

PrimerDesign™ Ltd

# Quantification of Human Immunodeficiency Virus type-1 genomes

*pol* gene region

For general laboratory and research use only

## Standard Kit





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## Introduction Human Immunodeficiency Virus type I

Human immunodeficiency virus (commonly known as HIV, and formerly known as HTLV-III and lymphadenopathy-associated virus) is a retrovirus that is the cause of the disease known as AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), a syndrome where the immune system begins to fail, leading to many life-threatening opportunistic infections.

HIV primarily infects vital components of the human immune system such as CD4+ T cells, macrophages and dendritic cells. It also directly and indirectly destroys CD4+ T cells. As CD4+ T cells are required for the proper functioning of the immune system, when enough CD4+ T cells have been destroyed by HIV, the immune system functions poorly, leading to AIDS. HIV also directly attacks organs such as the kidneys, heart and brain, leading to acute renal failure, cardiomyopathy, dementia and encephalopathy. Many of the problems faced by people infected with HIV result from failure of the immune system to protect from opportunistic infections and cancers.

HIV is transmitted through direct contact of a mucous membrane with a bodily fluid containing HIV, such as blood, semen, vaginal fluid, preseminal fluid or breast milk. This transmission can come in the form of: penetrative (anal or vaginal) sex; oral sex; blood transfusion; contaminated needles; exchange between mother and infant during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding; or other exposure to one of the above bodily fluids.

Infection in humans is now pandemic. As of January 2006, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that AIDS has killed more than 25 million people since it was first recognized on December 1, 1981, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in recorded history. In 2005 alone, AIDS claimed an estimated 2.4—3.3 million lives, of which more than 570,000 were children.<sup>[1]</sup> A third of these deaths are occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, retarding economic growth by destroying human capital. Current estimates state that HIV is set to infect 90 million people in Africa, resulting in a minimum estimate of 18 million orphans.<sup>[2]</sup> Antiretroviral treatment reduces both the mortality and the morbidity of HIV infection, but routine access to antiretroviral medication is not available in all countries.<sup>[3]</sup>

Two species of HIV infect humans: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV-1 is hypothesized to have originated in southern Cameroon after jumping from wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) to humans during the twentieth century. HIV-2 is hypothesized to have originated from the Sooty Mangabey (*Cercocebus atys*), an Old World monkey of Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, and Cameroon. HIV-1 is more virulent, more easily transmitted and is the cause of the majority of HIV infections globally, while HIV-2 is less easily transmitted and is largely confined to West Africa.



## References

- 1: a b c d Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (2006). "Overview of the global AIDS epidemic", 2006 Report on the global AIDS epidemic (PDF format). Retrieved on 2006-06-08.
- 2: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. AIDS epidemic update, 2005. (PDF format) Retrieved on 2006-02-28.
- 3: Palella, F. J. Jr, Delaney, K. M., Moorman, A. C., Loveless, M. O., Fuhrer, J., Satten, G. A., Aschman and D. J., Holmberg, S. D. (1998). "Declining morbidity and mortality among patients with advanced human immunodeficiency virus infection. HIV Outpatient Study Investigators". N. Engl. J. Med 338 (13): 853-860. PubMed.



## Kit Contents

- Pathogen specific primer/probe mix (150 reactions **BROWN**)
- Pathogen positive control template (for Standard curve **RED**)
- Pathogen RT primer mix (150 reactions **GREEN**)
- RNase/DNase free water

## Reagents and equipment to be supplied by the user

- Real-Time PCR Instrument
- **Mastermix or Mastermix components**  
This kit is designed to work well with all commercially available Mastermixes. However, we recommend the use of PrimerDesign 2x *Precision*<sup>™</sup> Mastermix.
- 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. Once the lyophilised components have been re-suspended the kit should be stored at -20°C. Unnecessary repeated freeze/thawing should be avoided. Under these conditions reagents are stable for six months from date of purchase.



## 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 RNA/DNA integrity. Always run at least one negative control with the samples. To prepare a negative-control, replace the template RNA sample with RNase/DNase free water.

## Dynamic range of test

Under optimal PCR conditions PrimerDesign pathogen detection kits have very high priming efficiencies of >95% and can detect between  $1 \times 10^8$  and  $1 \times 10^2$  copies of target template.



# Principles of the test

## Real-time PCR

A pathogen specific primer and probe mix is provided and the target sequence can be detected through the **FAM** channel.

The primer and probe mix provided exploits the so-called TaqMan<sup>®</sup> principle. During PCR amplification, forward and reverse primers hybridize to the pathogen DNA/cDNA. A fluorogenic probe, is included in the same reaction mixture which consists of an oligonucleotide labeled with a 5'-reporter dye and a downstream, 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 positive control template. This can be used to generate a standard curve of pathogen copy number / CT value. Alternatively the positive control can be used at a single dilution for a qualitative analysis of the samples. Each time the kit is used, at least one positive control reaction must be included on the run. A positive result indicates that the primers and probes for quantification of the target pathogen gene are working properly in your 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.

## Negative control

To confirm absence of contamination, 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. A negative result indicates that the reagents have not become contaminated while setting up the run. If a positive result is obtained the results should be ignored and the test samples repeated. Possible sources or contamination should first be explored and removed.



