

PG-Seq™ A novel complete NGS solution

A novel single tube amplification and barcoding approach for PGT-A using Ion Torrent™ NGS

There are several Whole Genome Amplification (WGA) and library preparation methods to prepare embryo biopsies for Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) for Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Aneuploidy (PGT-A). DOPlify® provides a flexible technology to not only amplify whole genomes but also target sequences using RHS' Target Sequence Enrichment (TSE) protocol. The attributes of DOPlify® also present a unique mechanism to incorporate the specific sequences needed for NGS. The incorporation of PCR barcoding during WGA provides laboratory efficiencies compared to sequential WGA followed by NGS library preparation, including a reduction of hands on and total protocol time and decreased reagent requirements for sample preparation.

Aim – To develop a novel approach that allows amplification and PCR barcoding of samples in a single tube for Ion Torrent™ NGS.

Methods – 5-cell samples were manually sorted from aneuploid cell lines (Coriell Institute) and prepared for sequencing using a two-stage, single tube protocol. DNA was amplified using standard DOPlify® kit reagents with a modified primer (RHS Ltd). Subsequently, publicly available Ion Torrent™ (Thermo Fisher) NGS adapter sequences and barcodes were incorporated utilising a second PCR step within the same PCR tube. Incorporation of the adapter sequences (at both the 5' and 3' ends of the amplified DNA) was quantified using qPCR (Kapa Biosystems) with adapter sequence-specific primers (RHS Ltd), providing a library viability score.

A number of different barcoding methods were trialled. WGA DNA yield, DNA fragment size range and library viability were compared for each method. The barcoded samples were pooled and sequenced. The sequencing data was bioinformatically aligned to hg19, sequencing metrics collated and the data analysed to determine sample ploidy status.

Results

- ✓ PCR incorporation of the Ion Torrent™ barcodes was successfully achieved using several methods.
- ✓ The most efficient & versatile method (Method 3) was selected for further evaluation based on the differences observed for DNA yield, fragment size and library viability (Table 1).

	Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
WGA DNA yield (ng/ul)	+	+++	++++
Size range (bp)	300-800	280-680	300-700
Library viability	+	+++	++

Table 1.– Summary of WGA PCR DNA characteristics for select methods of PCR barcoding.

Results (continued)

- ✓ Whole chromosome aneuploidy results from 5-cell samples were concordant with the expected karyotypes of the 47,XY,+13, 47,XY,+15 and 48,XXY,+21 cell lines.
- ✓ Detection of sub-chromosomal duplications and deletions using 5-cell samples, including 7-32Mb aberrations were also concordant with the expected karyotype of the cell line (Figure 1 and 2).

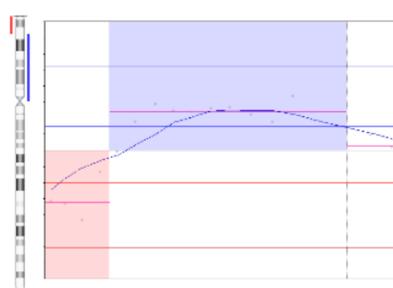


Figure 1. – A 5-cell sample result, 7Mb deletion and 32 Mb duplication on chromosome 8 (GM14485).

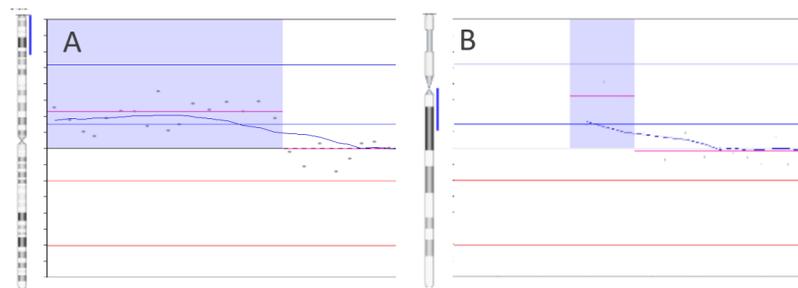


Figure 2. – A 5-cell sample result, A. 31Mb duplication on chromosome 3 and B. 7Mb duplication on chromosome 21 (GM09552).

