



MOLECULAR TYPING OF ENTEROVIRUSES

by

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This thesis is dedicated to my parents

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SUMMARY

The enteroviruses comprise a large genus belonging to the family Picornaviridae. Sixty-six immunologically distinct serotypes are known to cause infections in humans. Infection has been associated with a wide range of diseases including aseptic meningitis, myocarditis, respiratory illness and insulin dependant diabetes mellitus. In view of the major health impact of enteroviruses, sensitive and reliable techniques for the detection and identification of this large group of closely related viruses are essential. Traditionally enteroviruses have been detected by isolation in cell culture, and their serotypic identity has been established by neutralization of infectivity with serotype-specific antisera. This procedure is cumbersome, laborious and insensitive.

The basic objective of this study was to use advanced molecular techniques to develop a rapid, simple and inexpensive assay for the detection and serotyping of enteroviruses in water sources and clinical specimens and to apply these techniques in research on the diagnosis and incidence of enterovirus infection.

The molecular techniques, optimised and assessed in this study, proved suitable for the rapid and sensitive detection and typing of enteroviruses in clinical specimens and environmental samples. The polio-nonpolio RT-multiplex PCR proved useful for the rapid and sensitive detection of polioviruses and for its distinction from nonpolio enteroviruses in environmental water samples. In addition to the sensitivity and specificity of the poliovirus detection protocol, the poliovirus detected can be subjected to strain specific typing with the Sabin specific triplex RT-PCR. Restriction enzyme analysis allowed the rapid identification of nonpolio enteroviruses, yielding

valuable information on viruses circulating in the environment and reducing the requirement for complete nucleotide sequence analysis. Sequencing within the 3'end of the VP1 region of the enterovirus genome proved useful for the typing of enteroviruses that were not typeable with restriction enzyme analysis.

The integrated cell culture (ICC) nested PCR approach, followed by restriction enzyme analysis proved more sensitive than the RT-multiplex PCR and cell culture techniques for the detection of low numbers of enteroviruses in drinking water samples and clinical specimens. Serotyping results indicated a high incidence of coxsackie B viruses (CBV) in water samples and clinical specimens. The drinking water supplies concerned constitute a risk of CBV infection of 3.91×10^{-3} (treatment unit A) and 7.4×10^{-3} (treatment unit B) which is an order of magnitude higher than the yearly acceptable risk of one infection per 10 000 consumers proposed for drinking water supplies.

This study has shown that PCR followed by restriction enzyme analysis was a sensitive tool for the detection and typing of enteroviruses in clinical and water samples. Results indicated that molecular techniques proved suitable to replace conventional detection and typing methods.

Key words: Enteroviruses, coxsackie A viruses, coxsackie B viruses, echoviruses, polioviruses, serotyping, polymerase chain reaction, restriction enzyme analysis, sequencing, risk assessment.

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OPSOMMING

Enterovirusse bestaan uit 66 immunologies verskillende serotipes wat infeksies in mense kan veroorsaak. Infeksie word geassosieer met 'n wye verskeidenheid siektes waaronder aseptiese meningitis, miokarditis, respiratoriese siektes en diabetes mellitus. Weens die gesondheidsimpak van enterovirusse, is vinnige, sensitiewe en spesifieke opsporings- en tiperings tegnieke 'n noodsaaklikheid. Enterovirusse word tradisioneel opgespoor deur isolasie in selkulture en getipeer deur neutralisasie met serotipe-spesifieke antisera. Hierdie metodes is egter duur en tydrowend.

Die doel van hierdie studie was om 'n sensitiewe, koste- en tydeffektiewe metode te ontwikkel vir die opsporing en tipering van enterovirusse in omgewings- en kliniese monsters.

Die molekulêre metodes wat geoptimiseer en geëvalueer is in hierdie studie, is effektief vir die vinnige en sensitiewe opsporing en tipering van enterovirusse in kliniese en water monsters. Poliovirusse is suksesvol getipeer deur die polio-nie-polio RT-PCR, gevolg deur die Sabin spesifieke tripleks RT-PCR. Beperkingsensiem analise was 'n effektiewe metode vir die tipering van nie-polio enterovirusse. Basispaar-opeenvolging-bepaling van die VP1 gedeelte van die enterovirus genoom was 'n waardevolle hulpmiddel om enterovirusse te tipeer wat nie deur beperkingsensiem analise getipeer kon word nie.

