

User Manual

REALQUALITY RS-MTHFR A1298C

code RQ-S31-48A
code RQ-S31-96A

Kit for the identification and genotyping of
A1298C mutation in the human gene
encoding the Methylene-tetrahydrofolate
Reductase



This product was developed using a technology licenced by:
DxS Ltd, Manchester (UK)

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1 PRODUCT INFORMATION

1.1 *Intended Use*

The RS-MTHFR A1298C kit is an IVD for identification and genotyping of A1298C mutation in gene encoding the human Methylene-tetrahydrofolate Reductase, by means of *Real time PCR* amplification of genomic DNA extracted from human peripheral blood. It is an *in vitro* diagnostic test for detection and genotyping of MTHFR mutation, and it represents an auxiliary instrument for diagnosis and evaluation of putative thrombophylic patients. As such, it is recommended to use this kit as indicated in the instructions herein.

The present manual refers to the following product:

RS-MTHFR A1298C:

Kit for identification and genotyping of A1298C mutation in gene encoding the human Methylene-tetrahydrofolate Reductase, by *Real time PCR* amplification.

Contains all the reagents needed for the Real time amplification.

[This product is in accordance with 98/79/CE Directive regarding the *In Vitro* medical diagnostic devices \(CE mark\).](#)

Code	Product	PKG
RQ-S31-48A	RS-MTHFR A1298C	48 reactions
RQ-S31-96A	RS-MTHFR A1298C	96 reactions

NOTE: The product was validated on ABI7300 (*Applied Biosystems*).

2 KIT CONTENT

BOX F*

STORE AT – 30°/ –20°C

DESCRIPTION	LABEL	TUBE (T) OR LID COLOUR	96 React.	48 React.	24 React.
Mastermix 2X	2X ED Real Time Mix		4 x 340 µL	2 x 340 µL	1 x 340 µL
<i>Primer and probe</i> Mix	Oligomix MTHFR A1298C	Green	4 x 27 µL	2 x 27 µL	1 x 24 µL
Passive Reference	ROX		2 x 30 µL	1 x 30 µL	1 x 15 µL

BAG

STORE AT + 2°/+ 8°C

DESCRIPTION	LABEL	TUBE (T) OR LID COLOUR	96 React.	48 React.	24 React.
DNA containing a part of the target sequence, <i>wild type</i> homozygote for MTHFR A1298C	HOMO WT MTHFR A1298C Positive control	Blue	1 x 20 µL	1 x 10 µL	1 x 10 µL
Mix of HOMO WT and HOMO MUT positive controls for MTHFR A1298C	HET MTHFR A1298C Positive control	Green	1 x 20 µL	1 x 10 µL	1 x 10 µL
DNA containing a part of the target sequence, mutant homozygote for MTHFR A1298C	HOMO MUT MTHFR A1298C Positive control	Red	1 x 20 µL	1 x 10 µL	1 x 10 µL

3 STORAGE AND STABILITY OF THE REAGENTS

Each component of the kit should be stored according to the directions indicated on the label of the single boxes. In particular:

Box F*	store at -30°C/-20°C
BAG	store at +2/+8°C

When stored at the recommended temperature, all test reagents are stable until their expiration date.

The 2X ED Real Time Mix, Oligomix and the positive control reagents are sensitive to the physical state variations: **it is recommended not to let the reagents undergo more than two freeze/thaw cycles**. If the single test runs are limited to a small number of samples, it is recommended to aliquot the reagents.

Oligomix and ROX contain fluorescent molecules: it is recommended to store these reagents far from any light source.

4 PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

- The kit must be used only as an IVD and handled by qualified investigators, who are educated and trained in molecular biology techniques applied to diagnostics;
-
- Before starting the kit procedure, read carefully and completely the instruction manual;
-
- Keep the product away from heating sources and the direct light;
-
- Do not use any part of the kit if over the expiration date;

In case of any doubt about the storage conditions, box integrity or method application, contact AB ANALITICA technical support at: laboratorio@abanalitica.it);

In the amplification of nucleic acids, the investigator has to take the following special precautions:

- Use filter-tips;
- Store the biological samples, the extracted DNA, positive control included in the kit and all the amplification products in different places from where amplification reagents are stored;
- Organise the work space in different pre- and post-PCR units; do not share consumables (pipettes, tips, tubes, etc) between them;
- Change the gloves frequently;
- Wash the bench surfaces with 5% sodium hypochloride;
- Thaw the reagents prior to use; once thawed, mix the solutions well by inverting the tubes several times (do not vortex!), then centrifuge briefly;
- Prepare the reaction mix rapidly at the room temperature or work on ice or on the cooling block.

