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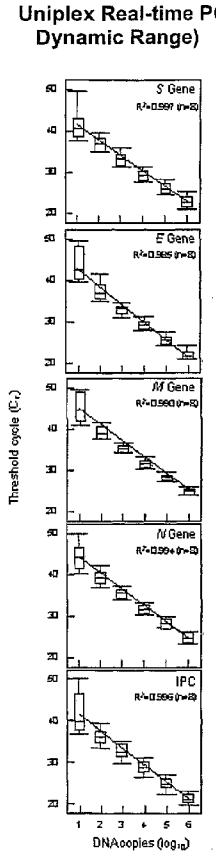
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(54) Title: MULTI-ALLELIC MOLECULAR DETECTION OF SARS-ASSOCIATED CORONAVIRUS



(57) Abstract: The subject invention relates to a multiple-allelic RT-real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay for coronaviruses including the SARS virus. Multiple target sequences within the SARS-CoV, S, E, M and N genes are identified. The use of the four different targets enhances the likelihood that the fundamental genetic drift of the virus will not lead to a false negative result. Multiplex assays format for the assay are envisioned. Thus, the present invention allows for early diagnosis of a SARS infection. The assay would be useful in the context of monitoring treatment regimens, screening potential anti SARS agents, and similar applications requiring qualitative and quantitative determinations.

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