Die geïntegreerde selkultuur n-PCR blyk 'n meer sensitiewe metode te wees as die multipleks-PCR vir die opsporing van enterovirusse in drinkwater en kliniese monsters. Coxsackie B virusse was die mees algemene virusse wat opgespoor is in kliniese en water monsters gedurende

die studie periode. Die insidensie van coxsackie B virusse in drinkwater is gebruik as basis vir risiko analise. Resultate dui daarop dat die drinkwater 'n jaarlikse risiko van 3.91×10^{-3} (suiwerings eenheid A) en 7.4×10^{-3} (suiwerings eenheid B) vir CBV infeksie inhou. Hierdie waardes is 'n orde groter as die waarde van 1 infeksie per 10 000 verbruikers, voorgestel deur die US EPA vir drinkwater.

Hierdie studie het bewys dat PKR gevolg deur beperkingsensiem analise 'n sensitiewe metode is vir die vinnige opsporing en tiperings van enterovirusse in water en kliniese monsters. Die resultate dui daarop dat molekulêre metodes konvensionele opsporings en tiperings metodes kan vervang.

Sleutelwoorde: Enterovirusse, coxsackie A virusse, coxsackie B virusse, echovirusse, poliovirusse, serotipering, polymerase ketting reaksie, beperkingsensiem analise, basispaar-opeenvolging-bepaling, risiko analise.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	i
OPSOMMING	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xi
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 References	3
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 From Ancient Egypt to the 20 th Century	5
2.2 Classification and General Characteristics	7
2.3 Viral Morphology	8
2.3.1 5'UTR	9
2.3.2 Open Reading Frame	9
2.3.3 3'UTR	10
2.4 Properties of Enteroviruses	11
2.5 The Need for Typing of Enteroviruses	12
2.5.1 Correct Identification of Polioviruses	12
2.5.2 Studying the Relationship between Enterovirus (Sub)type and Disease Manifestation	14
2.5.3 Epidemiological Monitoring	21
2.5.4 Identification of New Enterovirus Types of Variants	24
2.6 Conventional Methods for Diagnosis and Typing of Enteroviruses	24
2.6.1 Virus Isolation	24
2.6.2 Enterovirus Serotyping	26
2.7 Enterovirus Detection by the Polymerase Chain Reaction	27
2.8 Molecular Basis of Molecular Typing for Enteroviruses	29
2.8.1 Enterovirus Genome Structure	29
2.8.2 Genetic Relationships among Human Enteroviruses	29
2.8.3 Genotypic Classification of Enteroviruses	33
2.9 Risk Assessment	36
2.10 Summary	36
2.11 References	39
3 EVALUATION OF MOLECULAR TYPING METHODS	59
3.1 Abstract	59
3.2 Introduction	59
3.3 Materials and Methods	61
3.3.1 Viruses and Cells	61
3.3.2 Environmental Samples	61
3.3.3 RNA Extraction	61
3.3.4 Polio-Nonpolio RT-Multiplex PCR	62

3.3.5	Quantification of the Polio-Nonpolio RT-Multiplex PCR-----	62
3.3.6	Sabin Specific Triplex RT-PCR -----	62
3.3.7	Restriction Enzyme Analysis -----	63
3.3.8	Sequencing-----	63
3.4	Results and Discussion-----	64
3.5	Conclusions -----	69
3.6	References-----	70
4	DETECTION OF ENTEROVIRUSES IN TREATED DRINKING WATER -----	82
4.1	Abstract -----	82
4.2	Introduction -----	82
4.3	Materials and Methods-----	83
4.3.1	Virus Stocks -----	83
4.3.2	Drinking Water Supplies -----	83
4.3.3	Virus Recovery -----	84
4.3.4	RNA Extraction -----	84
4.3.5	RT-PCR Amplification-----	85
4.3.6	Nested Amplification -----	85
4.3.7	Sabin Specific Triplex RT-PCR -----	85
4.3.8	Quantification of the Nested PCR-----	86
4.3.9	Restriction Enzyme Analysis -----	86
4.3.10	Quality Control of the Amplification Method -----	86
4.4	Results and Discussion-----	86
4.5	Conclusions -----	88
4.6	References-----	89
5	ASSESSMENT OF THE RISK OF INFECTION ASSOCIATED WITH COXSACKIE B VIRUSES IN DRINKING WATER -----	97
5.1	Abstract -----	97
5.2	Introduction -----	97
5.3	Hazard Identification -----	98
5.4	Exposure Assessment -----	99
5.4.1	Drinking Water Supplies -----	99
5.4.2	Exposure Analysis -----	100
5.4.3	Concentration -----	100
5.4.4	Recovery of the Detection Method-----	101
5.4.5	Viability -----	101
5.4.6	Consumption-----	101
5.5	Hazard Characterization-----	101
5.5.1	Estimated Risk of Infection, Morbidity and Mortality-----	102
5.5.2	Uncertainty Analysis-----	102
5.6	Sensitivity Analysis -----	103
5.7	Discussion -----	104
5.8	References-----	107
6	DETECTION AND TYPING OF ENTEROVIRUSES IN CLINICAL SPECIMENS -----	119