5 SAFETY RULES

5.1 *General safety rules*

- Wear disposable gloves to handle the reagents and the clinical samples and wash the hands at the end of work;
- Since no known diagnostic method can assure the absence of infective agents, it is a good rule to consider every clinical sample as potentially infectious and handle it as such;
- All the devices that get directly in touch with clinical samples should be considered as contaminated and disposed as such. In case of accidental spilling of the samples, clean up with 10% Sodium Hypochloride. The materials used to clean up should be disposed in special containers for contaminated products;

- Clinical samples, materials and contaminated products should be disposed after decontamination by:

immersion in a solution of 5% Sodium Hypochloride (1 volume of 5% Sodium Hypochloride solution every 10 volumes of contaminated fluid) for 30 minutes;

OR

autoclaving at 121°C at least for 2 hours (NOTE: do not autoclave solutions containing Sodium Hypochloride!!)

5.2 Safety rules about the kit

The risks for the use of this kit are related to the single components.

Dangerous components: **none**.

The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of the device is available upon request.

6 MATERIALS REQUIRED, BUT NOT PROVIDED

6.1 Reagents

- ✓ DNA extraction reagents;
- ✓ Dnase- and Rnase-free sterile water.

6.2 Instruments

- ✓ Laminar flow cabinet (use is recommended while preparing the amplification mix to avoid contamination; it would be recommended to use another laminar flow cabinet to add the extracted DNA)
- ✓ Micropipette (range: 0,5-10 μL ; 2-20 μL ; 10-100 μL ; 20-200 μL ; 100-1000 μL);
- ✓ Microcentrifuge max 12-14.000 rpm;
- ✓ Plate centrifuge (optional)
- ✓ Real time amplification instrument. The product was validated on ABI7300 (*Applied Biosystems*).

6.3 Materials

- ✓ Talc-free disposable gloves;
- ✓ Disposable sterile filter-tips (range: 0,5-10 μL ; 2-20 μL ; 10-100 μL ; 20-200 μL ; 100-1000 μL);
- ✓ 96-well plates for optical measurements and the adhesive optical film.

7 INTRODUCTION

Venous thrombosis is the obstruction of the circulation by clots that have been formed locally in the veins or have been released from a thrombus elsewhere formed. The usual sites of thrombus formation are the superficial and deep veins of the legs, but it also may occur in veins in the brain, retina, liver, and mesentery.

An important question is whether the risk for the development of venous thrombosis can be predicted. Apart from the local activation of the coagulation system by e.g., trauma, surgery, immobilization, pregnancy and use of oral contraceptives, also the genetic background of an individual plays an important role. An increased risk of venous thrombosis can last throughout life because of the presence of mutations in genes encoding proteins, involved in the haemostatic or fibrinolytic processes.

At present, several mutations that play an important role in the development of venous thrombosis have been identified in the following genes: *Factor II*, *Factor V* and *MTHFR* (methyltetrahydrofolate reductase).

N⁵,N¹⁰-methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) catalyses the reduction of N⁵,N¹⁰-methylenetetrahydrofolate to N⁵-methyltetrahydrofolate; next, N⁵-methyltetrahydrofolate acts as a methyl group donor for the remethylation of homocysteine to methionine by using vitamin B12 as a cofactor. Rare mutations (with autosomal recessive inheritance) may cause severe MTHFR deficiency, characterized by a decrease of enzyme activity to less than 20%; the following homocysteinemia and homocystinuria occur at low plasma levels of folic acid. The consequent clinical symptoms are severe, and include grave effects on psychologic and motor development and important thrombosis phenomena.

A common genetic polymorphism associated to severe MTHFR deficiency was identified; a Cytosine to Thymine substitution at position 677 of the *MTHFR* results in an Ala>Val substitution in the MTHFR protein. Such substitution reduces the MTHFR enzymatic activity to 50%, that is furtherly decreased to only 30% during heat exposure (thermolabile variant). The thermolabile variant causes high plasma homocysteine level, especially after the oral methionine load.

