



Long-Read Amplicon Sequencing of the Polymorphic *CYP2D6* Locus

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Introduction

CYP2D6 is a highly polymorphic gene with more than 130 known variants, including SNPs, duplications, deletions, and other types of variations (Butler, 2018; Black et al., 2012). These variants affect the rate of metabolism of approximately 25% of most prescribed drugs in human individuals (Owen et al., 2019).

PacBio SMRT Sequencing has been proven to be an effective tool for the interrogation of *CYP2D6* variants (Qiao et al., 2016; Buermans et al., 2017).

Using a long-amplicon sequencing approach that is simple and cost effective, we have developed a streamlined end-to-end workflow for the detection of highly polymorphic *CYP2D6* locus with PacBio both long and accurate HiFi reads. This study demonstrates that HiFi sequencing enables generation of full-length sequences of *CYP2D6* alleles for accurate diplotype calling.

Materials and Methods



Figure 1. End-to-end workflow of *CYP2D6* sequencing.

- Two-step PCR approach was developed for this assay. In PCR1, M13-tailed gene-specific primer sets were used for the amplification of upstream duplications, downstream *CYP2D6* genes, and for the *5 allele (complete deletion), adapted from Qiao et al. (2019) and Fukuda et al. (2005). PCR2 amplifies PCR1 products with barcoded M13 primers.
- Twenty-two Coriell pharmacogenomic reference samples with *CYP2D6* variants were tested.
- Tested forty-one human saliva samples using the same assay.
- Barcoded amplicons were pooled for a single SMRTbell library preparation and sequenced on the PacBio Sequel II and IIe Systems.
- HiFi reads (>QV20) were demultiplexed on SMRT Link v10.1. The consensus reads of each haplotype were produced using the "pbaa" amplicon analysis from bioconda (<https://github.com/PacificBiosciences/pbaa>) and assigned *CYP2D6* diplotypes.



Figure 2. Location of M13-tailed *CYP2D6*-specific primers. Red arrows, pair of *5 allele primers; green arrows, pair of Upstream Dup primers; yellow arrows, pair of downstream primers.

Results



Figure 3. Barcoded amplicons from 22 Coriell reference samples analyzed on Femto Pulse.

Sample Number	Sample Name	Coriell <i>CYP2D6</i> diplotype	pbaa calling	Sampler Number	Sample Name	Coriell <i>CYP2D6</i> diplotype	pbaa calling
1	NA02016	*2xN/*17	*2x2/*17	12	NA17211	*2/*4	*2/*4
2	NA07439	*4xN/*41	*4x2/*41	13	NA17214	*2/*2	*2/*2
3	NA09301	Duplication	*1/*2x2	14	NA17215	*4/*41	*4/*41
4	NA12244	*35/*41	*35/*41	15	NA17217	*1/*41	*33/*41
5	NA16654	*10/*10	*10 + *36	16	NA17226	*4/*4	*4 + *36
6	NA16688	*2/*10	*2/*10 + *36	17	NA17227	*1/*9	*1/*9
7	NA17020	*1/*10	*1/*10	18	NA17232	*2/*2xN	*2x2/*35
8	NA17039	*2/*17	*2/*17	19	NA17244	*4/*2A	*2/*4
9	NA17073	*1/*17	*1/*17	20	NA17276	*2/*5	*2
10	NA17114	*1/*5	*1	21	NA17282	*41/*41	*41/*41
11	NA17209	*1/*4	*1/*4 + *36	22	NA17300	*1/*6	*1/*6

Table 1. Diplotype calling of Coriell reference samples.

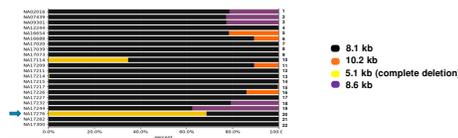


Figure 4. Proportion of total HiFi reads for each amplicon size per sample (e.g., NA17276 with 72% reads are *5 allele and 28% reads are normal 8.1 kb size allele). >99% demuxed HiFi reads from 22 Coriell samples were on target to *CYP2D6*.

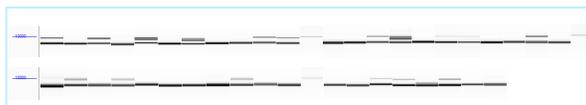


Figure 5. The 2-step PCR assay was tested on 41 human saliva samples. The resulting amplicons from 41 samples are specific.

Discussion

- The 2-step barcoded PCR assay for *CYP2D6* interrogation is robust and specific for both reference and saliva samples.
- HiFi sequencing detected a SNP in Coriell sample NA17217, which is resolved to be *33/*41, instead of *1/*41 previously annotated by microarray.
- Similarly, a SNP was detected in sample NA17232, resulting in a diplotype call of *2x2/*35, instead of *2/*2xN.
- For 4 samples (NA16654, NA16688, NA17209, and NA17226), HiFi sequencing identified duplications (*36 allele), not detected by microarray or real-time PCR.

Conclusion

- PacBio provides an end-to-end workflow, from PCR to diplotype calling, for the characterization of *CYP2D6* variants.
- HiFi amplicon sequencing generates full-length 5-10 kb reads \geq Q30.
- HiFi reads provide base-level resolution, revealing diplotypes that were not detected by other technologies.

References

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