

³²P Radioactive Probe Synthesis and Preparation

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[Abstract] To probe for a specific mRNA species by Northern blot, RNA from the agarose/formaldehyde gel needs to be transferred to a nylon membrane. RNA is detected by hybridization using a labeled probe. The probe is a DNA or RNA molecule that is chemically or radioactively labeled. In this protocol synthesis and preparation of a [³²P]-dCTP-labeled probe is described.

Materials and Reagents

1. Amersham Megaprime DNA labeling system (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, catalog number: RPN 1606)
2. Amersham Microspin G-50 Columns (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, catalog number: 27-5330-01)
3. dCTP- α -³²P 3000 Ci/mmol (PerkinElmer)
4. TE buffer
5. EDTA

Equipment

1. Scintillation counter
2. Bench-top centrifuge
3. Heat block
4. 37 °C incubator

Procedure

A. Labeling reaction

1. Place 25 ng of template in 28 μ l TE or water in tube. Add 5 μ l of primer solution from kit.
2. Denature by incubating at 100 °C for 5 min.
3. Spin tube briefly to bring contents of tube to bottom.

4. At room temperature, add 10 μ l of labeling buffer, 5 μ l of dCTP, and 2 μ l of enzyme.
5. Mix and incubate at 37 °C for 10 min.
6. Stop reaction by addition of 5 μ l of 0.2 M EDTA.

B. Probe purification

1. Prepare column by vortexing to resuspend matrix. Loosen cap $\frac{1}{4}$ turn and insert into 1.5 ml screw cap tube.
2. Spin 1 min at 735 x g. Start timer and centrifuge simultaneously.
3. Place column in a new 1.5 ml screw cap tube and slowly apply 50 μ l of sample to center of column matrix.
4. Do not disturb the column bed. Do not let sample flow around the sides of the bed.
5. Spin column for 2 min at 735 x g.
6. Purified sample is now at the bottom of the tube.
7. Heat to 100 °C and chill on ice prior to adding to hybridization.
8. Count 1 μ l of probe in scintillation counter.

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References

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