The frequency of C677T mutation in the european population is 3-3,7%; about 42-46% of general population are heterozygotes, while the mutated homozygotes represent 12-13% of the general population in Europe.

Another MTHFR mutation (**A1298C**), associated with reduced enzymatic activity was identified recently (it decreases the enzymatic activity to 60% when taken separately, and to only 40% when associated with C677T mutation). This mutation causes an increase in plasma homocysteine level in C677T mutant patients.

Elevated homocysteine levels are considered to be a risk factor for vascular diseases (arterial thrombosis).

In conditions of poor nutrition and reduced folate intake, the MTHFR thermolabile variant greatly decreases the plasma folate level, and is thus a risk factor for neural tube defects in pregnant women.

Prothrombin, or **Factor II**, is the inactive precursor of thrombin. The gene comprises a 5'UTR, 14 exons with 13 introns, and a 3'UTR. Recently, a common genetic variation was found in the 3'UTR that is associated with elevated prothrombin levels and an increased risk of venous thrombosis. The importance of this G-A transition at nucleotide 20210 is not yet fully understood, but several investigators have reported that heterozygous carriers have a 30 percent higher plasma prothrombin levels than noncarriers and have a risk of deep-vein thrombosis that is 3-6 times higher than that in the general population. The mutation is rare among nonwhites. In whites, the carrier rate ranges from 0.7 to 4 percent. G20210A appears to be an important risk factor for cerebral-vein thrombosis. Furthermore, the G20210A mutation seems to be synergistic with the use of oral contraceptives.

Factor V gene encodes the homonym protein which is present in the blood as inactive pro-cofactor. It can be activated by thrombin, resulting in the formation of a two-chain molecule (factor Va) that serves as a cofactor of factor Xa in the conversion of prothrombin into thrombin. Inactivation of factor Va occurs through selective proteolytic cleavages in its heavy chain at Arg306, Arg506, and Arg679 by activated protein C (APC).

The hypothesis is that thrombosis can result from a variety of genetic mutations affecting critical sites in the factor V protein.

A G-A transition in exon 10 of the *Factor V* gene results in the replacement of arginine at position 506 by glutamine in the resulting protein. This mutated form of factor V is known as the **Factor V Leiden** mutant. The activated factor V Leiden is not cleaved by APC, and is therefore designated APC-resistant. The population of carriers of factor V Leiden in the white population ranges from 2 to 15 percent. Again, the mutation is extremely rare in non-whites. Heterozygous carriers have a risk of deep venous thrombosis that is 7 times higher than that in the general population; for homozygous carriers, the risk is 80 times higher.

In 5-10% of patients affected by deep venous thrombosis with APC resistance without *Factor V* Leiden mutation, the APC resistance might be due to other risk factors, such as pregnancy or high levels of Factor VIII.

The presence of multiple mutations may have synergistic effects. Therefore it is important to determine the genotype of each subject for a couple of different mutations.

8 TEST PRINCIPLE

PCR method (Polymerase Chain Reaction) was the first method of DNA amplification described in literature (Saiki RK et al., 1985). It can be defined as an *in vitro* amplification reaction of a specific part of DNA (target sequence) by a thermostable DNA polymerase.

This technique was shown to be a valid and versatile molecular biology instrument: its' application contributed to a more efficient study of new genes and their expression and it brought to a revolution in the laboratory diagnostic and forensic medicine field.

The REAL TIME PCR technology represents an advancement of the basic PCR technique; it allows to measure the number of DNA molecules amplified during the exponential amplification phase. The amplicon monitoring is essentially based on the labeling of the primers and probes, or of the amplicons themselves, with fluorescent molecules. In the first case, the *Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)* among the two fluorophores, or other mechanisms which lead to fluorescence emission and involve a fluorophore and a non-fluorescent quencher (molecular beacon, scorpion primer, etc) are used.

The mechanism that determines the fluorescence emission is based on the presence of a *quencher* molecule, located in proximity of a *reporter* molecule, that blocks the fluorescence emission by the reporter. When the quencher is separated from the reporter, the latter emits fluorescence.

Main advantages of the Real time PCR technique, compared to the conventional amplification techniques, are for example the possibility to execute a semi-automated analysis in which the time needed for the visualization of the amplicons is eliminated; and the absence of the post-amplification sample manipulation that reduces the possible contamination phenomena.

