Techne® qPCR test

Acanthamoeba_spp

18S ribosomal RNA (18S) gene

150 tests
Acanthamoeba is a genus of amoeba containing both free-living and parasitic species. The free-living species are bacterivores gaining nutrients and energy from bacterial consumption and the parasitic species infect animals, sometimes causing disease. Species of this genus are single-celled organisms ranging in size from 15 to 35um in length, with a flexible cell wall allowing for shape changes from round or oval to triangular. There are two stages to the Acanthamoeba life cycle: cysts and trophozoites which are infectious to animals and can cause cutaneous infections, encephalitis or keratitis.

Breaks in the skin provide Acanthamoeba species access to the host body where they can cause a localised infection or spread via the blood to organs or the central nervous system. Infection triggers an immune response which can cause neuronal damage which may be fatal. Cysts can also enter the body by inhalation and once within the airways transforms to the next stage of its life cycle. The cyst wall disappears, the nucleus divides twice and the protozoan enters the infectious, trophozoite stage. Trophozoites replicate by mitosis and later develop into a new cyst with a glycogen vacuole and outer wall which is capable of infecting new hosts.

Infections of the skin or organs are generally seen in individuals with weakened immune systems and so are rare. Granulomatus Encephalitis can result in symptoms including headaches, fever, seizures and altered mental state leading to coma and death within several months of infection.

Infection of the eye is seen in individuals with fully functioning immune systems and most commonly in individuals who wear contact lenses. The infection results in keratitis which can cause permanent blindness. Symptoms of this infection include eyes pain, blurred vision and sensitivity to light.

Antimicrobial treatment can only offer limited success in treatment of infection due to the toughness of the cyst.
Specificity

The Techne qPCR Kit for Acanthamoeba_spp (Acanthamoeba_spp) genomes is designed for the in vitro quantification of Acanthamoeba_spp genomes. The kit is designed to have the broadest detection profile possible whilst remaining specific to the Acanthamoeba_spp genome.

The primers and probe sequences in this kit have 100% homology with a broad range of Acanthamoeba_spp sequences based on a comprehensive bioinformatics analysis.

The PrimerDesign™ Quantification Kit for Acanthamoeba_spp has been designed for the specific and exclusive in vitro quantification of this genus. The 18S ribosomal gene is the ideal target to achieve a broad based detection profile for all species within this genus. 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. Other closely related species are not detected.

If you require further information, or have a specific question about the detection profile of this kit then please send an e.mail to technehelp@bibby-scientific.com and our bioinformatics team will answer your question.
Kit Contents

- **Acanthamoeba_spp specific primer/probe mix (150 reactions BROWN)**
  FAM labelled
- **Acanthamoeba_spp positive control template (for Standard curve RED)**
- **Internal extraction control primer/probe mix (150 reactions BROWN)**
  VIC labelled as standard
- **Internal extraction control DNA (150 reactions BLUE)**
- **Endogenous control primer/probe mix (150 reactions BROWN)**
  FAM labelled
- **RNAse/DNAse free water (WHITE)**
  for resuspension of primer/probe mixes and internal extraction control DNA
- **Template preparation buffer (YELLOW)**
  for resuspension of positive control template and standard curve preparation

Reagents and equipment to be supplied by the user

**Real-Time PCR Instrument**

**DNA extraction kit**
This kit designed to work well with all processes that yield high quality DNA with minimal PCR inhibitors.

**Lyophilised 2x qPCR Mastermix**
This kit is designed to work well with all commercially available Mastermixes.

**Pipettors and Tips**

**Vortex and centrifuge**

**Thin walled 1.5 ml PCR reaction tubes**
Kit storage and stability
This kit is stable at room temperature but should be stored at -20ºC on arrival. Techne does not recommend using the kit after the expiry date stated on the pack. Once the lyophilized components have been re-suspended, unnecessary repeated freeze/thawing should be avoided. The kit is stable for six months from the date of resuspension under these circumstances.

If a standard curve dilution series is prepared this can be stored frozen for an extended period. If you see any degradation in this serial dilution a fresh standard curve can be prepared from the positive control.

Suitable sample material
All kinds of sample material suited for PCR amplification can be used. Please ensure the samples are suitable in terms of purity, concentration, and DNA integrity (An internal PCR control is supplied to test for non specific PCR inhibitors). Always run at least one negative control with the samples. To prepare a negative-control, replace the template DNA sample with RNAse/DNase free water.

Dynamic range of test
Under optimal PCR conditions Techne Acanthamoeba_spp detection kits have very high priming efficiencies of >95% and can detect less than 100 copies of target template.

