

Methodology article

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Chemical cleavage reactions of DNA on solid support: application in mutation detection

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Published: 13 May 2003

Received: 24 February 2003

BMC Chemical Biology 2003, **3**:1

Accepted: 13 May 2003

This article is available from: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6769/3/1>

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Abstract

Background: The conventional solution-phase Chemical Cleavage of Mismatch (CCM) method is time-consuming, as the protocol requires purification of DNA after each reaction step. This paper describes a new version of CCM to overcome this problem by immobilizing DNA on silica solid supports.

Results: DNA test samples were loaded on to silica beads and the DNA bound to the solid supports underwent chemical modification reactions with KMnO_4 (potassium permanganate) and hydroxylamine in 3M TEAC (tetraethylammonium chloride) solution. The resulting modified DNA was then simultaneously cleaved by piperidine and removed from the solid supports to afford DNA fragments without the requirement of DNA purification between reaction steps.

Conclusions: The new solid-phase version of CCM is a fast, cost-effective and sensitive method for detection of mismatches and mutations.

Background

The solution phase Chemical Cleavage of Mismatch (CCM) is one of few methods capable of detecting nearly all single base mismatches [1]. This method was developed in 1988 by Cotton et al. [2] and has been widely used in research and diagnosis of many inherited diseases. The technology is based on selective reactions of mismatched thymine and cytosine with KMnO_4 and hydroxylamine respectively [2–5]. The modified mismatched bases are subjected to piperidine cleavage reactions and the resulting fragments are separated and identified by gel-electrophoresis. The process is time-consuming, as the

method requires purification of DNA by using the standard precipitation technique after each reaction step [2,4,5]. In our earlier work [6], attempts have been successfully made to attach biotinylated DNA samples onto streptavidin-coated magnetic beads for solid-phase chemical modification and cleavage reactions. The desire to simplify this approach further by reducing the use of the cumbersome biotin dependent assay led us to the development of a new solid-phase chemical cleavage of mismatched DNA (Figure 5). The method involves attachment of DNA on to the commercially available silica solid supports. The solid-bound DNA remained intact

