4: 39. PMID: 30534596, doi: 10.1038/s41523-018-0093-3)

Reviewer #3:

Manuscript Summary:

The research for NGS based plasma DNA mutation monitoring in blood is of vital importance for cancer prognostics and diagnostics. This paper is well written, and the experiment is demonstrated in a well-organized way. Thus, it is recommended for acceptance after minor revision.

Minor Concerns:

As readers come mostly from scientific world, rather than from commercial application field, it might be better to tell them the exact content of chemicals for droplet generation and provide wider choices of equipment and reagents for conducting experiment. For droplet generation, the oil phase, the surfactant stabilizer and the destabilizer, their exact chemical names should be provided, and their ratio and combination are the key to the success and repeatability of the experiment. Thus, it is preferable to provide these details in the video. Also, detail the structure of the chip and the peripheral equipment is important for the readers to understand the real procedures.

Response: Thank you for your careful review. There are three approach to digital PCR – (a) droplet based, (b) microfluidic based and (c) magnetic beads based. Following are the different instruments available to perform digital PCR.

1. QX200™ Droplet Digital™ PCR System by Bio-Rad (Make 20,000 nanoliter-sized droplets)
2. RainDrop Digital PCR System by RainDance Technologies (Make 10 million pico-liter sized droplets)
3. Clarity™ Digital PCR System by JN Medsys (Make 10,000 nanolitre-sized partitions)
4. Crystal Digital PCR with The Naica System by Stilla Technologies (Make 30,000 nanolitre-sized (0.59 nL) droplets) partitioned their samples into approximately 30,000 droplets; 3 fluorescent channels
5. Biomark™ HD by Fluidigm digital PCR (microfluidic-based digital PCR where sample divided into number of chambers on a chip)
6. BEAMING Digital PCR by Sysmex Inostics (Bead-based digital PCR where magnetic beads capture the target sequences)

We have used digital PCR system by RainDance technologies which is droplet based in our protocol. Although technology is now well advanced but the composition of reaction components are proprietary information which is not revealed by these companies. However, the general procedures described should be adaptable to other dPCR platforms, and we make a note of this in the revised text. Thus, we anticipate that the procedures described will be applicable to other commercial dPCR platforms, with relatively minor modifications that can be optimized by end-users.

List of SET-1 primers

Customer_Target_ID	Sense_Primer_Name
PIK3CA_01	UNC_rdt_68_L
PIK3CA_02	UNC_rdt_69_L
PIK3CA_04	UNC_rdt_70_L
PIK3CA_06	UNC_rdt_71_L
POLE_CDS_13	UNC_rdt_72_L
POLE_CDS_13	UNC_rdt_73_L
POLE_CDS_12	UNC_rdt_74_L
POLE_CDS_12	UNC_rdt_75_L
POLE_CDS_11	UNC_rdt_76_L
POLE_CDS_10	UNC_rdt_77_L
POLE_CDS_10	UNC_rdt_78_L
POLE_CDS_09	UNC_rdt_79_L
POLE_CDS_08	UNC_rdt_80_L
POLE_CDS_08	UNC_rdt_81_L
POLE_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_82_L
POLE_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_83_L
POLE_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_84_L
POLE_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_85_L
POLE_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_86_L
POLE_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_87_L
POLE_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_88_L
POLE_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_89_L
POLE_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_90_L
POLE_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_91_L
POLE_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_92_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_93_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_94_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_95_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_96_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_97_L
ESR1_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_98_L
ESR1_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_99_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_32_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_33_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_34_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_35_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_36_L
ESR1_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_37_L
ESR1_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_38_L

ESR1_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_39_L
ESR1_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_40_L
ESR1_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_41_L
ESR1_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_42_L
ESR1_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_43_L
ESR1_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_44_L
ESR1_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_45_L
ESR1_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_46_L
TP53_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_115_L
TP53_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_116_L
TP53_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_117_L
TP53_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_118_L
TP53_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_119_L
TP53_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_120_L
TP53_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_121_L
TP53_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_122_L
TP53_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_123_L
TP53_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_124_L
TP53_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_125_L
TP53_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_126_L
TP53_CDS_08	UNC_rdt_127_L
TP53_CDS_08	UNC_rdt_128_L
TP53_CDS_08	UNC_rdt_129_L
TP53_CDS_09	UNC_rdt_130_L
TP53_CDS_10	UNC_rdt_131_L
PIK3R1_01	UNC_rdt_64_L
PIK3R1_02	UNC_rdt_65_L
PIK3R1_03	UNC_rdt_66_L
PIK3R1_04	UNC_rdt_67_L