Notices and disclaimers
This product is developed, designed and sold for research purposes only. It is not intended for human diagnostic or drug purposes or to be administered to humans unless clearly expressed for that purpose by the Food and Drug Administration in the USA or the appropriate regulatory authorities in the country of use. During the warranty period Techne® detection kits allow precise and reproducible data recovery combined with excellent sensitivity. For data obtained by violation to the general GLP guidelines and the manufacturer’s recommendations the right to claim under guarantee is expired. PCR is a proprietary technology covered by several US and foreign patents. These patents are owned by Roche Molecular Systems Inc. and have been sub-licensed by PE Corporation in certain fields. Depending on your specific application you may need a license from Roche or PE to practice PCR. Additional information on purchasing licenses to practice the PCR process may be obtained by contacting the Director of Licensing at Roche Molecular Systems, 1145 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 or Applied Biosystems business group of the Applera Corporation, 850 Lincoln Centre Drive, Foster City, CA 94404. In addition, the 5’ nuclease assay and other homogeneous amplification methods used in connection with the PCR process may be covered by U. S. Patents 5,210,015 and 5,487,972, owned by Roche Molecular Systems, Inc, and by U.S. Patent 5,538,848, owned by The Perkin-Elmer Corporation.

Trademarks
Techne™ is a trademark of Bibby Scientific Ltd.
The PCR process is covered by US Patents 4,683,195, and 4,683,202 and foreign equivalents owned by Hoffmann-La Roche AG. BI, ABI PRISM® GeneAmp® and MicroAmp® are registered trademarks of the Applera Genomics (Applied Biosystems Corporation). BIORAD® is a registered trademark of Beckman Instruments, Inc.; iCycler™ is a registered trademark of Bio-Rad Laboratories, Rotor-Gene is a trademark of Corbett Research. LightCycler™ is a registered trademark of the Idaho Technology Inc. GeneAmp®, TaqMan® and AmpliTaqGold® are registered trademarks of Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., The purchase of the Techne® Prime Pro reagents cannot be construed as an authorization or implicit license to practice PCR under any patents held by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.
Principles of the test

Real-time PCR
A *Acanthamoeba_spp* specific primer and probe mix is provided and this can be detected through the FAM channel.

The primer and probe mix provided exploits the so-called TaqMan® principle. During PCR amplification, forward and reverse primers hybridize to the *Acanthamoeba_spp* DNA. A fluorogenic probe is included in the same reaction mixture which consists of a DNA probe labeled with a 5'-dye and a 3'-quencher. During PCR amplification, the probe is cleaved and the reporter dye and quencher are separated. The resulting increase in fluorescence can be detected on a range of real-time PCR platforms.

Positive control
For copy number determination and as a positive control for the PCR set up, the kit contains a positive control template. This can be used to generate a standard curve of *Acanthamoeba_spp* copy number / CT value. Alternatively the positive control can be used at a single dilution where full quantitative analysis of the samples is not required. Each time the kit is used, at least one positive control reaction must be included in the run. A positive result indicates that the primers and probes for detecting the target *Acanthamoeba_spp* gene worked properly in that particular experimental scenario. If a negative result is obtained the test results are invalid and must be repeated. Care should be taken to ensure that the positive control does not contaminate any other kit component which would lead to false-positive results. This can be achieved by handling this component in a Post PCR environment. Care should also be taken to avoid cross-contamination of other samples when adding the positive control to the run. This can be avoided by sealing all other samples and negative controls before pipetting the positive control into the positive control well.

Negative control
To validate any positive findings a negative control reaction should be included every time the kit is used. For this reaction the RNAse/DNase free water should be used instead of template.
Internal DNA extraction control
When performing DNA extraction, it is often advantageous to have an exogenous source of DNA template that is spiked into the lysis buffer. This control DNA 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 DNA also indicates that PCR inhibitors are not present at a high concentration.

A separate primer and probe mix are supplied with this kit to detect the exogenous DNA using real-time PCR. The primers are present at PCR limiting concentrations which allows multiplexing with the target sequence primers. Amplification of the control DNA does not interfere with detection of the Acanthamoeba_spp target DNA even when present at low copy number. The Internal control is detected through the VIC channel and gives a CT value of 28+/-3.

Endogenous control
To confirm extraction of a valid biological template, a primer and probe mix is included to detect an endogenous gene. Detection of the endogenous control is through the FAM channel and it is NOT therefore possible to perform a multiplex with the Acanthamoeba_spp primers. A poor endogenous control signal may indicate that the sample did not contain sufficient biological material.

Carry-over prevention using UNG (optional)
Carry over contamination between PCR reactions can be prevented by including uracil-N-glycosylase (UNG) in the reaction mix. Some commercial mastermix preparations contain UNG or alternatively it can be added as a separate component. UNG can only prevent carry over from PCR reactions that include deoxyuridine triphosphate (dUTP) in the original PCR reaction. Techne recommend the application of 0.2U UNG per assay with a 15 minute incubation step at 37°C prior to amplification. The heat-labile UNG is then inactivated during the Taq polymerase activation step.
Reconstitution Protocol

To minimize the risk of contamination with foreign DNA, we recommend that all pipetting be performed in a PCR clean environment. Ideally this would be a designated PCR lab or PCR cabinet. Filter tips are recommended for all pipetting steps.

1. **Pulse-spin each tube in a centrifuge before opening.**
   This will ensure lyophilised primer and probe mix is in the base of the tube and is not split upon opening the tube.