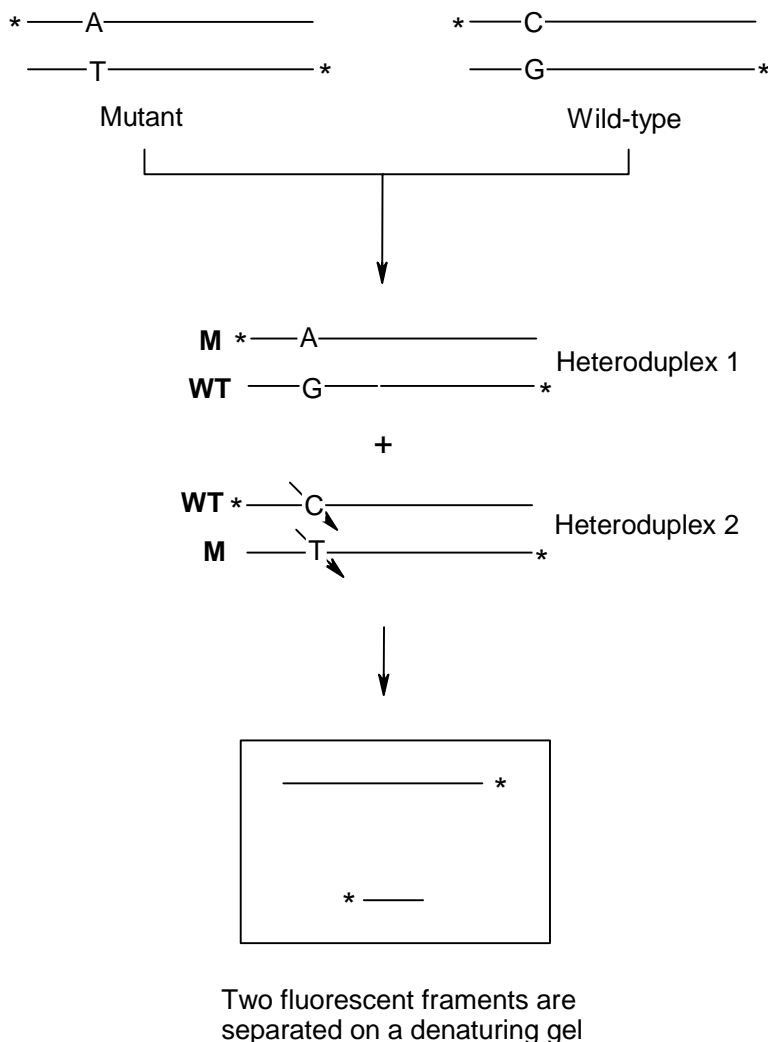


Figure 1

Chemical Cleavage of Mismatch. * DNA strand was labeled with FAM or HEX at 5' and 3' ends respectively. Heteroduplex was formed by mixing equal amounts of wild-type and mutant DNA. Mismatched T.C on the heteroduplex was modified by KMnO₄ and hydroxylamine and then cleaved by piperidine. A denaturing gel displays two cleavage fragments derived from both strands. Note: When only one of two reagents (either KMnO₄ or hydroxylamine) was applied on T.C mismatch, only one labeled cleavage fragment was detected by gel-electrophoresis – See Fig. 2 &3).

throughout the chemical reactions and the final product was removed from solid support by treatment with the piperidine cleavage solution at 90°C as described in our experimental section. This new version of the CCM method is simple, cost-effective and highly accurate by improving the quality of the cleavage fragments on sequencing gel traces.

Methods

Chemicals and solvents were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company (Castle Hill, Australia). The fluorescent primers (6-FAM and HEX for the 5' and 3' primers respectively) were purchased from Geneset corp, CA, USA. Test sample DNA (547-bp μ-globin mouse promoter) [7] was amplified as per the previously described conditions. The resulting PCR products (DNA) were purified by Strategene kit (Integrated Science, Inc. CA, USA). The silica solid support (Ultra-bind bead) and Ultrawash solu-

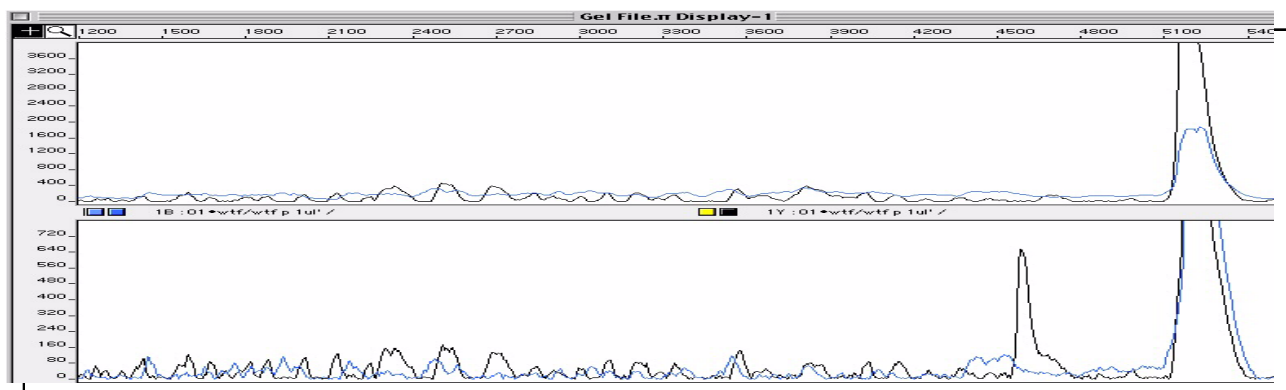


Figure 2
 Detection of a T.C mismatch in a 547 bp DNA fragment by using KMnO_4 / piperidine assay. The control trace (homoduplex, top) shows no cleavage peak and the mismatched DNA trace (heteroduplex, bottom) displays a strong cleavage peak of the mismatched T base in the 3'HEX sequence. Note consistent background in both traces which is essentially a chemical sequencing trace of T bases allowing confidence that reaction has occurred and a position reference.

