

Simultaneous Detection of Multiple Phosphoprotein Targets From Human Tumor Tissues Using the Bio-Plex Suspension Array System

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Introduction

We studied three human cancer tissues with the Bio-Plex suspension array system and Bio-Plex phosphoprotein assays. The Bio-Plex suspension array system is based on Luminex xMAP technology (Spain 1998) and can detect multiple targets simultaneously (Figure 1). The Bio-Plex system has been successfully used to assay biological protein targets, such as cytokines (Prabhakar et al. 2002) and kinases. We have developed a multiplex panel of assays that can detect 18 phosphoproteins simultaneously from cultured cell lysates or tissue lysates (Gao 2003). Different phosphorylation levels were detected in 8 of 18 targets, and their signals (median fluorescence intensity or MFI) were compared with western blot results.

Methods

The tissue lysates used were PC3 for prostate cancer, Calu-3 for lung cancer, and HCT-116 for colorectal cancer (provided by Roche Diagnostics, Germany). Tissue lysates were prepared according to the instructions specified in the Bio-Plex cell lysis kit product insert. Multiplex phosphoprotein detection was performed using Bio-Plex phosphoprotein assays. Western blot analysis was done with routine procedures, and the blots were probed with corresponding phospho-specific antibodies. The protocols for tissue lysate preparation and assays are summarized in Figure 2.

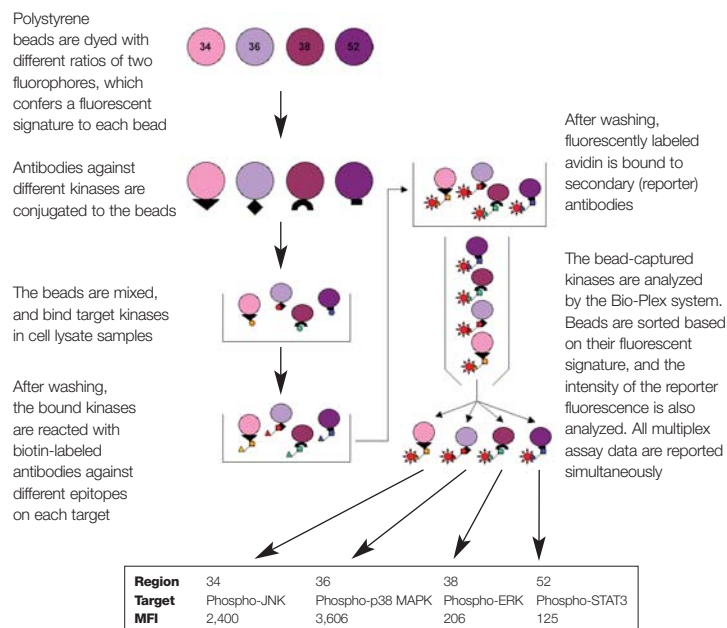


Fig. 1. xMAP technology.

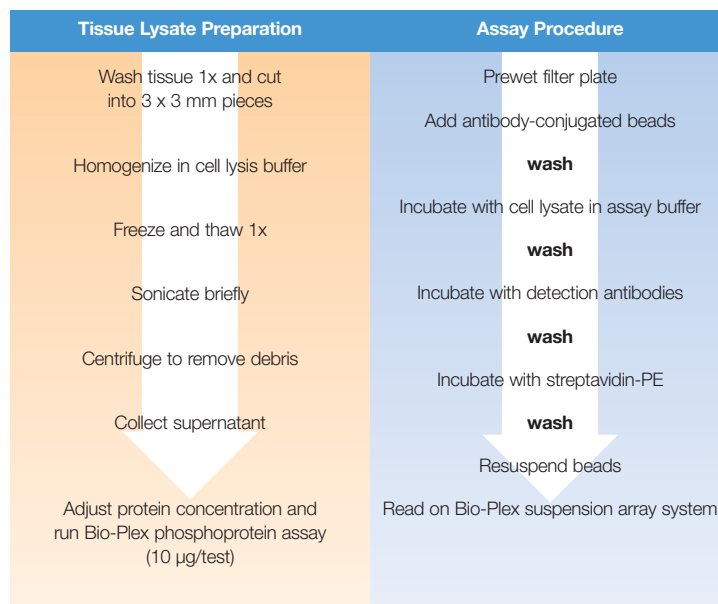


Fig. 2. Protocols for tissue lysate preparation and assays.

