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(54) Title: BACTERIAL QUANTIFICATION METHOD

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods and agents for determining the quantity or concentration of a bacterium in a sample. The method may include the steps of: (a) amplifying a target nucleic acid of the bacterium from genetic material obtained from the sample to form an amplification product, wherein the target nucleic acid comprises at least a portion of a bacterial 16S rRNA gene; (b) measuring a quantity or concentration of the amplification product; (c) calculating a quantity or concentration of the target nucleic acid in the sample by comparing the quantity or concentration of the amplification product with a reference level thereof; and (d) determining a copy number of the bacterial 16S rRNA gene in the sample from the quantity or concentration of the target nucleic acid therein, the copy number being a function of or correlated to the quantity of the bacterium in the sample. In other embodiments, the invention relates to methods of determining a prognosis for an infection by a bacterium in a subject, to methods of treating an infection or of evaluating treatment efficacy of an infection by a bacterium and to kits and assays.



WO 2021/146777 A1