

HELINI

Candida albicans

Real-time PCR Kit

Instructions for use

For use with: Agilent, Bio-Rad, Roche Lightcycler-96, Roche-Z480/Cobas-480, Applied Bio systems [ABI], Thermo-Piko-Real, Rotor gene 5/6plex, Alta-96, Cepheid Real time PCR machines.



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Intended Use

The HELINI Candida albicans Real-time PCR Kit is an in vitro nucleic acid amplification kit for the detection and quantification of Candida albicans specific DNA.

Kit components

Components	Volume Per Reaction	Number of vials	Volume Per vials
Probe PCR Master Mix	10µl	1	250µl
Candida albicans Primer Probe Mix [Candida albicans PP mix]	2.5µl	1	65µl
Internal control Primer Probe Mix [IC PP Mix]	2.5µl	1	65µl
Internal control template [IC template]	5µl	1	125µl
Candida albicans Positive control [QS1]	10µl	1	250µl
Water, PCR grade		1	4ml

Storage

- The kit is shipped on gel ice. Upon arrival, all components should be stored in -20°C. They are stable until the expiration date stated on the label.
- Repeated thawing and freezing should be avoided, as this might affect the performance of the assay.
- If the reagents are to be used only intermittently, they should be frozen in aliquots. Storage at 2 to 8°C should not exceed a period of 5 hours.

Material and instruments required

- Real-time PCR instrument having FAM & HEX channels
- Automatic Nucleic acid extraction system or spin column based purification kit for the purification of nucleic acids
- Desktop centrifuge having 13000rpm or above with a rotor for 1.5/2 ml reaction tubes
- Centrifuge with a rotor for PCR strips/tubes and 96 well plates
- Optical cap qPCR tubes or strips or 96 wells
- Micro Pipettes (variables)
- Micro Pipette tips with filters (disposable)
- Powder-free gloves (disposable)

[Please ensure that all instruments used have been installed, calibrated, checked and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.]

Product Use Limitations

- All reagents may exclusively be used in molecular diagnosis.
- The product is to be used by personnel specially instructed and trained in Molecular diagnosis.
- Strict compliance with the user manual is required for optimal PCR results.
- Attention should be paid to expiration dates printed on the box and labels of all components. Do not use expired components.
- Wear protective disposable powder-free gloves, a laboratory coat and eye protection when handling specimens and kit components.
- Avoid microbial and nuclease (DNase/RNase) contamination of the specimens and the components of the kit.
- Always use DNase/RNase-free disposable pipette tips with aerosol barriers.
- Use separated and segregated working areas for sample preparation, reaction setup and amplification/detection activities.
- The workflow in the laboratory should proceed in unidirectional manner. Always wear disposable gloves in each area and change them before entering a different area.
- Store positive and/or potentially positive material separated from all other components of the kit.
- Do not open the reaction tubes/plates post amplification, to avoid contamination with amplicon.

- Additional controls may be tested according to guidelines or requirements of local, state and/or federal regulations or accrediting organizations.
- Do not autoclave reaction tubes after the PCR, since this will not degrade the amplified nucleic acid and will bear the risk to contaminate the laboratory area.
- Discard sample and assay waste according to your local safety regulations.

Technical Assistance

For technical assistance and more information, please contact;

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Product description

HELINI Candida albicans Real-time PCR Kit constitutes a ready-to-use system for the detection of Candida albicans specific DNA using polymerase chain reaction (PCR). It contains reagents and enzymes for the specific amplification of the conserved region of the Candida albicans genome, and for the direct detection of the specific amplicon in FAM channel. In addition, it contains an internal control amplification system to identify possible PCR inhibition and DNA purification efficiency. External positive control is supplied, which can be used as both qualitative and quantitative to determination the amount of pathogen.

Specificity

Candida albicans primer and probe have been designed for the specific and exclusive *in vitro* quantification of Candida albicans. The target sequence is highly conserved and has previously been shown to be a good genetic marker for Candida albicans. The primers and probe sequences in this kit have 100% homology with a broad range of clinically relevant reference sequences based on a comprehensive bioinformatics analysis.