9 PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The RS-MTHFR A1298C kit allows to define the genotype of a subject in the position 1298 of the gene encoding the human N⁵,N¹⁰-methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase.

The wild type (WT) and mutant (MUT) alleles are distinguished due to the use of fluorogenic, sequence-specific probes. Each allele-specific primer is marked with a different fluorescent dye (FAM for the WT allele and JOE for MUT allele); this makes possible to discriminate the patient genotype in a single reaction.

The kit also provides positive controls relative to each of the three possible genotypes (WT, HET, MUT): these controls contain DNA fragments that correspond to the genic region of interest, and as such, these controls are not dangerous for the user.

The correct amplification of the positive controls is a guarantee of the good amplification functioning.

10 COLLECTION, MANIPULATION AND PRE-TREATMENT OF THE SAMPLES

10.1 *Peripheral blood*

Sample collection should follow all the usual sterility precautions.

Blood must be treated with EDTA. Other anticoagulation agents, as heparin, are strong inhibitors of TAQ polymerase and so they could alter the efficiency of the amplification reaction.

Fresh blood can be stored at +2/+8°C if processed in a short time; If DNA extraction is not performed immediately, the sample must be frozen.

11 PROTOCOL

11.1 *DNA Extraction*

For the DNA extraction from peripheral blood, AB ANALITICA recommends the use of the QIAamp DNA Blood Mini Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany).

For use, follow the user manual of the manufacturer.

During validation of this kit, DNA samples obtained with the following automatic/semiautomatic extraction methods were used: *QIAGEN EZ 1* (QIAGEN), *Roche MagNA Pure* (Roche), *Maxwell[®] 16 System* (Promega) and *QuickGene* (Fuji Film).

For any further information or explanations regarding the extraction method contact AB ANALITICA's technical support at: laboratorio@abanalitica.it, fax +39 049-8709510, or tel. +39 049-761698.

Please notice that the positive controls included in the kit are appropriate for amplification of 20-50 ng of DNA/reaction. However, the assay was shown capable of identifying the correct genotype also in a much broader concentration range (2-250 ng DNA/reaction).

11.2 DNA Amplification

Thaw all the reagents at room temperature prior to preparing the amplification mix (DNA and positive controls also). **Assure that the 2X ED Real Time Mix, Oligomix and positive controls do not undergo more than two freeze/thaw cycles.**

It is recommended to use the thaw time to program the instrument.

11.2.1 Instrument programming

The instructions provided herein refer to the *ABI7300 SDS software version 1.2.3*. For other details please consult the user manual of the instrument.

1. Turn the pc on.
2. Activate the instrument and the *SDS* software.

11.2.1.1 Creation of the Pre-Read Document

1. Select *File > New*
2. Select *Allelic Discrimination* under the *Assay* scroll menu
3. Name the plate (ie.: *Pre-Read_MTHFR1298_yymmdd*) in the *Plate Name* field
4. Click *Next*

New Document Wizard

Define Document
Select the assay, container, and template for the document, and enter the operator name and comments.

Assay: Allelic Discrimination

Container: 96-Well Clear

Template: Blank Document

Browse ...