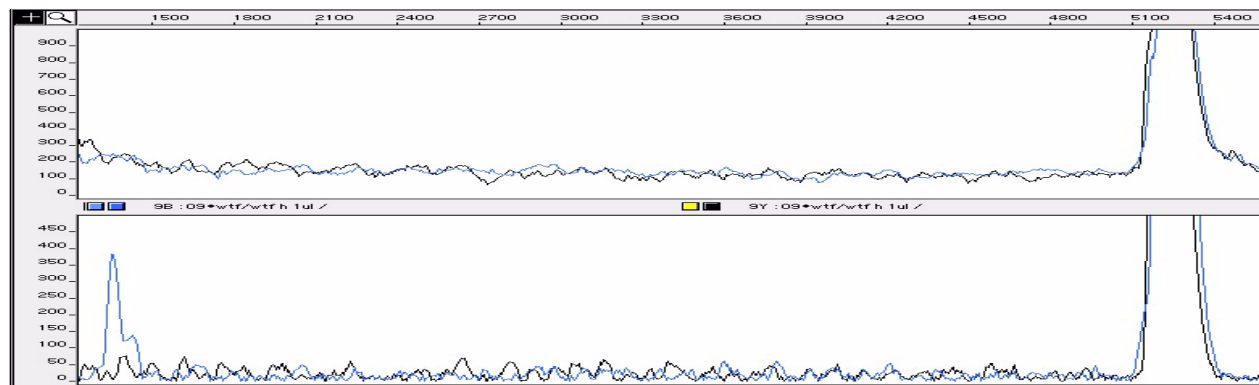


Figure 3
 Detection of T.C mismatch of 547 bp DNA fragment by using hydroxylamine / piperidine assay. The control trace (homoduplex, top) shows no cleavage peak and the mismatched DNA trace (heteroduplex, bottom) displays a strong cleavage peak of the 5'FAM sequence at the mismatched C base. Note this is the second chance of detecting the mutation, the first being in Fig 2.

tion were purchased from MO BIO Laboratories Inc. (CA, USA).

DNA concentration: DNA concentrations were determined by the standard spectroscopic method (measurement at 260 nm) [8] using the Cary 300 UV-Visible spectrophotometer (Varian Inc., Australia).

Formation of heteroduplex DNA containing T.C mismatch

Equal amounts of the labeled wild-type (10 µg of 547 bp DNA containing C.G pair at the position 82 from 5' end) and mutant DNA (10 µg of 547 bp DNA containing A.T pair at the position 82 from 5' end) were mixed in TE buffer (100 µl of 1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 20 µl of 0.5 M ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid and 9.88 ml distilled H₂O). The mixture was heated to 95°C for 7 min, cooled down

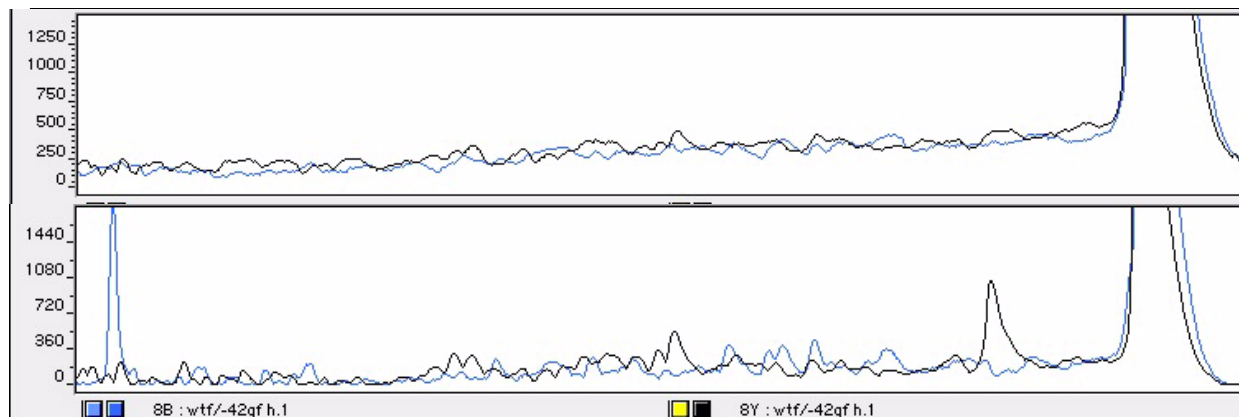


Figure 4

Detection of C.C mismatch of 547 bp DNA fragment by using hydroxylamine / piperidine assay. The control trace (homoduplex, top) shows no cleavage peak and the mismatched DNA trace (heteroduplex, bottom) displays two strong cleavage peaks of 5'FAM sequence and 3'HEX sequence at the mismatched C bases.

to 65°C and maintained at this temperature for 60 min and finally brought back to room temperature.

Formation of heteroduplex DNA containing C.C mismatch

The labeled wild-type DNA (10 µg of 540 bp DNA containing C.G pair at the position 83 from 5' end) and mutant DNA (10 µg of 540 bp DNA containing G.C pair at the position 83 from 5' end) were used for heteroduplex formation under the above conditions.

