

Viral RNA extractions from plasma and serum.

Application Note

**AUTOMATED EXTRACTION USING *QUICK-DNA/RNA*™ VIRAL MAGBEAD KIT ON
THE DREAMPREP™ NAP WORKSTATION FEATURING ZYMO RESEARCH.**



INTRODUCTION

Viral RNA extraction is becoming ubiquitous in diagnostic laboratories, as it is the first step in many viral diagnostic tests. The growing popularity of viral DNA and RNA extractions has increased demand for an automated viral extraction solution to streamline and accelerate workflows.

Sensitivity and consistency are two crucial requirements for any viral DNA/RNA purification system, due to very low amounts of the virus present in samples. Detecting viral RNA in such low concentrations requires a robust and reliable extraction system capable of binding very low amounts of nucleic acid and delivering pure, high quality nucleic acids for sensitive downstream applications.

The *Quick*-DNA/RNA Viral MagBead Kit was developed to provide a high throughput solution for extracting both DNA and RNA from viral samples. It specifically lyses viral particles, allowing purification of nucleic acids from as little as 60 viral copies.

In a collaborative effort between Tecan and Zymo Research, this technology has been automated on the DreamPrep NAP workstation to extract high quality viral DNA/RNA ready for all complex and sensitive downstream applications, including next generation sequencing, hybridization, and RT-qPCR (Figure 1).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The *Quick*-DNA/RNA Viral MagBead extraction workflow was automated on the DreamPrep NAP workstation featuring Zymo Research, a system based on the Fluent® 480 Automation Workstation in combination with FluentControl™ GX Assurance Software. The system is configured for nucleic acid extraction workflows using magnetic bead-based procedures. An integrated Infinite® 200 PRO reader in M Nano+ configuration allows quantification and normalization following nucleic acid extraction.

The system is equipped with an Air Flexible Channel Arm™ (Air FCA), a Robotic Gripper Arm™ (RGA), Fluent ID™ and a handheld barcode scanner (Honeywell) for sample and reagent identification, a BioShake™ D30-T elm (QInstruments) for heating and shaking, and a Magnum FLX® Enhanced Universal Magnet Plate (Alpaqua).

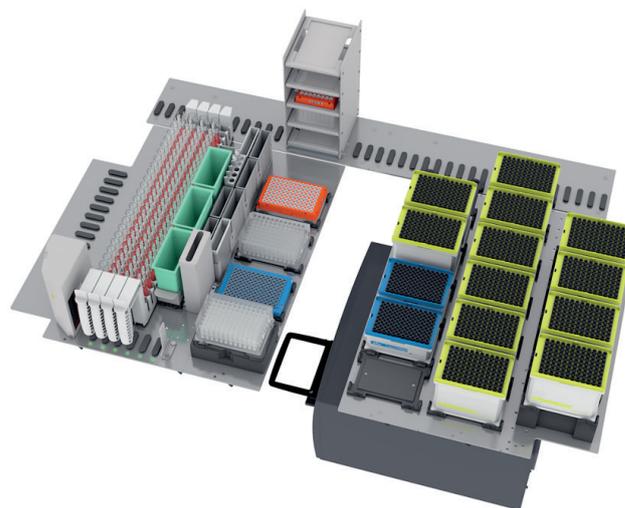


Figure 1: Configuration of the DreamPrep NAP featuring Zymo Research worktable.

The automated workflow was tested using the following general protocol. First, standard HIV-1 controls were prepared by spiking in 10 µl (~6,000 viral copies) of AcroMetrix™ HIV-1 High Control (Thermo Fisher) into 190 µl of plasma or serum. These controls were serially diluted 1:10 (600 copies) and 1:100 (60 copies) to imitate samples of low copy virus.

200 µl of plasma or serum HIV-1 spike-in samples were then added to a 2 ml Nunc™ 96-Well DeepWell™ Plate (Cat. no. 278743) (n = 4) and processed using the *Quick*-DNA/RNA Viral MagBead Kit on the DreamPrep NAP workstation. Viral RNA from each sample was eluted in 50 µl of DNase/RNase-Free Water. Eluates from each well were amplified using RT-qPCR using 2x GoTaq® qPCR Mix and GoScript™ RT Mix for 1-Step RT-qPCR (Promega).

RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS

Benchmarking of HIV-1 in plasma and serum

Cycle threshold (CT) values from the automated workflow were compared to manually extracted plasma and serum samples (Figure 2).



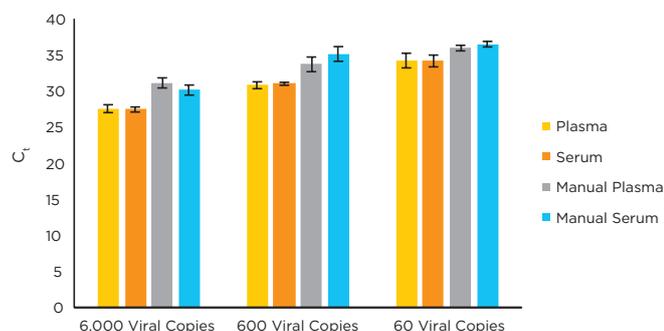


Figure 2: Comparison of manual and automated workflows, showing average CT values (n = 4 +/- SD).