6.1	Abstract	119
6.2	Introduction	119
6.3	Materials and Methods	120
6.3.1	Virus Stocks	120
6.3.2	RNA Extraction	121
6.3.3	Clinical Specimens	121
6.3.4	RT-PCR Amplification	122
6.3.5	Nested Amplification	122
6.3.6	Sabin Specific Triplex RT-PCR	122
6.3.7	Restriction Enzyme Analysis	123
6.3.8	Quantification of the Nested PCR	123
6.3.9	Quality Control	123
6.4	Results	123
6.4.1	RNA Extraction Methods	123
6.4.2	Specificity and Sensitivity of PCR	124
6.4.3	Direct Detection of Uncultured Specimens from Patients with EV Infection by PCR-RE Analysis	124
6.5	Discussion	125
6.6	References	126
7	GENERAL DISCUSSION	133
7.1	References	136

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1:	Ancient Egyptian stone engraving portraying polio (picornaviruses at www-micro.msb.le.ac.uk)	6
Figure 2-2:	Schematic illustration of Picornavirus species (picornaviruses at www-micro.msb.le.ac.uk).	8
Figure 2-3:	Genomic structure of a generalized picornavirus (Muir et al., 1998)	9
Figure 2-4	Capsid structure of a picornavirus (picornaviruses at www-micro.msb.le.ac.uk).	11
Figure 2-5:	Polio endemic countries (picornaviruses at www-micro.msb.le.ac.uk).	16
Figure 2-6:	Young polio victims in a hospital in India (picornaviruses at www-micro.msb.le.ac.uk).	17
Figure 2-7:	Dendrogram based on the nucleotide identity of the 5'UTR of the enterovirus genome (Muir et al., 1998).	31
Figure 2-8:	Genetic relationship among human enteroviruses. Dendrogram based on amino acid similarity of a 70-amino-acid sequence in the junction of VP4 and VP2 (Muir et al., 1998).	32
Figure 3-1:	Band patterns observed with PCR of the Sabin strains type 1 – 3. Lane 1: 100 bp molecular marker (Promega, Madison, USA). Lane 2 – 4: PV 1 – 3 (100 pmol primer). Lane 4 – 6: PV1 – 3 (50 pmol primer).	64
Figure 3-2:	Restriction enzyme digestion of prototype enteroviruses. Lane 1: pGem marker. Lane 2-3: PV1 (Sty1, BamH1). Lane 4-5: PV2 (Sty1, Xmn1). Lane 6-8: PV3 (Sty1, Bgl1 and Mlu1). Lane 9-10: CBV1 (Sty 1, Xmn1). Lane 11-12: CBV2 (Sty 1, Bgl1). Lane 13-14: CBV3 (Sty1, Bgl1).	65
Figure 3-3:	Strain specific typing of poliovirus isolates detected in the stream water. M: Marker V (Boehringer). Lanes 1-5, 7, 9 - 10: PV1 (Sabin strain). Lanes 6, 8: PV2 (Sabin strain).	66
Figure 3-4 (a and b):	Enterovirus serotypes detected upstream (a) and downstream (b) from an informal settlement.	67
Figure 3-5:	Restriction enzyme digestion of the 297 bp product of enteroviruses detected downstream from the informal settlement. Lane 1: pGem marker; Lanes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16: Sty1 digested products; Lanes 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15: Bgl1 digested products.	68
Figure 4-1:	Gel electrophoresis of RT-PCR products from enteroviral RNA in suspensions which contained in tenfold dilutions 10^4 (lane 1) to 10^1 (lane 5) PFU of poliovirus 1 per ml.	87
Figure 4-2:	Restriction enzyme digestion of the 297 bp product of enteroviruses detected in the treated drinking water. M: Molecular marker. Lane 1 – 9: Sty1, Bgl1, Xmn1 digested PCR product.	88
Figure 5-1:	Probability distribution on bootstrap values for enterovirus concentrations in water samples from unit A.	112
Figure 5-2:	Probability distribution on bootstrapped values for enterovirus concentrations in water samples from unit B.	112
Figure 5-3:	Distribution of Probability of infection/day from water treatment unit A.	113
Figure 5-4:	Distribution of Probability of infection/day from water treatment unit B.	113
Figure 5-5:	Distribution of Probability of infection/year from water treatment unit A.	114
Figure 5-6:	Distribution of Probability of infection/year from water treatment unit B.	114