Operator: realtimeuser

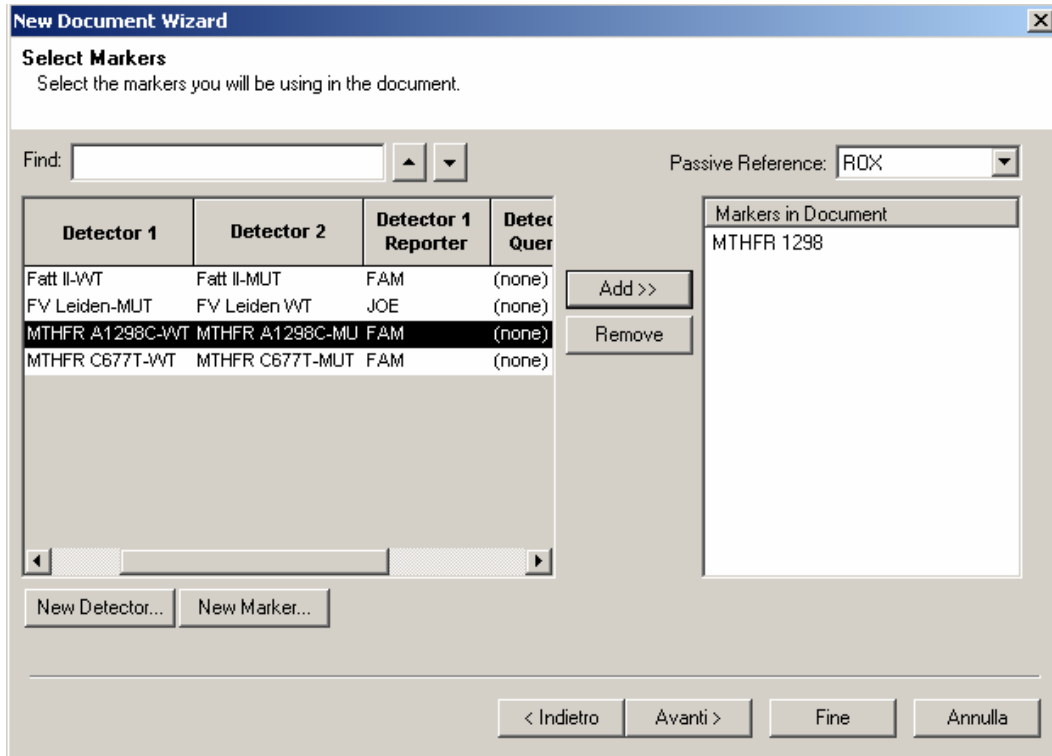
Comments: SDS v1.2

Default Plate Name: Pre-Read_MTHFR1298_aammgd

< Indietro Avanti > Fine Annulla

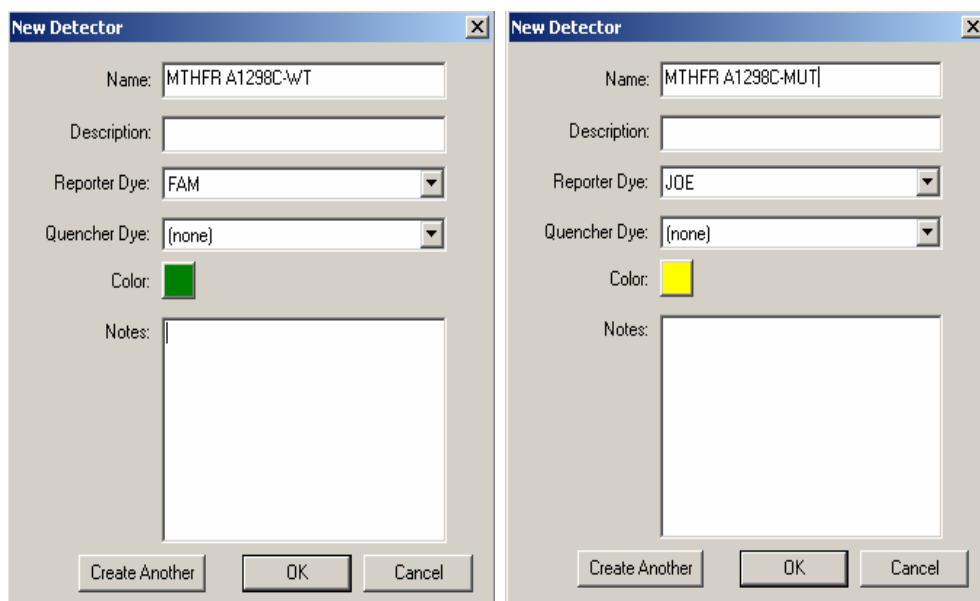
5. Select the *marker* (the *marker* is the set of the two *detectors* that discriminate different allelic variants of the same locus):

- ✓ In case in which the *marker* is already present in the list, select the marker of interest and click *Add*.



