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SARS-CoV-2 Spike Gene N terminal Domain targeted Sequencing

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ABSTRACT

We use a simple and effective method for generating 757bp of the N terminal domain of thetheSARS-CoV-2 Spike gene for variant surveillance,

RNA Extraction

1 The Automated extraction was handled using the ExiPrep™ 96 Lite (A-5250, BIONEER) with the ExiPrep™ Viral DNA/RNA extraction kit (K-4614, BIONEER).

RT-PCR Amplification

- TaqPath™ COVID-19 CE-IVD RT-PCR Kit (Multiplex real-time RT-PCR test intended for qualitatively detecting nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2) used for viral detection. follow the user manual recommendation as listed in the following link: https://assets.thermofisher.com/TFS-Assets/LSG/manuals/MAN0019215_TagPathCOVID-19_CE-IVD_RT-PCR%20Kit_IFU.pdf
- **3** Results can be distinguished to:
 - 1- samples with three positive targets for (ORF1ab, N, and S genes)
 - 2- sample with two positive targets for (ORF1ab and N genes), negative for theS gene. Failure of Spike gene amplification is referred to as S gene target failure (SGTF) or S gene signal dropdown.
 - 3- SGTF resulted due to 69/70 codons deletion of Valine and Histidine, respectively.

C-CDNA Synthesis and Quality checking

- 4 Promega GoScript™ Reverse Transcription Mix with Random Primers system (A2800) is used to generate complementary DNA. following the same kit-recommended procedure.
- 5 Quality checking is considered for all steps using the Fluorometer Quantus using Quantifluor dye

Primers

6 the forward primer is: SubA_21587F: CCACTAGTCTAGTCAGTGTGTT

Reverse primer: SubA_22344R: CCAGCTGTCCAACCTGAAGA

these primers generate an amplicon of 757bp.

6.1 Primer's preparation:

These primers were supplied by Macrogen Company in a lyophilized form. Lyophilized primers were dissolved in nuclease-free water to give a final concentration of 100pmol/µl as a

stock solution. A working solution of these primers was prepared by adding $10\mu l$ of primer stock solution (stored at freezer -20 C) to $90\mu l$ of nuclease-free water to obtain a working primer solution of $10pmol/\mu l$.

Reagent preparation for Amplicon synthesis

- 7 Amplification reaction carried on using the flowing calculations:
 - 1-10 ul of GoTag Green Master Mix, Promega (M7122).
 - 2-1 ul of Forward primer
 - 3- 1ul of Reverse primer
 - 4- 6 ul of nuclease-free water
 - 5- 2ul of cDNA template.

PCR adopted program and

8 The following program was considered for amplification:

| Steps | °C | m: s | Cycle |
|----------------------|----|-------|-------|
| Initial Denaturation | 95 | 05:00 | 1 |
| Denaturation | 95 | 00:30 | 40 |
| Annealing | 60 | 00:30 | |
| Extension | 72 | 01:00 | |
| Final extension | 72 | 07:00 | 1 |
| Hold | 10 | 10:00 | |

Gel visualization

9 We use the classic gel visualization method through gel electrophoresis (100-1500 bp ladder gel marker) and gel documentation.

Sequencing

10 We referred our amplicons to a sequencing company (Macrogen, South Korea).