

Abstract**METHODS FOR RNA ANALYSIS**

The present invention relates to the field of RNA analysis. In particular, the invention concerns the use of a catalytic nucleic acid molecule for the analysis of an RNA molecule. The invention concerns methods for analyzing the 5' terminal structures of an RNA molecule having a cleavage site for a catalytic nucleic acid molecule. In particular, the invention concerns a method for determining the presence of a cap structure in an RNA molecule having a cleavage site for a catalytic nucleic acid molecule, a method for determining the capping degree of a population of RNA molecules having a cleavage site for a catalytic nucleic acid molecule, a method for determining the orientation of the cap structure in a capped RNA molecule having a cleavage site for a catalytic nucleic acid molecule and a method for determining relative amounts of correctly capped RNA molecules and reverse-capped RNA molecules in a population of RNA molecules, wherein the population comprises correctly capped and/or reverse-capped RNA molecules that have a cleavage site for a catalytic nucleic acid molecule. Moreover, the present invention provides uses of a catalytic nucleic acid molecule.

[No suitable figure]