Dynamic linear range

The linear range was evaluated by analyzing a logarithmic dilution series of DNA concentrations ranging from 1.00E+09 to 1.00E+00 copies/μl. At least six replicates per dilution were analyzed. The linear range is 1.00E+09 to 1.00E+00 copies/μl.

Analytical Sensitivity

The analytical sensitivity is defined as the concentration of DNA molecules (copies/μl) that can be detected with a positivity rate of 95%. The analytical sensitivity was determined by analysis of dilution series of quantified Candida albicans specific DNA from 0.001copies to 10copies/μl in triplicates. Under optimal PCR conditions, the analytical sensitivity is 0.25 copies per micro liter.

Note:

DNA Purification

Purified DNA is the starting material for the Real-time PCR assay. The quality of the purified DNA has a profound impact on the performance of the entire test system. It has to be ensured that the purification system used for DNA purification is compatible with real-time PCR technology.

If you are using a spin column-based sample preparation procedure having washing buffers containing ethanol, it is highly recommended to perform an additional centrifugation step for 3min at approximately 17000 x g (~ 13000 rpm), using a new collection tube, prior to the elution of the DNA.

Internal Control template

When performing DNA extraction, it is often advantageous to have an exogenous source of nucleic acid template that is spiked into the lysis buffer. This internal control nucleic acid template is then co-purified with the sample DNA and can be detected as a positive control for the extraction process. Successful co-purification and real-time PCR for the control template also indicates that PCR inhibitors are not present at a high concentration.

The primer and probe present at PCR limiting concentrations which allows multiplexing with the target sequence primers. Amplification of the internal control template does not interfere with detection of the pathogen target gene even when present at low copy number. The Internal control is detected through the HEX channel and gives a CT value of 21 +/-10.

Add 5µl of the internal control template to each test sample. Do not add directly to test sample. Add after adding lysis buffer to the test sample [sample/lysis buffer mix]. Complete purification according to the manufacturer's protocols.

Preparation of standard curve dilution series:

1. Pipette 90µl of PCR grade water into three 1.5ml micro centrifuge tubes and label as QS2 to QS4.
2. Pipette 10µl of Positive control-QS1 into tube QS2.
3. Vortex thoroughly and spin down briefly.
4. Change pipette tip and pipette 10µl from tube QS2 into tube QS3.
5. Vortex thoroughly and spin down briefly.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 to complete the dilution series.
7. Use 10µl per reaction.
8. Prepare positive control every time fresh.

Standards	Copies per µl
QS-1	200000
QS-2	20000
QS-3	2000
QS-4	200

Detection Protocol

Things to do before starting

- Before use, all kit components need to be thawed completely, mixed by gently inverting and centrifuged briefly.
- Make sure that Positive and Negative control is included in every run.
- Make sure that internal control template is added during DNA purification. If not, pipette 2.5µl of the internal control template directly into the purified DNA.
- Include 0.5 reaction volume for pipetting error while calculating the volume for total number of reactions.

Components	Volume per reaction
Probe PCR Master Mix	10µl
Candida albicans PP Mix	2.5µl
IC PP Mix	2.5µl
	15µl
Purified DNA	10µl
Final reaction volume	25µl

Negative Control setup [NTC]

Add 10µl of PCR grade water.

Qualitative Positive Control setup

Add 10µl of any one of the Positive controls [From QS1 to QS4]

Quantitative Positive controls setup

10µl of all Positive controls prepared from QS1 to QS4.

Centrifuge PCR vials briefly before placing into thermal cycler.

[Note: There should not be any bubbles in the reaction mix. Bubbles interfere with fluorescence detection.]