Solid-phase reaction of DNA with KMnO₄

DNA sample (1 µl of the heteroduplex DNA contains ca. 0.1 µg DNA) was incubated with 2.5 µl of Ultra-bind bead suspension in an Eppendorf tube. The reaction mixture was gently mixed on shaker at 25°C for 2 h. The Eppendorf tube was centrifuged (2000 rpm) and supernatant was removed (by Pasteur pipette). The DNA bound solid supports were washed with Ultrawash solution (2 × 200 µl) and then treated with 30 µl of 1 mM KMnO₄ in 3 M TEAC solution. The reaction mixture was incubated at 25°C for 10 min and the resulting DNA-bound beads were separated by centrifuge, washed with Ultrawash solution (2 × 200 µl). The beads were air-dried for 15 min and used for the next reaction step.

Solid-phase reaction of DNA with hydroxylamine

DNA-bound beads were prepared as described above (1 µl of homoduplex DNA for control or heteroduplex DNA for mismatch detection containing 0.1–0.2 µg DNA was incubated with 2.5 µl of Ultra-bind bead suspension in an Ep-

pendorf tube). The DNA-bound beads were treated with 30 µl of 4.2 M hydroxylamine in 3 M TEAC solution. The reaction mixture was incubated at 37°C for 40 min and the resulting DNA bound beads were separated by centrifuge, washed with Ultra-wash solution (2 × 200 µl). The beads were air-dried for 15 min and used for the next step.

In the control experiments, the homoduplex DNA samples (wild type or mutant) were treated under identical reaction conditions.

Cleavage by piperidine

The DNA-bound beads obtained from the reactions with KMnO₄ or hydroxylamine were treated with 10 µl of cleavage-dye solution at 90°C for 30 min. The cleavage dye solution was made from 20 µl of piperidine, 66.6 µl of formamide and 13.4 µl of dye solution (5 % w/v blue dextran in H₂O). The solid beads were separated by centrifuge and the supernatant was loaded on to a denaturing polyacrylamide gel (acrylamide: bisacrylamide, 19:1). Electrophoresis was performed on ABI 377 DNA sequencer using TBE buffer (16.2 g Tris-base, 8.1 g boric acid and 1.12 g EDTA in 1500 ml distilled H₂O, pH 8.0) at 3000 V for 3 h.

Results and Discussion

The chemical cleavage of mismatch has been widely used as a diagnostic tool for detection of mutations in many inherited diseases [1,9]. The method was based on the formation of heteroduplexes DNA containing a single base