List of SET-2 primers

Customer_Target_ID	Sense_Primer_Name
PIK3CA_01	UNC_rdt_0_L
PIK3CA_03	UNC_rdt_1_L
PIK3CA_05	UNC_rdt_2_L
PIK3CA_06	UNC_rdt_3_L
POLE_CDS_13	UNC_rdt_4_L
POLE_CDS_13	UNC_rdt_5_L
POLE_CDS_12	UNC_rdt_6_L
POLE_CDS_11	UNC_rdt_7_L
POLE_CDS_11	UNC_rdt_8_L

POLE_CDS_10	UNC_rdt_9_L
POLE_CDS_09	UNC_rdt_10_L
POLE_CDS_09	UNC_rdt_11_L
POLE_CDS_08	UNC_rdt_12_L
POLE_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_13_L
POLE_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_14_L
POLE_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_15_L
POLE_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_16_L
POLE_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_17_L
POLE_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_18_L
POLE_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_19_L
POLE_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_20_L
POLE_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_21_L
POLE_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_22_L
POLE_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_23_L
POLE_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_24_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_25_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_26_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_27_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_28_L
ESR1_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_29_L
ESR1_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_30_L
ESR1_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_31_L
ESR1_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_100_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_101_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_102_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_103_L
ESR1_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_104_L
ESR1_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_105_L
ESR1_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_106_L
ESR1_CDS_04	UNC_rdt_107_L
ESR1_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_108_L
ESR1_CDS_05	UNC_rdt_109_L
ESR1_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_110_L
ESR1_CDS_06	UNC_rdt_111_L
ESR1_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_112_L
ESR1_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_113_L
ESR1_CDS_07	UNC_rdt_114_L
TP53_CDS_01	UNC_rdt_47_L
TP53_CDS_02	UNC_rdt_48_L
TP53_CDS_03	UNC_rdt_49_L

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Illumina_2nd_INDEX_2 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCAT,
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Illumina_2nd_INDEX_4 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCAT,

Cusom seqencing primers
Sequencing Primer 1 ACACTCTTTCCTACACGA
Sequencing Primer 2 GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACC

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CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGTTTTCAACCCTTTTTAAAAGTAATTG	UNC_rdt_69_R
CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGAGGTGGAATGAATGGCTGAA	UNC_rdt_70_R
CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGTCTTTTGATGACATTGCATACA	UNC_rdt_71_R
CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGGCACACGGCAGCAGG	UNC_rdt_72_R
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CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGACTCAAAATCTTCAATATCTTCTGA	UNC_rdt_78_R
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Sense_Sequence_Illumina_Tail	Antisense_Primer_Name
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CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGGCTCAAAGCAATTTCTACACGA	UNC_rdt_2_R
CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGAGATAAAACTGAGCAAGAGGC	UNC_rdt_3_R
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CGCTCTCCGATCTCTGGCAACCGAAACAAAGCTGAA	UNC_rdt_135_R

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CGATGT	ACATCG
TTAGGC	GCCTAA
TGACCA	TGGTCA
ACAGTG	CACTGT
GCCAAT	ATTGGC
CAGATC	GATCTG
ACTTGA	TCAAGT
GATCAG	CTGATC
TAGCTT	AAGCTA
GGCTAC	GTAGCC
CTTGTA	TACAAG
AGTCAA	TTGACT
AGTTCC	GGAACT
ATGTCA	TGACAT
CCGTCC	GGACGG
GTAGAG	CTCTAC
GTCCGC	GCGGAC
GTGAAA	TTTCAC

GTGGCC
GTTTCG
CGTACG
GAGTGG
GGTAGC
ACTGAT
ATGAGC
ATTCCT
CAAAAG
CAACTA
CACCGG
CACGAT
CACTCA
CAGGCG
CATGGC
CATTTT
CCAACA
CGGAAT
CTAGCT
CTATAC
CTCAGA
GACGAC
TAATCG
TACAGC
TATAAT
TCATTC
TCCCGA
TCGAAG
TCGGCA

GGCCAC
CGAAAC
CGTACG
CCACTC
GCTACC
ATCAGT
GCTCAT
AGGAAT
CTTTTG
TAGTTG
CCGGTG
ATCGTG
TGAGTG
CGCCTG
GCCATG
AAAATG
TGTTGG
ATTCCG
AGCTAG
GTATAG
TCTGAG
GTCGTC
CGATTA
GCTGTA
ATTATA
GAATGA
TCGGGA
CTTCGA
TGCCGA