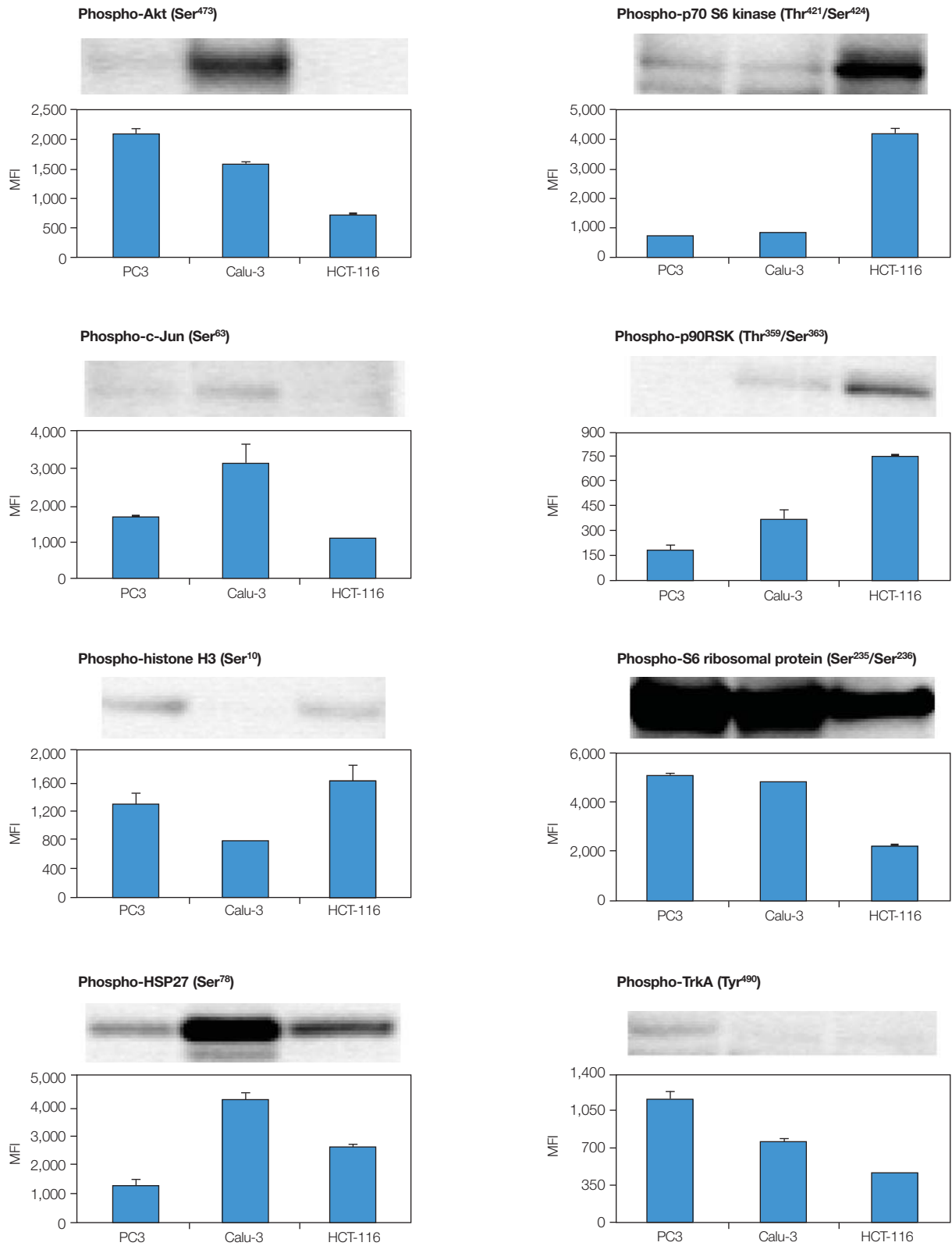


Fig. 3. Correlation of Bio-Plex phosphoprotein assays (lower panels) with western blots (upper panels) for the 8 targets showing increased phosphorylation levels. Note correlation of assay MFI values to band intensities.

Table 1. Target proteins and their phosphorylation sites.

Target	Sites	Target	Sites
Phospho-Akt	Ser ⁴⁷³	Phospho-NF-κB p65	Ser ⁵³⁶
Phospho-ATF-2	Thr ⁷¹	Phospho-p38 MAPK	Thr ¹⁸⁰ , Tyr ¹⁸²
Phospho-c-Jun	Ser ⁶³	Phospho-p53	Ser ¹⁵
Phospho-ERK1/2	Thr ²⁰² /Tyr ²⁰⁴ , Thr ¹⁸⁵ /Tyr ¹⁸⁷	Phospho-p70 S6 kinase	Thr ⁴²¹ , Ser ⁴²⁴
Phospho-GSK-3α/β	Ser ²¹ /Ser ⁹	Phospho-p90RSK	Thr ³⁵⁹ , Ser ³⁶³
Phospho-histone H3	Ser ¹⁰	Phospho-S6 ribosomal protein	Ser ²³⁵ /Ser ²³⁶
Phospho-HSP27	Ser ⁷⁸	Phospho-STAT2	Tyr ⁶⁹⁰
Phospho-IκB-α	Ser ³² /Ser ³⁶	Phospho-STAT3	Tyr ⁷⁰⁵
Phospho-JNK	Thr ⁸³ , Tyr ⁸⁵	Phospho-TrkA	Tyr ⁴⁹⁰

Results and Discussion

The preliminary data obtained for the three human cancer tissue lysates studied were very promising. Among 18 tested phosphoprotein targets (Table 1), 8 showed increased phosphorylation levels. All positive results were compared with western blot analysis, and good correlation was found for 7 of 8 phosphoprotein targets (Figure 3). For phospho-Akt (Ser⁴⁷³), the Bio-Plex assay detected a higher phosphorylation level in the human prostate cancer sample (PC3) than the lung cancer (Calu-3) and colorectal cancer (HCT-116) samples. However, the western blot results showed the highest phosphorylation level for lung cancer. This discrepancy in the cancer tissue samples is under investigation.

Conclusions

Applying Bio-Plex phosphoprotein assays to human cancer tissue lysates provided an efficient way to detect multiple phosphoprotein targets simultaneously with tissue lysates. More cancer tissue lysates need to be tested to reveal a better profile of multiple phosphoprotein status.

References

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