

Claims

- 5 1. A method for detecting hand-foot-and-mouth disease (HFMD), the method comprising determining the presence of miR-18b, miR-145, miR-155 and miR-324 in a saliva sample, wherein the presence of the 4 miRNAs in the saliva sample is indicative of HFMD.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprising determining
10 the presence of a miRNA selected from the group consisting of miR-125a, miR-221, and miR-335.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the group of miRNA further consists of miR-23a and miR-142.
- 15 4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of the saliva sample is about 50 μ l.
5. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the presence of
20 the miRNAs in the saliva sample is determined by:
- (a) centrifuging the saliva sample to get the supernatant, and filtering the supernatant;
 - (b) extracting RNAs from the filtered supernatant obtained in step (a);
 - (c) performing a reverse transcription reaction using the RNAs extracted in step
25 (b) to obtain a cDNA solution;
 - (d) performing a PCR amplification reaction using the cDNA solution obtained in step (c); and
 - (e) detecting the PCR products with a fluorescence quantitative PCR instrument so as to obtain the expression level of miRNAs in the medium.
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6. A method for aiding in categorizing, diagnosing or determining prognosis in a patient with HFMD, the method comprising determining the presence of miR-18b, miR-145, miR-155 and miR-324 in a saliva sample.