

Abstract

A method is described wherein prostate or breast cancer is detected by quantifying a 3.4-kilobase deletion in the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) of a test sample. The deletion is located between nucleotides 10744-14124 of the mitochondrial genome. An increase in the amount of the deletion relative to the amount of the deletion in non-cancerous prostate and breast tissue is indicative of prostate and breast cancer, respectively.

FIG. 2