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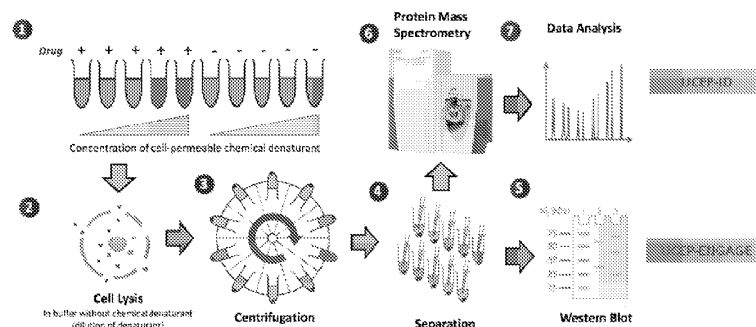


Figure 2

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates generally to the field of biochemistry. In particular, the invention relates to a method of detecting or measuring target that is bound to a ligand in a sample, the method comprising contacting a sample comprising one or more cells with a cell-permeable denaturant to promote intracellular unfolding of the target in the sample, followed by lysing the sample. The lysed sample is then detected or measured for the level of non-aggregated target or aggregated target, wherein a difference in the level of non-aggregated target or aggregated target as compared to a reference indicates the presence or level of target that is bound to the ligand in the sample. In specific embodiments, the cell-permeable denaturant is urea or derivatives thereof. Methods of identifying a candidate ligand or predicting the efficacy of a drug in a subject are also provided therein.