2. **Reconstitute the kit components in the RNase/DNase-free water supplied, according to the table below:**
   To ensure complete resuspension, vortex each tube thoroughly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component - resuspend in water</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-PCR pack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acanthamoeba_spp primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>165 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal extraction control primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>165 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endogenous control primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>165 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-PCR heat-sealed foil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal extraction control DNA (BLUE)</td>
<td>600 µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Reconstitute the positive control template in the template preparation buffer supplied, according to the table below:**
   To ensure complete resuspension, vortex the tube thoroughly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component - resuspend in template preparation buffer</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-PCR heat-sealed foil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Control Template (RED) *</td>
<td>500 µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This component contains high copy number template and is a VERY significant contamination risk. It must be opened and handled in a separate laboratory environment, away from the other components.

DNA extraction

The internal extraction control DNA can be added either to the DNA lysis/extraction buffer or to the DNA sample once it has been resuspended in lysis buffer.

DO NOT add the internal extraction control DNA directly to the unprocessed biological sample as this will lead to degradation and a loss in signal.

1. **Add 4µl of the Internal extraction control DNA (BLUE) to each sample in DNA lysis/extraction buffer per sample.**

2. **Complete DNA extraction according to the manufacturers protocols.**
Real-time PCR detection protocol

1. **For each DNA sample prepare a reaction mix according to the table below:**
   Include sufficient reactions for positive and negative controls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2x qPCR MasterMix</td>
<td>10 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acanthamoeba_spp primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>1 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal extraction control primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>1 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNAse/DNAse free water (WHITE)</td>
<td>3 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Volume</strong></td>
<td>15 µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **For each DNA sample prepare an endogenous control reaction according to the table below (Optional):**
   This control reaction will provide crucial information regarding the quality of the biological sample.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2x qPCR MasterMix</td>
<td>10 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endogenous control primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>1 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNAse/DNAse free water (WHITE)</td>
<td>4 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Volume</strong></td>
<td>15 µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Pipette 15µl of each mix into individual wells according to your real-time PCR experimental plate set up.**

4. **Prepare sample DNA templates for each of your samples.**

5. **Pipette 5µl of DNA template into each well, according to your experimental plate set up.**
   For negative control wells use 5µl of RNAse/DNAse free water. The final volume in each well is 20µl.

6. **If a standard curve is included for quantitative analysis prepare a reaction mix according to the table below:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2x qPCR MasterMix</td>
<td>10 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acanthamoeba_spp primer/probe mix (BROWN)</td>
<td>1 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNAse/DNAse free water (WHITE)</td>
<td>4 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Volume</strong></td>
<td>15 µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. **Preparation of standard curve dilution series.**

1) Pipette 90µl of template preparation buffer into 5 tubes and label 2-6
2) Pipette 10µl of Positive Control Template (RED) into tube 2
3) Vortex thoroughly
4) Change pipette tip and pipette 10µl from tube 2 into tube 3
5) Vortex thoroughly

Repeat steps 4 and 5 to complete the dilution series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tube</th>
<th>Copy Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tube 1</td>
<td>Positive control (RED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube 2</td>
<td>$2 \times 10^4$ per µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube 3</td>
<td>$2 \times 10^3$ per µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube 4</td>
<td>$2 \times 10^2$ per µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube 5</td>
<td>20 per µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube 6</td>
<td>2 per µl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **Pipette 5µl of standard template into each well for the standard curve according to your experimental plate set up.**
The final volume in each well is 20µl.

**Amplification Protocol**

Amplification conditions using Lyophilised 2x qPCR MasterMix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Temp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNG treatment (if required) **</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>37 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enzyme activation</td>
<td>2 mins</td>
<td>95 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denaturation</td>
<td>10s</td>
<td>95 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA COLLECTION *</td>
<td>60s</td>
<td>60 °C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fluorogenic data for the control DNA should be collected during this step through the FAM and VIC channels
** Required if your Mastermix includes UNG to prevent PCR carryover contamination
## Interpretation of Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Internal control</th>
<th>Negative control</th>
<th>Positive control</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>-ive or +ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>-ive or +ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>Experiment fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>+ive</td>
<td>-ive or +ive</td>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>Experiment fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Where the test sample is positive and the negative control is also positive the interpretation of the result depends on the relative signal strength of the two results. This is calculated using the delta CT method by subtracting the target CT value from the negative control CT value (NC CT value – sample CT value). Where the test sample is positive and the NC is detected much later (delta CT ≥ 5) then the positive test result is reliable. Where the NC detection is at a similar level to the test sample (delta CT<5) then the positive test result is invalidated and a negative call is the correct result.

### Internal PCR control

The CT value obtained with the internal control will vary significantly depending on the extraction efficiency, the quantity of DNA added to the PCR reaction and the individual machine settings. CT values of 28±3 are within the normal range. When amplifying a Acanthamoeba_spp sample with a high genome copy number, the internal extraction control may not produce an amplification plot. This does not invalidate the test and should be interpreted as a positive experimental result.

### Endogenous control

The signal obtained from the endogenous control primer and probe set will vary according to the amount of biological material present in a given sample. An early signal indicates the presence of a good yield of biological material. A late signal suggests that little biological material is present in the sample.