### **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. PrimerDesign recommend the application of 0.2 U 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 (95°C for 10 minutes).



## Bench side 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 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 spilt upon opening the tube.

### 2. Reconstitute the kit components according to the table below

To ensure complete resuspension, vortex each tube thoroughly, allow to stand for 5 minutes and vortex again before use.

Component	Volume
<b>Pre-PCR box</b>	
Pathogen Primer/Probe mix ( <b>BROWN</b> )	165 $\mu$ l
Pathogen RT primer mix ( <b>GREEN</b> )	165 $\mu$ l
<b>Post PCR bottle</b>	
Positive Control Template ( <b>RED</b> ) *	500 $\mu$ l

\* 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.



## Reverse Transcription

The protocols below are for PrimerDesign *Precision*<sup>™</sup> Reverse Transcription kit. If you are using an alternative RT kit then follow the manufacturer's instruction.

### 1. For each RNA sample prepare a reaction mix according to the table below:

Component	1 reaction
RNA template	X $\mu$ l
Pathogen RT primer mix ( <b>GREEN</b> )	1.0 $\mu$ l
dNTP mix 10mM of each ( <b>ORANGE</b> )	1.0 $\mu$ l
RNAse/DNAse free water ( <b>WHITE</b> )	X $\mu$ l
<b>Final volume</b>	<b>10 <math>\mu</math>l</b>

### 2. Heat samples to 65°C for 5 minutes.

This can be achieved using a thermostatically controlled “hot block” or heated water bath. Do not heat the RNA to a higher temperature as this can lead to RNA degradation.

### 3. Immediately cool the tubes in an ice water bath.

It is important that the samples are transferred directly from 65°C to the ice. Do not allow the samples to cool prior to cooling on ice.

### 4. For each RNA sample prepare a reaction mix according to the table below:

Component	1 reaction
MMLV 5Xbuffer ( <b>CLEAR</b> )	4.0 $\mu$ l
RNA/DNAse free water ( <b>WHITE</b> )	5.2 $\mu$ l
MMLV enzyme ( <b>CLEAR</b> )	0.8 $\mu$ l
<b>Final volume</b>	<b>10 <math>\mu</math>l</b>

### 5. Add 10 $\mu$ l of this mix to each of the samples on ice.

### 6. Apply a lid to each sample, mix tubes by briefly vortexing and incubate at 42°C for 60 minutes.

This can be achieved using a thermostatically controlled “hot-block” or heated water bath

### 7. Store cDNA samples at -20°C until use.



## Real-time PCR detection

### 1. Prepare a reaction mix according to the tables below:

Include sufficient reactions for the standard curve wells (8 samples in duplicate) and also the negative control.

#### Pathogen detection mix

Component	1 reaction
2X Precision™ Mastermix	10 µl
Pathogen primer/probe mix ( <b>BROWN</b> )	1.0 µl
RNAse/DNAse Free water	4.0 µl
<b>Final volume</b>	<b>15 µl</b>

2. Pipette 15µl of this mix into each well according to your real-time PCR experimental plate set up.

3. Prepare sample cDNA templates for each of your samples (suggested concentration 5ng/µl) in RNAse/DNAse free water.

If the concentration of RNA that was used to make the cDNA is not known, then dilute your RT reaction mix 1:20 (10µl of sample DNA and 90µl of water)

4. Pipette 5µl of diluted cDNA 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



## 5. Preparation of standard curve dilution series

- 1) Pipette 900µl of RNase/DNase free water into 7 tubes and label 2-8
- 2) Pipette 100µl of Positive Control Template (**RED**) into tube 2
- 3) Vortex thoroughly
- 4) Change pipette tip and pipette 100µl from tube 2 into tube 3
- 5) Vortex thoroughly

Repeat steps 4 and 5 to complete the dilution series

Standard Curve	Copy Number
Tube 1 Positive control ( <b>RED</b> )	$2 \times 10^7$ per µl
Tube 2	$2 \times 10^6$ per µl
Tube 3	$2 \times 10^5$ per µl
Tube 4	$2 \times 10^4$ per µl
Tube 5	$2 \times 10^3$ per µl
Tube 6	$2 \times 10^2$ per µl
Tube 7	20 per µl
Tube 8	2 per µl

## 6. Pipette 5µl of standard template into each well, according to your experimental plate set up.

The final volume in each well is 20µl



# Amplification Protocol

## Amplification conditions using PrimerDesign 2X Precision™ MasterMix.

	Step	Time	Temp
	UNG treatment (if required) **	15 mins	37°C
	Enzyme Activation (if required)***	10 mins	95°C
50 cycles	Denaturation	10s	95°C
	<b>DATA COLLECTION*</b>	60s	60°C

\* Fluorogenic data for the control DNA should be collect during this step through the FAM channel

\*\* Required if your mastermix includes UNG to prevent PCR carryover contamination

\*\*\* Not all Mastermixes require this enzyme activation step. Follow the manufactures instructions for your mastermix.



## Notices and disclaimers

During the warranty period PrimerDesign pathogen 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.

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