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## Detection of Serum HCV RNA by Rapid Cycle PCR Using Hot Air Thermocycler with Capillary Tubes

Mi Yae Youn\*, M.D., Hye Soo Lee\*\*\*, M.D., Dal Sik Kim\*\*\*, M.D.,  
Sam Im Choi\*\*\*, M.D. and Carl T. Wittwer\*\*\*, M.D.

*Department of Clinical Pathology\*, Chonbuk National University  
Medical School and Institute for Medical Science\*\*, Chonju, Korea,  
Department of Pathology, University of Utah Medical School, Salt Lake City, USA\*\*\**

**Background** : Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the most sensitive method for the detection of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA from serum. The PCR by conventional heat block thermocycler using small plastic tube is time and reagent consuming procedure, but rapid cycle PCR (RPCR) by hot air thermocycler using glass capillary tube is very rapid and economic. Therefore, RPCR have been recognized as a very convenient method for routine diagnostic test in clinical laboratories, but there are few reports about its usage for the detection of HCV RNA.

**Methods** : We selected two sets of primer pair from 5'noncoding region of HCV RNA genome, and optimized RPCR condition using hot air rapid thermocycler with master mix in capillary tubes. And RT-RPCR for detection of HCV RNA were performed on the serum of 58 patients, which were tested anti-HCV antibody by EIA.

**Results**: The optimized RPCR conditions were: denaturation; 94 for "0" sec, annealing; 55 (first) and 50 (nested) for "0" sec, elongation; 72 for "0" sec, and amplification cycles were 30 cycles. The consuming times per cycle were 30 sec (first) and 40 sec (nested), respectively, so the total involving times for nested RPCR were 35 min. Of the 42 EIA positive samples, 26 (62%) were RT-RPCR positive.

**Conclusions** : RT-RPCR using hot air thermocycler with glass capillary tubes for detection of HCV RNA in serum is very rapid and economic than conventional PCR using heat block thermocycler. Therefore HCV RNA detection by RT-RPCR appears to be very useful for routine clinical laboratory diagnostic method. (Korean J Clin Microbiol 1999;2:89~94)

**Key words** : Hepatitis C Virus, Rapid cycle PCR, Hot air thermocycler, Capillary tubes

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(Hepatitis C virus, HCV)  
가 RNA

9.4

[1]. HCV HCV RNA [13].  
 HCV , HCV RNA , RPCR HCV  
 HCV RNA (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) [1]. RT-nested PCR cDNA 가 HCV  
 RNA HCV RNA  
 HCV 가 가  
 [2-4]. heat block thermocycler 가 HCV-RNA  
 PCR 5'-noncoding DNA (Gene Assembler Plus, Pharmacia LKB, Piscataway, USA)  
 Wittwer [5] rapid cycle thermocycler Table 1  
 PCR ( RPCR ) hot air  
 [6-8] 가  
 [9-12] 가

Table 1. Oligonucleotide primers for PCR of HCV RNA

Primer	Position	Sequence (5' to 3')
Outer primer		
HPC 1	51-67	GGAACGTGCTTTTCACGCA
HPC 4	427-443	AACTCCACCAACGATAC
Inner primer		
HPC 2	136-152	AGCCATAGTGGTCTGAA
HPC 3	377-393	GGCGGTTGGTACGTTTG

1. (primer)  
 PCR HCV-RNA  
 5'-noncoding DNA (Gene Assembler Plus, Pharmacia LKB, Piscataway, USA)  
 Table 1  
 2.  
 Table 2 HCV cDNA, master mix  
 PCR 94 - 0 , 15, 20, 25, 30 , 45, 50, 55, 60 , 66, 69, 72, 75 , 0, 5, 10, 15 rapid  
 cycle PCR (RPCR) 가  
 3. HCV RNA

Table 2. Reactant concentrations in master mix for RPCR of HCV cDNA

Component	10x solution	1x reaction	Volume/10 $\mu\text{L}$
HCV-cDNA			1 $\mu\text{L}$
Primer (sense & antisense)	5 $\mu\text{M}$ (each)	0.5 $\mu\text{M}$	1 $\mu\text{L}$
Premaster mix			8 $\mu\text{L}$
Taq DNA polymerase in enzyme diluent	5 U/ $\mu\text{L}$	0.4 U/ $\mu\text{L}$	1 $\mu\text{L}$
Tris, pH 8.3	10 mM	1 mM	
BSA*	2.5 mg/mL	250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$	
dNTPs	2 mM(each)	200 $\mu\text{M}$	1 $\mu\text{L}$
Buffer			1 $\mu\text{L}$
MgCl <sub>2</sub>	20 mM	2 mM	
BSA*	2.5 mg/mL	250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$	
Tris, pH 8.3	500 mM	50 mM	
Ficoll	5%	0.5%	
Tartazine	10 mM	1 mM	
Distilled water			5 $\mu\text{L}$

\*BSA: Bovine serum albumin (total 500  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ )



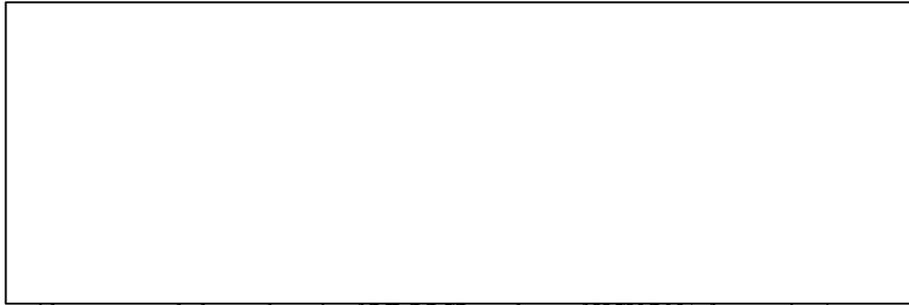


Fig. 1. Ethidium bromide agarose gel electrophoresis of RT-RPCR products of HCV RNA from patient's serum. The 258 base pairs bands are amplified products. Lane 1 and 15 are negative and positive control, respectively, and others are patient's samples. M is marker (BioMarker Low, BioVenture, Murfreesboro, USA) with bands at 1,000, 700, 500, 300, 200, 100, and 50 base pairs.

Table 3. Amplification protocol for RT-RPCR of HCV cDNA

	First amplification	Nested amplification
Primer pairs	HPC 1/4	HPC 2/3
Optimal temperature and time		
Denaturation	94 for "0"sec	94 for "0"sec
Annealing	55 for "0"sec	50 for "0"sec
Elongation	72 for "0"sec	72 for "0"sec
No. of cycles	30 cycles	30 cycles
Band size	393 base pairs	258 base pairs
Consuming time/cycle	30 sec	40 sec
Total amplification time	15 min	20 min

Table 4. Comparison of RT-RPCR with EIA

RT-RPCR	EIA	
	Positive	Negative
Positive (N=27)	26	1
Negative (N=31)	16	15

[15] HCV RNA RT-PCR, agarose gel loading, ethidium bromide gel loading [8].  
 Young [16] *Thermus thermophilus* single tube RT-PCR, Wittwer [5] rapid hot air thermocycler rapid cycle PCR. Ficoll tartazine, guanine cytosine, HCV RNA genome 5' noncoding 90%, Mg<sup>2+</sup> 40-60, 70.  
 [17-20], PCR. Wittwer [5] hot air thermocycler, 가



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