All-polymer chip system for magnetic bead-based solid phase extraction

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Paramagnetic particles or magnetic beads (MBs) are commonly used as the solid phase matrix for magnetic bead-based solid phase extraction (SPE). A variant of MB-based SPE exists, where an immiscible phase is used as a filtering step in order to circumvent the washing steps otherwise needed to perform a successful extraction [1-3]. The principle of the technology is presented in the sketch below.

In this study we present an injection moulded cyclic olefin copolymer (COC) planar chip system that has been bonded together using ultrasonic welding – both techniques that can be readily applied in mass production and it is what sets this system apart from ones previously published. The chip is fitted with geometric capillary micro valves for MB-based SPE using the immiscible phase filtration approach. See figure 1 for a photograph of the chip.

The chip was performance tested in regard to volume carry-over and ability to detect RSV. The chip was tested with various surfactants and the carry-over volume was quantified. Figure 2 shows the determination of volume carry-over vs. amount of MyOne SILANE magnetic beads for pure water and a typical XNA lysis/binding buffer. We find that the volume carry-over;
- is proportional to the amount of beads through a linear correlation.
- is the same for Milli-Q water and the typical lysis/binding buffer.

Figure 3 shows initial results on RNA extraction, comparing the on-chip assay with an off-chip reference. We find that;
- Reducing the MB amount to one compatible with the chip had no effect on Cq.
- The on-chip extraction performed on par with the off-chip extraction.

CONCLUSION/OUTLOOK
We have demonstrated a mass-producible all-polymer chip created for MB-based solid phase extraction via immiscible phase filtration. It shows a low volume carry-over and is capable of extracting viral RNA from a mucus sample. Future studies include a more thorough investigation of RNA extraction and a possible switch in polymer type for chip manufacturing. The COC used here is not optimal for a system which you wish to employ surfactants. A polymer with a higher surface energy would be more beneficial.

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