Programming Thermal cycler

Sample volume	25µl
Fluorescence Dyes	FAM & HEX
Passive reference	None
Ramping rate	Default

Thermal Profile

	Step	Time	Temp
	Taq enzyme activation / Hold	15min	95°C
40 cycles	Denaturation	20sec	95°C
	Annealing/Data collection**	20sec	56°C
	Extension	20sec	72°C

Data collection/Acquisition	Targets
FAM	Candida albicans
HEX	Internal control

** Some qPCR machines may require minimum 30sec for data collection; in that case, set to 30sec, this will not affect the performance.

Reading the graph:

Step-1 – Internal control Validation

Select the test samples alone for the internal control analysis. Select HEX dye and view the graph of internal control amplification. A successful amplification Ct value must be within Ct 21 +/- 10.

This range indicates NO PCR inhibition in the reaction. Any sample value goes beyond Ct 31 indicates that either sample has some issues in the purification or inhibiting PCR reaction.

Internal control will not get amplified in the negative and positive controls. Ignore a late noise HEX amplification graph in the NTC and Positive control wells.

Step-2 – FAM - Negative and Positive control validation

Select the NTC and Positive control [Qualitative] or Standards wells [Quantitative], select FAM channel, and view the graph of amplification.

The NTC must be flat with no Ct value. If required adjust the threshold value just above the NTC. The PC or Standards must be amplified as per their copy numbers.

NTC justifies NO contamination in the reagent as well as fine pipetting and its environment. PC justifies the reagents storage conditions and reaction parameters are as prescribed.

Step-3 –FAM - Test Sample status

In FAM channel, select test sample well one by one, analyze the graph/amplification.

Qualitative interpretation of results:

Test Sample	Negative control	Positive control	Internal Control	Interpretation
Positive	Negative	Positive	Positive	Candida albicans specific DNA detected
Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive	No Candida albicans specific DNA Detected. Sample does not contain detectable amounts of Candida albicans specific DNA.
Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Experiment fail
Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Experiment fail

Qualitative

Observation		Interpretation
FAM	HEX-IC	
<37	<31	Candida albicans detected

Recommendation:

In FAM channel, the Ct value beyond 35 is required careful analysis. The analysis may include that the status of NTC amplification curve, threshold adjustment, linear/log scale view assessment, etc.,

Standard Curve analysis

- Interpret the values for unknown samples, only if the $R > 0.98$
- Slope of calibrators is between -3.0 to -3.7
- PCR efficiency is between 85% and no amplification in FAM channel of negative control.

Calculating copies per ml

Input the machine indicated copy number into the following formula

$$\text{Result (copies/ml)} = \frac{\text{Result (copies/}\mu\text{l)} \times \text{Elution Volume (}\mu\text{l)}}{\text{Sample Volume (ml)}}$$

Note:

Elution volume: must be typed in micro liter format, example 30 μ l, 60 μ l or 100 μ l. Sample volume: must be typed in milliliter format, example 0.2ml or 0.5ml

Limitations

Good laboratory practice is essential for proper performance of this assay. Strict compliance with the instructions for use is required for optimal results.

Analysts should be trained and familiar with testing procedures and interpretation of results prior to performing the assay.

A false negative result may occur if inadequate numbers of organisms are present in the sample due to improper collection, transport or handling. Appropriate specimen collection, transport, storage and processing procedures are required for the optimal performance of this test.

Extreme care should be taken to preserve the purity of the components of the kit and reaction setups. All reagents should be closely monitored for impurity and contamination. Any suspicious reagents should be discarded.

The presence of PCR inhibitors may cause under quantification, false negative or invalid results.

Potential mutations within the target regions of the pathogen's genome covered by the primers and/or probes used in the kit may result in under quantification and/or failure to detect.

As with any diagnostic test, the HELINI Candida albicans Real-time PCR results need to be interpreted in consideration of all clinical and laboratory findings.

Quality Control

In accordance with the HELINI Biomolecules in house Quality Management System, each lot of HELINI Candida albicans Real-time PCR kit is tested against predetermined specifications to ensure consistent product quality.

Explanations of symbols



In vitro diagnostic medical device



Catalogue number



Pack size – number of tests



Manufacturer

Manufactured by

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