

# A Novel Lab Developed Test Simultaneously Assays Heme and Solid Tumors and Shows Good Performance on Degraded Samples at Low Minimum Input



Rachel Schell, Jieying Chu, Faqiang Wu, Michal Krawczyk, Fernando J. Lopez-Diaz, Hyunjun Nam, Paula Freire Pritchett, Uri David Akavia, Warren Emmett, Kenneth B. Thomas, Segun C. Jung, Giovanni Marsico, Vincent Anthony Funari, Shashikant Kulkarni, Steven P. Rivera Neogenomics Laboratories, Aliso Viejo, CA

**Background** Lab developed tests 'LDT' simultaneously evaluate many different genomic alterations. We employ recent advances in nucleic acid extraction, library preparation, and next generation sequencing to address limited sample quantity and variable quality which currently severely limit patient access to LDTs.

**Methods** DNA and RNA are dual extracted from a single sample. A novel DNA library generation method with unique dual indexes and molecular identifier sequences were used to create the novel assay. The DNA libraries undergo hybrid capture and sequencing. Additionally, the RNA is used to perform RNAseq. Libraries are sequenced on NovaSeq 6000 and bioinformatically processed with custom pipelines for variant calling for SNVs, InDels, TMB, MSI, CNVs, and HLA profiling. We compare FFPE and Heme performance to validated amplicon assays.

**Results:** We made over 800 libraries from more than 700 unique clinical samples, including 100 heme samples from peripheral blood or bone marrow and more than 600 FFPE samples from breast, colon, lung, lymph, ovarian, and prostate (ranging from 20 to 90% tumor). Our workflow allows unified processing of heme and FFPE samples down to 10ng input. Poor-quality samples that did not yield sufficient nucleic acid or failed QC in the amplicon assays were rescued. Samples met a minimum of 500x average coverage at over 1,000 cancer genes and 80x average coverage across the exome. Variant calling to 5% AF reached 99% accuracy (98% sensitivity and 99% specificity). TMB concordance met 93% accuracy (95% sensitivity and 91% specificity). MSI detection reached 97% accuracy (95% sensitivity and 100% specificity). CNVs were detected at 100% accuracy with high correlations for MET and ERBB2 amplifications in solid tumors (Pearson,  $r = 0.999$  and  $r = 0.997$ ,  $p$  value  $\leq 1.9 \times 10^{-13}$ ). HLA genotyping of 11 loci was performed to four-digit resolution in heme and FFPE samples and reached 98% concordance.

**Conclusion** We have developed a novel LDT that characterizes solid tumors and heme samples with as little as 10 ng of DNA. We demonstrate high accuracy for variant calling, TMB, MSI and CNV.

We present a novel Lab Developed Test with unified workflow and performance for heme and solid tumor FFPE samples. Over 1,500 libraries were constructed from more than 1,000 samples. We demonstrate good performance for variant calling, TMB, MSI, CNV and HLA. Poor quality samples achieve good performance at low input.