CGCTCTCCGATCTCTG

GTGTGCTCTCCGATCTGAC

Antisense_Sequence_with_Illumina_Tail	Chromosome	Sense_Start
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGTCGTCTTGTTTCATCAAAAA	chr3	179,198,992
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCATTTTAGAATAGGATATTGTATCAT	chr3	179,199,107
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACACAGAGCAAATGGAAAGGCA	chr3	179,209,593
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGTGCATCATTCAATTTGTTTCA	chr3	179,234,200
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACATGATCCCGTGGAGCTAGAC	chr12	132,673,535
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGGGTGAAGAGGGACAGTTA	chr12	132,673,621
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGAAGGACAGCCAGGGG	chr12	132,675,357
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACATTAGAGCCTGACCTGCCC	chr12	132,675,467
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCTCATCTGATCCAAAGGTG	chr12	132,675,721
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCACCCCAAGCCAGAATATG	chr12	132,676,053
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTGCAGCCTCTGACTTGT	chr12	132,676,150
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCCTGTGGTTTTGGCATTG	chr12	132,676,553
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTCCGGTAGAAATCACCCG	chr12	132,677,322
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCCTGGATGTAGAACTCTAGT	chr12	132,677,388
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGAAGATAGCTGACCAGTTG	chr12	132,677,573
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCCTGGCAGCTGAGTTAGT	chr12	132,677,675
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCACTGTGGAGGATCTTGTCOA	chr12	132,679,510
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTATTTCTTTGAACCAATGAGC	chr12	132,679,602
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTTGTGAGCGAGAAGTTTCAT	chr12	132,679,950
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTCTAACAGGTGGCTTTGC	chr12	132,680,134
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTAGGCAGTGCAGTGGATT	chr12	132,680,572
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTCTAACTGTGTAGAGGATGGT	chr12	132,680,648
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCCTGGAACGGAGTCAGT	chr12	132,681,143
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCAGGTGGCATTACAAATTAAGCA	chr12	132,681,233
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACcCaacccccacggtgcg	chr12	132,687,443
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCCAGGGGGATCTTGAGC	chr6	151,807,923
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGCCGCGGCGTTGAA	chr6	151,808,026
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCACGCTGTTGAGTGGGG	chr6	151,808,122
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTCTCCAGGTAGTAGGGCAC	chr6	151,808,223
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACcctccctccTGCCGGG	chr6	151,808,319
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTAGCGAGTCTCCTTGGCAG	chr6	151,842,598
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACACTTCTCTTGAAGAAGGCCT	chr6	151,842,687
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTCCCTCCTCTTCGGTCTTT	chr6	151,944,109
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGCTCTCATGTCTCCAGCA	chr6	151,944,184
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAAGGCACTGACCATCTGG	chr6	151,944,269
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTGCCAGGTTGGTCAGTAAG	chr6	151,944,366
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTTCTTGAAGAAGCTATTGACTCTT	chr6	151,944,457
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTAGCCAGGCACATTCTAGA	chr6	152,011,623
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTACCTGTCCAAGAGCAAGT	chr6	152,011,704

TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCACCATGCCCTCTACACATT	chr6	152,060,922
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTCACCAGAATTAAGCAAATAATAGA	chr6	152,061,030
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACATGGTCCTTCTCTCCAGAG	chr6	152,094,348
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTGGTGCTGCTGCTGC	chr6	152,094,436
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGGCATGTTTTCTTTATGTCTCT	chr6	152,094,519
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGGCGGTGGGCGTCC	chr6	152,098,725
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCAAGGAATGCGATGAAG	chr6	152,098,823
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGCAGCAGGGATTATCTGAA	chr6	152,098,914
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCAAAAGGGTCAGTCTACC	chr17	7,669,580
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTGAACTCAAGGATGCC	chr17	7,670,576
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACaggtactgtGTATACTTACTTCTCC	chr17	7,670,664
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTTTCCTAGCACTGCCCAA	chr17	7,673,534
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCAAGAAAGGGGAGCCTCAC	chr17	7,673,651
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGAGTAGTGGAATCTACTGGGA	chr17	7,673,746
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCATGGGCGGCATGAACC	chr17	7,674,141
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGCCTCATCTTGGGCCT	chr17	7,674,225
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTCAGCATCTTATCCGAGTG	chr17	7,674,862
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGAGGTTGTGAGGCGCT	chr17	7,675,004
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCCCTGTGCAGCTGTG	chr17	7,675,091
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGTGCCCTGACTTTCAACTC	chr17	7,675,190
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCCTCCTGGCCCT	chr17	7,676,007
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTTCACTGAAGACCCAGGTC	chr17	7,676,120
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTGACTGCTTTTTACCCA	chr17	7,676,209
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACACTTTCTGCTCTTGTCTTTCAGA	chr17	7,676,305
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCAGTCAGATCCTAGCGTC	chr17	7,676,484
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCGCATCTCGTACCAAAAAGG	chr5	68,293,080
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAATTCAACCACAGAACTGAAG	chr5	68,293,296
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTGGGATGTGCGGGT	chr5	68,293,750
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGGATTCCATTTCAAATACTTACATCA	chr5	68,295,256