Evaluating extraction efficiency for low titer samples

CT values for each concentration of automatically extracted serum and plasma sample were plotted on a line graph, and the R^2 values were used to check the efficiency and linearity of the process (Figure 3).

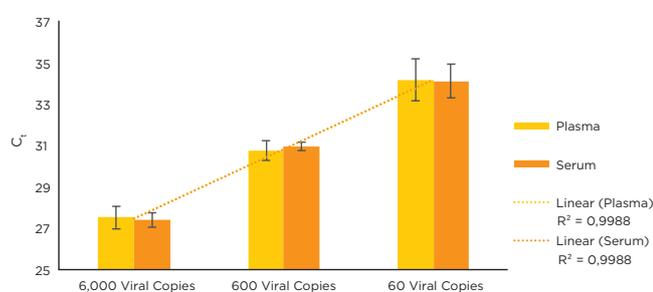


Figure 3: Comparison of recovery efficiency at varying viral concentrations, showing average CT values from each sample (n = 4 +/- SD, $R^2 = 0.99$).

Checking for cross-contamination

Cross-contamination between each well was analyzed by adding *Cryptococcus neoformans* and nuclease-free water to every other well in a checkerboard pattern across a 96-well plate. Eluates from each well were amplified by qPCR using the Zymo Research Femto™ DNA Quantification Kit on the CFX96™ Real-Time System (BioRad Laboratories) to check for *C. neoformans* DNA in water-filled wells, demonstrating that no cross-contamination occurred (Figure 4).

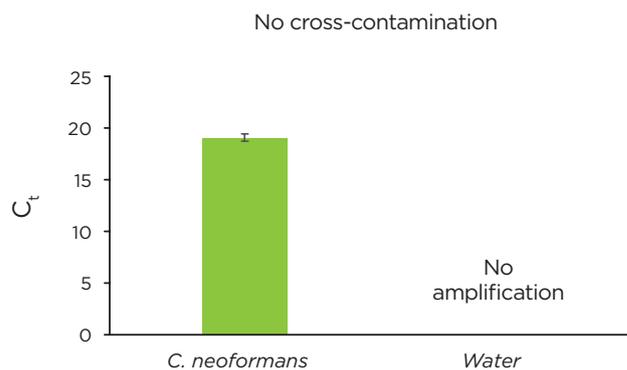
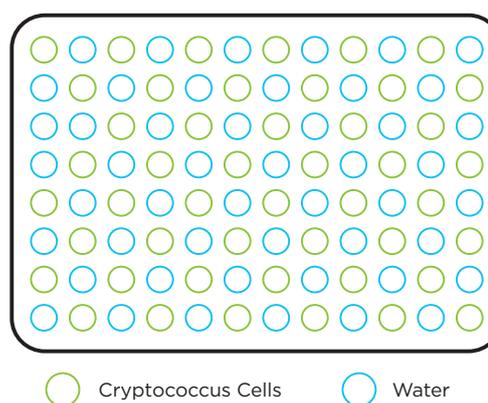


Figure 4: Cross-contamination study for the automated workflow.

SUMMARY

The DreamPrep NAP workstation featuring Zymo Research offers complete walkaway extraction of viral DNA and RNA from plasma or serum samples.

The results presented here demonstrate efficient recovery of viral DNA and RNA in a consistent and reproducible manner. The automated extraction workflow is equivalent to manual extraction in terms of total nucleic acid recovery, successfully extracting viral RNA from samples containing as little as 60 viral copies, with lower CT values. This workflow shows no cross-contamination and can achieve high quality viral DNA from a variety of samples (eg. plasma and serum). The resulting viral RNA can be used for sensitive downstream applications, such as RT/qPCR and next generation sequencing.



LEARN MORE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This protocol was developed by Zymo Research applications scientists in collaboration with Tecan, and is intended for research use only. Users are responsible for determining the suitability of the protocol for their application. For further information, visit www.zymoresearch.com.

About the authors



Homam Jamal is an automation specialist at Zymo Research, with nine years of laboratory experience. He received his master's degree in biology at California State University, Fullerton, focusing on cell biology and reproductive physiology. He joined Zymo Research in 2018, and has worked on various research and design, product development, marketing and automation projects since then.



Melissa Kaspar is an R&D application scientist at Tecan, Switzerland. She studied microbiology at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, where she applied various genomics methods and computational data analysis. She is a specialist in lab automation for scientific applications, including method development and liquid handling.

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Australia +61 3 9647 4100 **Austria** +43 62 46 89 330 **Belgium** +32 15 42 13 19 **China** +86 21 220 63 206 **France** +33 4 72 76 04 80 **Germany** +49 79 51 94 170
Italy +39 02 92 44 790 **Japan** +81 44 556 73 11 **Netherlands** +31 18 34 48 17 4 **Nordic** +46 8 750 39 40 **Singapore** +65 644 41 886 **Spain** +34 93 595 25 31
Switzerland +41 44 922 89 22 **UK** +44 118 9300 300 **USA** +1 919 361 5200 **Other countries** +41 44 922 81 11

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