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Shortcomings of some currently available DNA probes for malaria detection.

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Abstract

A non-radioactive DNA probe based-method for detecting **malaria** will greatly aid epidemiological studies. Using putative Plasmodium falciparum and P. vivax-specific 18S ribosomal RNA directed oligonucleotides, different enzymatic and chemiluminescent detection methods were attempted without success. The sensitivity of the corresponding ³²P-labelled probes was found to be inadequate. A published procedure based on chemiluminescent detection of repetitive DNA sequences of P. falciparum was found to be adequately sensitive but lacking in specificity.

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