GlaI hydrolysis and Ligation Adapter Dependent PCR (GLAD PCR) is the novel method to determine \( R(5mC)GY \) sites produced by methylation with DNMT3A and DNMT3B. GLAD PCR analysis is performed in one tube and includes 3 steps: DNA hydrolysis with site-specific methyl-directed DNA endonuclease GlaI, universal adapter ligation and Real-time PCR with Taqman probe. One primer is designed for DNA region of interest, structure of another primer is based on an adapter sequence. GLAD PCR analysis has been used to study an aberrant methylation of RGY sites in regulatory regions of RARB and CEBPD tumor suppressor genes in malignant cell lines. GLAD PCR analysis allows detecting several copies of methylated DNA and may be used in routine laboratory and clinical practice.

De novo DNA methylation in mammals is performed by DNMT3A and DNMT3B DNA methyltransferases.

Recently we have discovered and characterized a new DNA-endonuclease GlaI. GlaI belongs to the novel type of site-specific methyl-directed DNA-endonucleases which hydrolyze only methylated DNA. GlaI recognizes DNA sequence Pu(5mC)GPy.

### Studied DNA

**Malignant cell lines**
- **Raji** – Burkitt’s lymphoma
- **L-68** – fibroblast cell line

**Control**
- **G** – human peripheral blood DNA
- **Mouse** – A/He mouse DNA, negative control

### Studied genes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gene</th>
<th>Sequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEBPD</td>
<td>GAGACGGAGGA GTTCCAGGC CCACAACAG GAAAGAAGAG AAGCCCCTGGA GTCTGGCCAG AGGGAGTGTG ATGCCGACGA CCCGACGGCA GGGCGCGCG CGTCGTCGG CTCCGTCGAC TCG GCCGGCGC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RARB</td>
<td>TTCAAGGGCA GAGGGCTCTA TTCTTTGGCA AAGGGGGAGC CAGAACGCC CTTCGAGGTC GTGGATTGCA CTGGAGTGCC GAGAACGGCA GGGATCGCG AAGCTCTGAT CTCAGGGATG TTCCTCCCGT GYTCGACGT ACACACCTGC GACCTCTACTG CTCGATGGTC CGTCGTCGG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SibEnzyme**

SibEnzyme Ltd
2/12 Ak.Timakova street
Novosibirsk 630117, Russia
Ph: +7 383 3334991
Fax: +7 383 3336853
info@sibenzyme.com
www.sibenzyme.com
It is well known that an abnormal methylation of certain DNA regions, mostly promoter and first exon of tumor suppressor genes, is a serious sign of cell malignancy. Differences in methylation of CpG island of these regions has been observed for many cancers and earlier we have developed BlsI- and GlaI-PCR assays to discriminate malignant cell lines based on different pattern of CpG islands methylation.

Recently developed epigenetic methods of cancer diagnostics allow to detect the disease at early stages. However, these epigenetic test-systems are based on a method of bisulfite conversion, which is quite complicated and often results in false-positive/negative data. That is why such tests are not widely used.

We have applied GLAD PCR assay to determine an aberrant methylation of selected RCGY sites in regulatory regions of RARB and CEBPD tumor suppressor genes. Results of GLAD PCR assays are fully consistent with the data obtained for these regions by bisulfite sequencing.

In comparison with other epigenetic methods GLAD-PCR has strong advantages:

- Simple – 3 easy steps in one tube
- Requires only real time PCR-machine
- Quick – only 4-6 hours
- Sensitive – detects several copies of selected R(5mC)GY site in a presence of excess of corresponding RCGY site

GLAD PCR assay may be used for detection of minimal quantities of methylated DNA in a presence of excess of unmethylated DNA in clinical samples of blood and tissues.

A new method of GLAD PCR assay has been developed to study DNA methylation. Method allows to determine methylation of RCGY site of interest in human and mammalian genomes in excess of corresponding unmethylated sites.

Method includes GlaI hydrolysis of studied DNA, the universal adapter ligation and subsequent real-time PCR. Method is performed in one tube, takes about four-six hours and determines even several copies of R(5mC)GY site of interest.

GLAD PCR assay has been applied to study an aberrant methylation of selected RCGY sites in regulatory region of RARB and CEBPD tumor suppressor genes. All studied RCGY sites are highly methylated in Raji cells. GLAD PCR assay may be used in epigenetic diagnostics especially in early cancer detection.

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