

Supplementary table 1. Primers and conditions used for amplification of superantigen genes

Gene	Forward primer (5' - 3')	Reverse primer (5' - 3')	Amplicon size (bp)	Annealing temp (°C)	Reference
<i>speA</i>	ATGGAAAACAATAAAAAAGTATTG	TTACTTGGTTGTTAGGTAGACTTC	756	52	(1)
<i>speC</i>	AATTTCGATTCTGCCGCTTA	GCAGGGTAAATTTTTCAACGAC	400	52	this study
<i>speG</i>	TCATGTGTTTTTAGCTATGGAAGTC	ACTGTCTCGACTTAAAAGCTTATCA	590	52	this study
<i>speH</i>	AGATTGGATATCACAGG	CTATTCTCTCGTTATTGG	416	52	(2)
<i>speI</i>	AATGAAGGTCCGCCATTTTC	TCTCTCTGTCACCATGTCCTG	516	52	(3)
<i>speJ</i>	GATAGTGAAAATATTAAGACG	TTATTTAGTCCAAAGGTAAATATC	630	52	(4)
<i>speK</i>	GTGTGTCTAATGCCACCGTCT	GGAACATATATGCTCCTAGAT	564	52	(3)
<i>speL</i>	CAGCACCTTCCTCTTTCTCG	GGAAAAGAGGGACGCAAG	459	52	(3)
<i>speM</i>	GGATGAGTGAATAAATCGGTAAAC	AGTCTGGGACGATGATAA	425	55	(3)
<i>smeZ</i>	CTTCAATATTCATTGCAATAATTC	TGTAACTGTTGTTTTGTTAGTTGAT	430	52	this study
<i>ssa</i>	TGATCAAATATTGCTCCAGGTG	TCCACAGGTCAGCTTTTACAG	502	52	(3)

References:

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2. Schmitz FJ, Beyer A, Charpentier E, Normark BH, Schade M, Fluit AC, et al. Toxin-gene profile heterogeneity among endemic invasive European group A streptococcal isolates. *J Infect Dis.* 2003 Nov 15;188(10):1578-86.
3. Green NM, Beres SB, Graviss EA, Allison JE, McGeer AJ, Vuopio-Varkila J, et al. Genetic diversity among type emm28 group A *Streptococcus* strains causing invasive infections and pharyngitis. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2005 Aug;43(8):4083-91.
4. Rivera A, Rebollo M, Miro E, Mateo M, Navarro F, Gurgui M, et al. Superantigen gene profile, *emm* type and antibiotic resistance genes among group A streptococcal isolates from Barcelona, Spain. *J Med Microbiol.* 2006 Aug;55(Pt 8):1115-23.