

Jun 04, 2020

Validation of Selected RNA Extraction Method

In 1 collection

Ariel Cerda¹, Catalina Ibarra-Henriquez¹, Valentina Sebastian², Grace Armijo¹, Liliana Lamig¹, Carolina Miranda², Marcela Lagos³, Sandra Solari³, Ana María Guzmán³, Teresa Quiroga³, Susan Hitschfeld¹, Eleodoro Riveras¹, Marcela Ferres³, Rodrigo A. Gutiérrez¹, Patricia García³, Aniela Wozniak³


¹FONDAP Center for Genome Regulation. Millennium Institute for Integrative Biology (iBio), Departamento de Genética Molecular y Microbiología, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, 8331150, Chile;

²Laboratorio de Microbiología. Servicio de laboratorios Clínicos. Red de Salud UC-CHRISTUS;

³Departamento de Laboratorios Clínicos. Escuela de Medicina. Facultad de Medicina. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

1 Works for me This protocol is published without a DOI.

Coronavirus Method Development Community Reclone.org (The Reagent Collaboration Network)

 Catalina Ibarra-Henriquez
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

ABSTRACT

The technique RT-qPCR for viral RNA detection is the current worldwide strategy used for early detection of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. RNA extraction is a key pre-analytical step in RT-qPCR, often achieved using commercial kits. However, the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic is causing disruptions to the global supply chains used by many diagnostic laboratories to procure the commercial kits required for RNA extraction. Shortage in these essential reagents is even more acute in developing countries with no means to produce kits locally. We sought to find an alternative procedure to replace commercial kits using common reagents found in molecular biology laboratories. Here we report a method for RNA extraction that takes about 40 min to complete ten samples, and is not more laborious than current commercial RNA extraction kits. We demonstrate that this method can be used to process nasopharyngeal swab samples and yields RT-qPCR results comparable to those obtained with commercial kits. Most importantly, this procedure can be easily implemented in any molecular diagnostic laboratory. Frequent testing is crucial for individual patient management as well as for public health decision making in this pandemic. Implementation of this method could maintain crucial testing going despite commercial kit shortages.

EXTERNAL LINK

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.07.083048>

PROTOCOL CITATION

Ariel Cerda, Catalina Ibarra-Henriquez, Valentina Sebastian, Grace Armijo, Liliana Lamig, Carolina Miranda, Marcela Lagos, Sandra Solari, Ana María Guzmán, Teresa Quiroga, Susan Hitschfeld, Eleodoro Riveras, Marcela Ferres, Rodrigo A. Gutiérrez, Patricia García, Aniela Wozniak 2020. Validation of Selected RNA Extraction Method. **protocols.io**
<https://protocols.io/view/validation-of-selected-rna-extraction-method-bghrjt56>

EXTERNAL LINK

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.07.083048>

COLLECTIONS



A Simple RNA Preparation Method for SARS-CoV-2 detection by RT-qPCR



Copy of A Simple RNA Preparation Method for SARS-CoV-2 detection by RT-qPCR

KEYWORDS

Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, RNA extraction

LICENSE

This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author

and source are credited

CREATED

May 17, 2020

LAST MODIFIED

Jun 04, 2020

OWNERSHIP HISTORY

May 17, 2020  Liz Brydon Protocols.io

Jun 03, 2020  Catalina Ibarra-Henriquez Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

PROTOCOL INTEGER ID

37137

PARENT PROTOCOLS

Part of collection

[A Simple RNA Preparation Method for SARS-CoV-2 detection by RT-qPCR](#)

[Copy of A Simple RNA Preparation Method for SARS-CoV-2 detection by RT-qPCR](#)

MATERIALS

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
High Pure Viral RNA Kit	11858882001	Roche

MATERIALS TEXT

Biological samples

Obtain saliva samples from 50 suspected coronavirus infected patients.

Validating RNA extraction methods

High Pure viral RNA extraction kit (Roche)

One-Step RT-qPCR kit

Machines required

Step-One thermal cycler (Applied Biosystems)

SAFETY WARNINGS

Please refer to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for health and environmental hazards. Obtain all necessary approvals from relevant Ethics Committees.

Biological Samples

- 1 Obtain **nasopharyngeal** swabs in Universal Transport Medium (UTM) from 50 patients that attend outpatient services at Red Salud UC-CHRISTUS (Santiago, Chile) because of suspected coronavirus infection.



Two types of biological samples were used:

1. For preliminary evaluation of the RNA extraction methods, use saliva samples obtained from two asymptomatic volunteers. (This protocol can be found here: [Preliminary Evaluation of RNA Extraction Methods](#))
2. For validation of the RNA extraction method selected, use nasopharyngeal swabs in Universal Transport Medium (UTM).



Saliva is routinely collected for the initial assessment of viral infection.

RNA extraction

- 2 Extract RNA from the 50 nasopharyngeal swabs using High Pure viral RNA extraction kit (Roche) according to instructions provided by the manufacturer.



This RNA extraction method is considered as the gold standard for comparison purposes, and it is based in capture of RNA using columns with silica filters.

RT-qPCR analysis

- 3 Perform RT-qPCR using Taqman probes and primers recommended by the CDC, and using the following steps:



CDC. Research Use Only 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-time RT-PCR Primer and Probe Information.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/rt-pcr-panel-primer-probes.html>

- 3.1 Amplify two viral targets: the nucleocapsid viral proteins N1 and N2.
- 3.2 Additionally, amplify the RNase P target as a quality control measure for the extraction method and to corroborate the absence of PCR-inhibitors in the sample.



Perform a one-step RT-qPCR reaction in a Step-One thermal cycler (Applied Biosystems).



Required cutoff points for Ct values (Cycle Threshold) to decide whether a result is COVID-19 positive or negative are specified by the CDC as follows:

- To report a **positive** result, both viral targets N1 and N2 must be $CT < 40$.
- To report a **negative** result, both viral targets must be $CT \geq 40$.
- If one of the viral targets is $CT < 40$ and the other is $CT \geq 40$, the result must be reported as **undetermined**.
- The RNase P target **must** be $CT \leq 35$.