

The Specificity and Sensitivity of PRRSV Aptamer using Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM)

Chakpatch Kuitio¹, Peter Lieberzeit², Kiattawee Choowongkumon³

¹ Genetic Engineering, Faculty of Graduate School, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand,

² Department of Physical Chemistry, University of Vienna, Vienna Austria

³ Department of biochemistry, Faculty of science, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand*Corresponding author. E-mail address: kiattawee.c@ku.th.

Abstract

The porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) cause by RNA virus, that is the important diseases make economic lose in swine industry. The best for prevention from virus is screening swine before come to the farm. Aptamer is a short ss-DNA that can bind with small molecule, cell, bacteria and virus, so the aptamer could be develop to biosensor for screening the infection of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) in swine. In this study, want to test the specificity and sensitivity of PRRSV aptamer (7R) by quartz crystal microbalance (QCM). The result from QCM show 7R aptamer could be bind with PRRSV around 10^{10} virus particles and 7R aptamer could not bind with Pseudorabies virus (PRV) and Classical swine fever virus (CSFV).

Key words: Aptamer, Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

Introduction

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome is an important disease in swine industry cause by porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus. The virus diagnosis by PCR, RT-PCR, ELISA and immunohistochemistry [1]. However the diagnosis of virus take a long time for result. So development of method for diagnosis is important. The aptamers are alternative choices for development of biosensor. The aptamers are single-strand deoxyribonucleic acid (ssDNA), that can be bound the target molecule with high specificity and affinity such as ions, drugs, toxins, proteins, cells, bacteria, and viruses. The Advantages of aptamers are can chemical synthesis, long-term storage, and easy to modification[2]. 7R aptamer are specific for PRRSV, selected by capillary electrophoresis and colorimetric method from previous experiment. In this study used the quartz crystal microbalance (QCM), interesting technique choice for detecting interaction of nucleotides and target [3] so QCM can be used for observe specificity and sensitivity of 7R aptamer.

Material and Method

DNA aptamer

7R aptamer contained 40-mer modified at 5' end by thiol group (-SH). The sequence following sequence 5'-(ThiC6) GCTGTACCGT CTGCTAGGACACCATAACTTCTAGCAAACG C. The aptamer has been synthesized by SIGMA-ALDRICH.

Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM)

Gold-electrode coated on 10 MHz quartz and dropped 7R aptamer diluted with cysteine (1:1000) on working site of gold-electrode. And reference site dropped non-specific have 40-mer diluted with cysteine same concentration of 7R aptamer. Baseline signal used 1 mM TNE buffer pH 7.4 until reaching the equilibrium state. The QCM system test with PRRSV around 10^{10} - 10^{11} particles and test specificity with PRV in same concentration of viral particles.

Result and Discussion

Sequence analysis

7R specific aptamer of PRRSV from previous studied by capillary electrophoresis combined with colorimetric method. That present good property for develop to bio-sensor because from

sequencing, 7R aptamer contain 40-mer of nucleotide, shown one loop in secondary structure (Fig.2). The loop of aptamer are important role for interaction with a virus particle that facilitates formation of electrostatic interactions or hydrogen bonds between the aptamer and its target, as well as stacking interactions between aromatic compounds and the nucleobases[6].

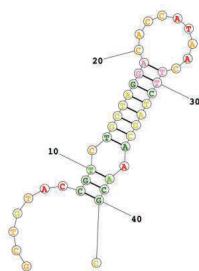


Figure2. The secondary structure of 7R aptamer analysis by <https://rna.urmc.rochester.edu>

The sensitivity test of 7R aptamer using QCM

Gold-electrode coated with 7R aptamer solution in cysteine on working site and non-specific DNA on reference site. PRRSV diluted with 1 mM TNE buffer. The result from QCM shown in figure3, when add PRRSV 1.87×10^{10} particles frequency shift from baseline at

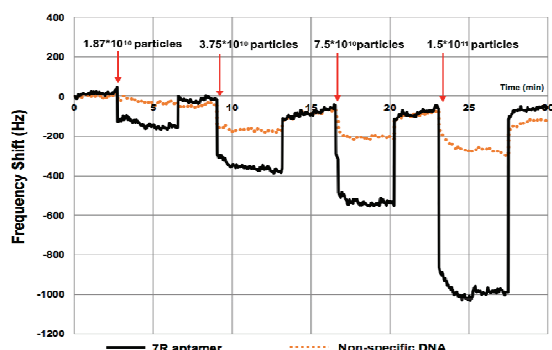


Figure3. The frequency shift from QCM tested with PRRSV 1.87×10^{10} particles - 1.5×10^{11} particles.

working site 150 Hz. After flushing the system with mixed 10% aqueous solution of acetic acid, followed by deionized water, the virus particles are removed out and the frequency increases to baseline revealing fully reversibility. The frequency shift increase when add higher concentration of PRRSV 3.75×10^{10} , 7.5×10^{10} and 1.5×10^{11} particles frequency shift from baseline 402 Hz, 613 Hz and 1,046 Hz respectively correspond to mass loading. But at reference site frequency shift less than when compare with working site. So the result could be indicate that, 7R aptamer can bind with PRRSV and can remove virus particle by acetic acid solution because structure of DNA aptamer

will be change conformation when pH of solution change.

The specificity test of 7R aptamer using QCM

Actually, In this study used CSFE and PRV for the specificity of 7R aptamer, the result show when add CSFV and PRV around 1.5×10^{11} particles the frequency increase 95 Hz and then add PRV 1.5×10^{11} particles presented frequency shift 112 Hz from baseline. However when add PRRSV 1.5×10^{11} particles target of 7R aptamer, the frequency increase 1,322 Hz that have significant difference when compared with CSFV and PRV. So result indicated 7R aptamer specific to PRRSV and could not bind with CSFV and PRV.

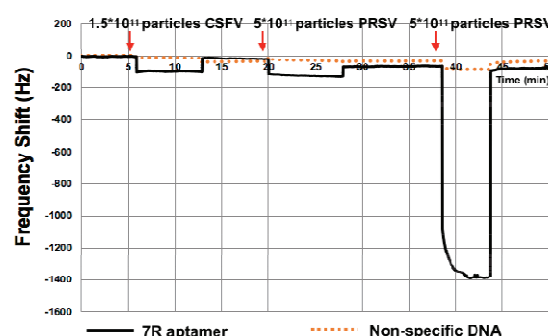


Figure4. The frequency shift from QCM tested with CSFV, PRV, PRRSV at 1.87×10^{10} particles - 1.5×10^{11} particles.

Conclusions

All results indicate successful for used QCM technique test specificity and sensitivity of aptamer because QCM can detected mass of target by frequency shift. The result shown QCM is appropriate for screening aptamer and test the property for development bio-sensor best on aptamer.

Acknowledgments: This project was supported by the Research and Researchers for Industries-RRIRoyal Thai Government, Thailand, the ASEAN-European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET).

References

- [1] Lunney JK, Fang Y, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV): Pathogenesis and Interaction with the Immune System, *Annu Rev Anim Biosci* 4, 129-54 (2016);doi: 10.1146/annurev-animal-022114-111025.
- [2] A.V. Lakhin, V.Z. Tarantul, and L.V. Gening, Aptamers: Problems, Solutions and Prospects, *Acta Naturae* 5(4), 34-43 (2013)
- [3] Kespunyavee Bunroddith, Peter Lieberzeit, QCM-based rapid detection of PCR amplification products of *Ehrlichia canis*, *Analytica Chimica Acta* 11, 106-111(2018); doi: 10.1016/j.aca.2017.10.037