- ✓ The average mtDNA content was 0.65-1%, which is comparable to the mtDNA content of the human genome of 0.7%.
- ✓ Target Sequence Enrichment using the RHS patented approach was achieved using Haemoglobin Subunit Beta (HBB) specific PCR primers for β -Thalassemia mutation detection (Figure 3 and 4).

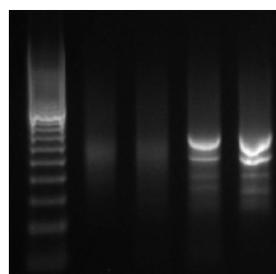


Figure 3. – Enrichment of targeted DNA during WGA with TSE following the addition of HBB specific primers compared to WGA only. Multiplex PCR products for HBB. Lane 1 DNA marker, lane 2-3 WGA only and lane 4-5 WGA with TSE.

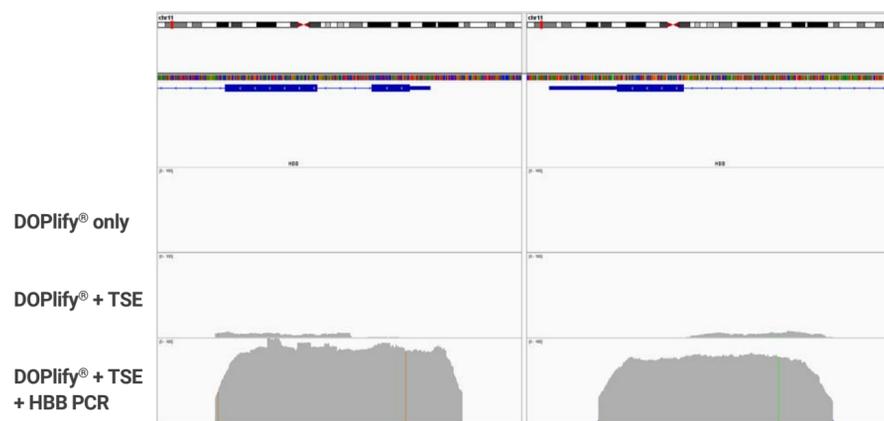
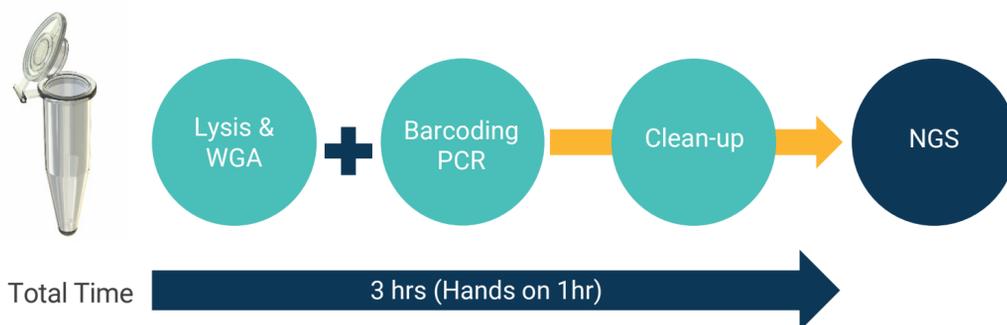


Figure 4. – Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV) screenshot of HBB for DOPlify® only sample (x0 reads) and enrichment of target DNA during DOPlify® with TSE (x13 reads) or following combined DOPlify® + TSE + HBB multiplex PCR (1:10 dilution) (x165 reads).

- ✓ The most time efficient protocol produced amplified, sequencing ready samples within 3 hours including clean-up time, with a hands on time of approximately 1 hour.



Conclusions

Leveraging the unique characteristics of DOPlify®, this novel method provides a single tube amplification and barcoding protocol for Ion Torrent™ NGS to allow:

- rapid, scalable and economical sequencing for PGT-A; and
- the incorporation of RHS' Target Sequence Enrichment protocol for combined PGT-M & PGT-A from a single embryo biopsy