<i>Figure 5-7:</i>	<i>Sensitivity analysis to determine the influence of recovery efficiency on the annual risk of infection (deterministic model).</i>	115
<i>Figure 5-8:</i>	<i>Sensitivity analysis to determine the influence of consumption on the annual risk of infection (deterministic model).</i>	115
<i>Figure 5-9:</i>	<i>Sensitivity analysis to determine the influence of the dose response parameter (r) on the annual risk of infection (deterministic model).</i>	116
<i>Figure 6-1:</i>	<i>Enterovirus serotypes detected in clinical specimens by n-PCR followed by RE analysis.</i>	125

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1:	<i>Enterovirus infections by enteroviral serotype (Grist and Reid, 1988)</i>	15
Table 2-2:	<i>Evidence for the association of enteroviruses with acute idiopathic myocarditis</i>	19
Table 2-3:	<i>Usual host range of human enteroviruses: Animal and tissue culture spectrum (Ginsberg et al., 1990).</i>	25
Table 3-1:	<i>Sequences of the oligonucleotides used for the detection and typing of enteroviruses.</i>	74
Table 3-2:	<i>Restriction enzymes used for the genotyping of enteroviruses</i>	75
Table 3-3:	<i>Specificity of the polio- nonpolio RT-multiplex PCR</i>	75
Table 3-4:	<i>Products obtained after RE analysis of the 297 bp product</i>	76
Table 3-5:	<i>Correspondence between typing by sequence comparison and by neutralization.</i>	76
Table 3-6:	<i>Enterovirus serotypes detected in a stream polluted by an informal settlement. Molecular detection methods compared with neutralization typing.</i>	77
Table 4-1:	<i>Primers used for the detection of enteroviral RNA in drinking water samples.</i>	93
Table 4-2:	<i>Enteroviruses detected in treated drinking water.</i>	94
Table 5-1:	<i>Determination of the poisson parameter and concentration for water from treatment units A and B.</i>	116
Table 5-2:	<i>Summary of Monte Carlo trials. Probability distribution of bootstrap values for enterovirus concentrations in water treatment units A and B.</i>	116
Table 5-3:	<i>Model parameters used in the deterministic model to estimate risk associated with water consumption from treatment units A and B.</i>	117
Table 5-4:	<i>Model parameters used in the probabilistic model to estimate risk associated with water consumption from treatment units A and B.</i>	117
Table 5-5:	<i>Risks associated with Coxsackieviruses in Drinking Water (Deterministic Model)</i>	117
Table 5-6:	<i>Summary of Monte Carlo Trials. Daily and yearly risks of Coxsackie B virus infection (Probabilistic Model).</i>	118
Table 6-1:	<i>Primers used for the detection of enteroviral RNA in clinical specimens.</i>	130
Table 6-2:	<i>Enteroviruses detected in clinical specimens during the period January 1997 – December 1998.</i>	131
Table 6-3:	<i>Clinical information on patients with a PCR-positive result.</i>	132

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Antigen capture
AFP	Acute flaccid paralysis
AM	Aseptic meningitis
BGM	Buffalo Green Monkey
Bp	Base pairs
CA	Coxsackie A
CB	Coxsackie B
cfu	Colony forming units
CNS	Central nervous system
CPE	Cytopathogenic effect
DALY	Disability adjusted life years
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
E	Echo
EOR	Efficiency of recovery
EV	Enterovirus
h	Hour
HIV	Human immuno-deficiency virus
IDDM	Insulin dependant diabetes mellitus
l	litre
LBM	Lim Benyesh-Melnick
M	Molar
min	minutes
NIV	National Institute of Virology
n-PCR	Nested PCR
NPEV	Non-polio enterovirus
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
PFU	Plaque forming units
ppm	Parts per million
PPM	Paralytic poliomyelitis
PV	poliovirus
RD	Rhabdosarcoma
RE	Restriction enzyme
RFLP	Restriction fragment length polymorphism
RIA	Radio Immuno Assay
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
RT	Reverse transcription
SABS	South African Buro of Standards
SSCP	Single strand conformation polymorphism
TCID	Tissue culture infectious dose
Unt	untypeable
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
UTR	Untranslated region
UV	ultraviolet
VP	Viral protein
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

LIST OF SYMBOLS

C	Concentration
R	Recovery
I	Fraction of pathogens that is capable of infection
DR	Inactivation efficiency of the treatment process
V_c	Daily individual consumption of unboiled drinking water
λ	Lambda, Poisson parameter
P_i	Probability of infection
r	Dose response parameter
P_χ	Probability of one or more infections over period χ
χ	Number of days of exposure
V	volume