Antisense_Sequence_Illumina_Tail	Chromosome	Sense_Start
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAAGGGTTGAAAAAGCCGAAG	chr3	179,199,034
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGCATTTGACTTTACCTTATCAA	chr3	179,203,715
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGCACTTACCTGTGACTCCA	chr3	179,218,260
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCCAATCCATTTTTGTTGTCCAG	chr3	179,234,241
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGTCATAATCTCAAGGCGGC	chr12	132,673,581
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCATGTTAGAATCATCCTGGC	chr12	132,673,654
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCGGCAGCAGTCCA	chr12	132,675,409
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCACGTCCAGGAGACCAAAC	chr12	132,675,695
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGCTTGAAGAAGAGAAAGAGCA	chr12	132,675,775

TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCTACCTCATCACCAACAGG	chr12	132,676,108
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCCTGATGCTGAGACAGACC	chr12	132,676,509
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGAGGCCTAATGGGGAGTTT	chr12	132,676,608
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTTGCAGGCTCATTGGTACA	chr12	132,677,352
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCGAGTACGATGTTCCCTAC	chr12	132,677,537
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTCTGCAGAGGGGCGG	chr12	132,677,619
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGAAGAACAGGGAGCAGGAT	chr12	132,679,456
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTGGTGGGTTTGAAGCGA	chr12	132,679,544
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCCAAGAAGTTTCAGGGCAA	chr12	132,679,917
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGAAGGAAATGTATTTTACCAATGGA	chr12	132,680,000
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTTCTTTCTCATCACCCCT	chr12	132,680,177
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTTGTAGACCGAGATTTT	chr12	132,680,598
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTTGGTTTTGAGCGGCT	chr12	132,681,101
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTTCACTCAGGGATGATGGC	chr12	132,681,190
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTCCCTGCCGGCCAC	chr12	132,687,398
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACACATTTccggccccacc	chr12	132,687,475
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTGATCTGATGCAGTAGGG	chr6	151,807,876
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCGGGGTAGTTGTACACGG	chr6	151,807,980
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGACCCGGGGCCGTAG	chr6	151,808,064
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCAGGAAAGGCGACAGCTG	chr6	151,808,176
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTACCTGTAGAATGCCGGC	chr6	151,808,269
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGGTACTGGCCAATCTTTCTC	chr6	151,842,550
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACACTCCATAATGGTAGCCTGAAG	chr6	151,842,641
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGGATCTGCTCATAGGATCA	chr6	151,842,742
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTCCCCATCATCTCTCTGG	chr6	151,944,153
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTTAGAGCGTTTGATCATGAG	chr6	151,944,220
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCTGGTAGGATCATACTCGGA	chr6	151,944,318
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTCTTCGCCCAGTTGATC	chr6	151,944,409
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTGATCATGGAGGGTCAA	chr6	152,011,589
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTTCCCTGGGTGCTCCAT	chr6	152,011,666
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGATCGTAAAGAACATGCTACT	chr6	152,011,748
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGCAGATTCATCATGCGGAA	chr6	152,060,980
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAATAAACATTTTCATCCAGCATTG	chr6	152,061,072
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCAGGTGGATCAAAGTGTCTG	chr6	152,094,387
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACATGTGCCTGATGTGGGAGA	chr6	152,094,466
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCACCACGTTCTTGCACT	chr6	152,098,687
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTGGCTTTGGTCCGTCTC	chr6	152,098,784
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCCAGGGAGCTCTCAGAC	chr6	152,098,879
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGATGTCATCTCTCCTCCCT	chr17	7,669,628
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCTCTGTTGCTGCAGATCCG	chr17	7,670,630
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCAGCTCCTCTCCCCAG	chr17	7,673,499

TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAGACCAAGGGTGCAGTTATG	chr17	7,673,579
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCCTGTCCTGGGAGAGACC	chr17	7,673,696
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGTAGGACCTGATTCCTTAC	chr17	7,673,792
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGACTGTACCACCATCCACT	chr17	7,674,191
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGCGTGTGGAGTATTTGGAT	chr17	7,674,830
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGGTCCCCAGGCCTCTG	chr17	7,674,912
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTCCGCGCCATGGCC	chr17	7,675,047
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTCCTACAGTACTCCCCTGC	chr17	7,675,153
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACAACTACCAGGGCAGCTAC	chr17	7,675,967
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGTGGCCCCTGCACCA	chr17	7,676,063
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCAATGGATGATTTGATGCTGT	chr17	7,676,167
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACgggggctgAGGACCTG	chr17	7,676,240
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACACCTGTGGGAAGCGAAAATT	chr17	7,676,373
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTTTCCTTGCAGCAGCC	chr17	7,676,536
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACCATATTTCCCATCTCGATGAAA	chr5	68,293,256
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTGTGCGGGTATATTCTTCAT	chr5	68,293,730
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACTCGTCTTTCTCAGCTGGATAAG	chr5	68,295,209
TGCTCTCCGATCTGACGCATAGCAGCCCTGTTTACT	chr5	68,296,242

Antisense_Start	Amplicon_Size
179,199,091	100
179,199,206	100
179,209,675	83
179,234,297	98
132,673,633	99
132,673,706	86
132,675,455	99
132,675,566	100
132,675,820	100
132,676,148	96
132,676,249	100
132,676,651	99
132,677,407	86
132,677,486	99
132,677,672	100
132,677,759	85
132,679,601	92
132,679,695	94
132,680,045	96
132,680,232	99
132,680,661	90
132,680,741	94
132,681,241	99
132,681,325	93
132,687,533	91
151,808,019	97
151,808,110	85
151,808,221	100
151,808,313	91
151,808,418	100
151,842,695	98
151,842,780	94
151,944,201	93
151,944,276	93
151,944,368	100
151,944,463	98
151,944,556	100
152,011,712	90
152,011,799	96

152,061,021	100
152,061,129	100
152,094,437	90
152,094,521	86
152,094,618	100
152,098,824	100
152,098,916	94
152,099,008	95
7,669,679	100
7,670,668	93
7,670,761	98
7,673,618	85
7,673,750	100
7,673,844	99
7,674,237	97
7,674,321	97
7,674,960	99
7,675,102	99
7,675,190	100
7,675,278	89
7,676,105	99
7,676,210	91
7,676,299	91
7,676,425	121
7,676,583	100
68,293,161	82
68,293,395	100
68,293,835	86
68,295,347	92

Antisense_Start	Amplicon_Size
179,199,118	85
179,203,804	90
179,218,343	84
179,234,329	89
132,673,673	93
132,673,751	98
132,675,502	94
132,675,793	99
132,675,871	97

132,676,203	96
132,676,600	92
132,676,707	100
132,677,450	99
132,677,633	97
132,677,717	99
132,679,551	96
132,679,643	100
132,680,016	100
132,680,099	100
132,680,266	90
132,680,697	100
132,681,200	100
132,681,289	100
132,687,488	91
132,687,574	100
151,807,970	95
151,808,079	100
151,808,163	100
151,808,275	100
151,808,368	100
151,842,649	100
151,842,740	100
151,842,838	97
151,944,238	86
151,944,319	100
151,944,417	100
151,944,501	93
152,011,685	97
152,011,762	97
152,011,841	94
152,061,077	98
152,061,171	100
152,094,483	97
152,094,565	100
152,098,781	95
152,098,879	96
152,098,978	100
7,669,727	100
7,670,729	100
7,673,593	95

7,673,670	92
7,673,793	98
7,673,891	100
7,674,282	92
7,674,929	100
7,675,009	98
7,675,143	97
7,675,245	93
7,676,066	100
7,676,152	90
7,676,254	88
7,676,320	81
7,676,456	84
7,676,635	100
68,293,355	100
68,293,828	99
68,295,308	100
68,296,329	88