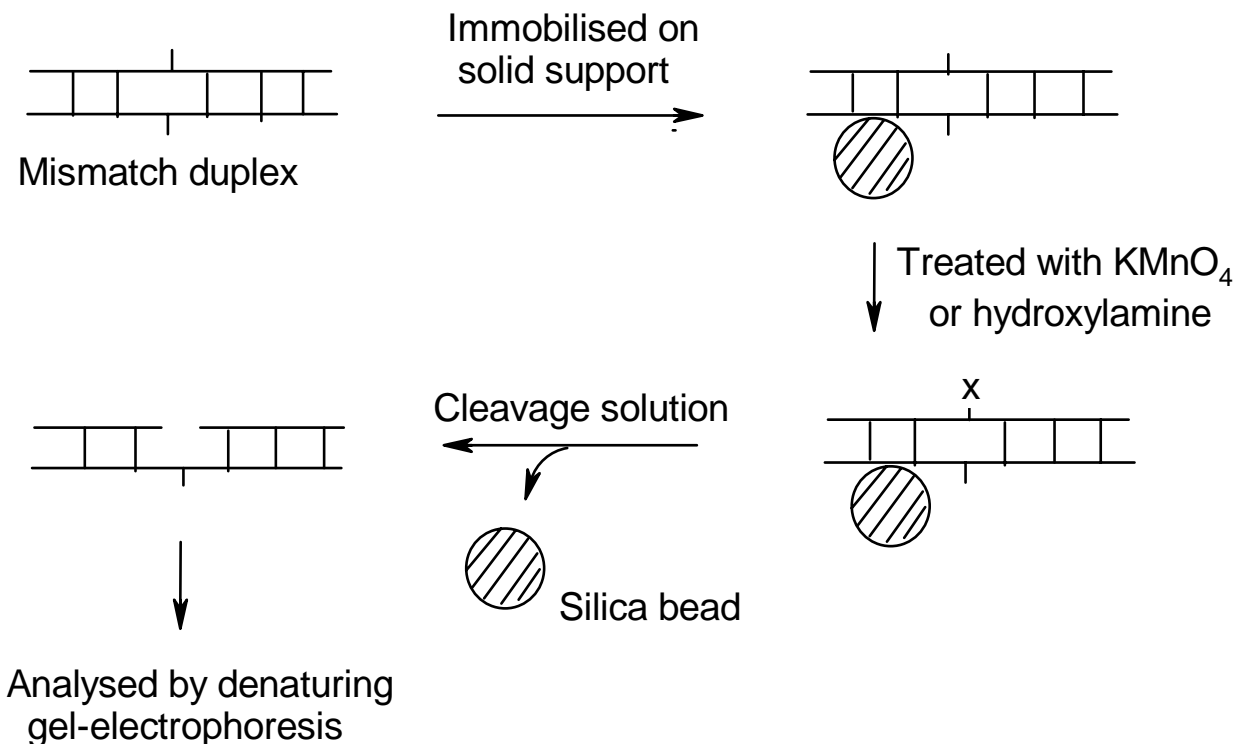


Figure 5
Solid-phase chemical cleavage of mismatch. X indicates the base modified by KMnO_4 or hydroxylamine.

mismatch by mixing equal amounts of two homoduplexes (wild-type and mutant) DNA. At the mismatched site, nucleotide bases are extra-helical and susceptible to chemical modification reactions [10]. Therefore, KMnO_4 and hydroxylamine have been employed in the CCM method to modify the mismatched thymine and cytosine respectively. The resulting modified DNA is then treated with piperidine before being loaded on to a sequencing polyacrylamide gel for fragment analysis (Figure 1). This process is time-consuming as the reactions are carried out in solution phases and the products require exhaustive purification procedures after each reaction step.

To overcome this problem, our initial target was focussed on development of the solid-phase CCM method using silica beads as a solid. Attachment of DNA on silica in high salt solution has been well established and widely used as an effective purification technique [11]. By this way, the commercially available silica beads have been adapted for improving the current CCM protocol. Figure 5 describes the new solid-phase version of CCM, in which

DNA fragments are immobilised on silica (Ultra-bind) beads by the standard method. The DNA-attached beads are then treated with KMnO_4 or hydroxylamine as usual. After reactions, the beads are simply washed with the Ultra-wash solution and used for the next step without further purification. This solid-phase CCM protocol was successfully applied for detection of T.C & C.C mismatches on the previously published 547 bp DNA sequences [6]. In one typical example, the heteroduplex 2 containing T.C mismatch was formed (the location of a T.C mismatch was close to one end, ie. 82 bp from 5' end, Fig. 1) and allowed to react with KMnO_4 and hydroxylamine on solid supports in two separate reactions. After cleavage with piperidine, the reactions gave rise to two fluorescent-labeled DNA fragments of 82 bp and 466 bp as identified by denaturing gel-electrophoresis. Figure 2 and 3 show the strong cleavage peaks derived from the KMnO_4 /piperidine and the hydroxylamine/piperidine assays respectively while the control reactions show no reactions of homoduplexes (wild type or mutant) with both KMnO_4 and hydroxylamine.

In another example, a DNA fragment containing C.C mismatch was treated with hydroxylamine/piperidine under similar solid-phase reaction conditions. The results showed two cleavage peaks on the same gel which correspond to two fragments (83 bp and 465 bp), each from 5'- and 3'-labeled DNA fragments derived from the 547 bp DNA sample (Figure 4).

The identities of all cleavage fragments were confirmed with the previously published data obtained from the standard CCM and sequencing techniques [6].

Conclusions

The new solid-phase chemical cleavage of mismatched DNA has been successfully carried out on silica solid supports. The following results have been obtained: (i) The commercially available silica beads which was originally developed for DNA purification of small DNA fragments is now suitable for solid-phase chemical reactions. (ii) Typical reactions with KMnO_4 and hydroxylamine [12,13] have been successfully demonstrated on DNA bound silica support. (iii) DNA bound silica support remains intact during reactions and purification steps. Cleavage of DNA product from silica can be done as per the instructions of the commercial silica product or our described conditions. As the solid-phase chemical cleavage reactions are very convenient in terms of manipulation and purity of the products, the silica solid support is highly recommended for any chemical modification reactions on DNA.

Scheme 1: Solid-phase chemical cleavage of mismatch. X indicates the base modified by KMnO_4 or hydroxylamine. (See Figure 5 for schematic)

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