- ✓ In case in which the *marker* is not on the list
 - Select *New Detector* and insert the name and the following characteristics for each *detector*

Name	Reporter Dye	Quencher Dye	Color
MTHFR A1298C-WT	FAM	none	Your choice
MTHFR A1298C-MUT	JOE	none	Your choice



- Click *New Marker*
- Name the *marker* in the *New Marker Name* field (es MTHFR A1296C)
- Flag the two new *detectors* and click OK
- Select the newly created *marker*

6. Click Add, then *End*

At this point, the instrument will connect to the pc and a plate scheme will appear on the screen (*Setup* level)

7. Click rapidly two times anywhere on the plate: the *Well Inspector* window will appear
8. Put in *Use the Marker* and define the *Task* (*Unknown* for the samples and the controls and NTC for the negative control) and the *Sample Name* of every position to be loaded on the plate
9. Make sure that the *Passive reference* option is set to ROX
10. Go from the *Setup* level to the *Instrument* level.
11. Modify the *Sample Volume* to 25 μ L and check that the preset temperature is the *default* (60°C) one
12. Save the file.

11.2.1.2 Creation of the Absolute Quantification Document

1. Select File > New
2. Select *Absolute Quantification* in the *Assay* scroll menu
3. Name the plate (i.e.: Amplification_MTHFR1298_yymmdd) in the *Plate Name* field, then click *End*

At this point, the instrument will connect to the pc and a plate scheme will appear on the screen (*Setup* level)

4. Click rapidly two times anywhere on the plate: the *Well Inspector* window will appear
5. Activate the *Add detector* button, select the two *detector* created previously and click *Add To Plate Document*
6. Create the same *layout* as in the *Pre-Read* plate
7. Make sure that the *Passive reference* option is set to ROX
8. Go from the *Setup* level to the *Instrument* level.
9. Set the following thermal profile:

	Cycle	Repeats	Step	Time	(°C)
Tag activation	1	1	1	06:00 [#]	95.0
Amplification cycles	2	50	1	00:10	95.0
			2*	00:45	60.0

#Notice: the 2X ED Real Time Mix requires an initial activation of 6 minutes. If the RS-FATTORE V Leiden, RS-FATTORE II G20210A or RS-MTHFR C677T products are used in the same analysis, adjust the initial activation time for these products from 3 to 6 minutes.

* Fluorescence collection step

10. Set the *Sample Volume* to 25 µL
11. Save the file.

11.2.2 Amplification Mix preparation

Once thawed, mix the reagents by inverting the tubes several times (do not vortex), then centrifuge briefly.

Prepare the reaction mix rapidly at room temperature or work on ice or on the cooling block. Take care to work shaded from the direct light as much as possible.

Prepare a master mix of an appropriate volume, that must be sufficient for all the samples to be processed, for the positive controls* and the negative control (when calculating the volume, consider an excess of at least one reaction volume), as follows.

NB: ROX™ is an inert dye whose fluorescence does not change during the amplification reaction; on instruments that allow its use (*Applied Biosystems, Stratagene*, etc) it allows to normalize the well-to-well differences due to artefacts such as pipetting errors or instrument limitations. In case in which different instruments are to be used, do not add ROX to the reaction mix and adjust the reaction volume appropriately with sterile water.

Reagent	1 Rx
2X ED RealTime Mix	12,5 µL
Oligo Mix MTHFR A1298C	1 µL
ROX	0,5 µL
H ₂ O	10 µL
Total Volume	24 µL

Mix by inverting the tube in which the mix was prepared several times. Then centrifuge briefly.

Pipette 24 µL of the mix on the bottom of each well on the plate.

Add 1 µL of extracted DNA to each well, or 1µL of each of the three positive control DNAs, in the correct positions on the plate

Please notice that the positive controls included in the kit are appropriate for amplification of 20-50 ng of DNA/reaction. However, the assay was shown capable of identifying the correct genotype also in a much broader concentration range (2-250 ng DNA/reaction).

Always amplify a negative control together with the samples to be analyzed (add sterile water to the amplification mix instead of extracted DNA).

Hermetically seal the plate by using the optic adhesive film and the appropriate sealer.

Make sure there are no air bubbles in the bottom of the wells and/or centrifuge the plate at 4000 rpm for about 1 minute.

11.2.3 Pre-Read run

1. Load the plate on the instrument making sure to position it correctly
2. Open the *Pre-read* document created previously
3. Click *Pre-Read* at the *Instrument* level
4. At the end of the run, a window indicating the end of the reaction will appear after a couple of minutes
5. Click OK
6. Close the *file*

11.2.4 Absolute Quantification run

1. Open the *Absolute Quantification* document created previously

2. Click *Start* at the *Instrument* level
3. At the end of the run, a window indicating the end of the reaction will appear after a couple of minutes
4. Click OK
5. Close the *file*

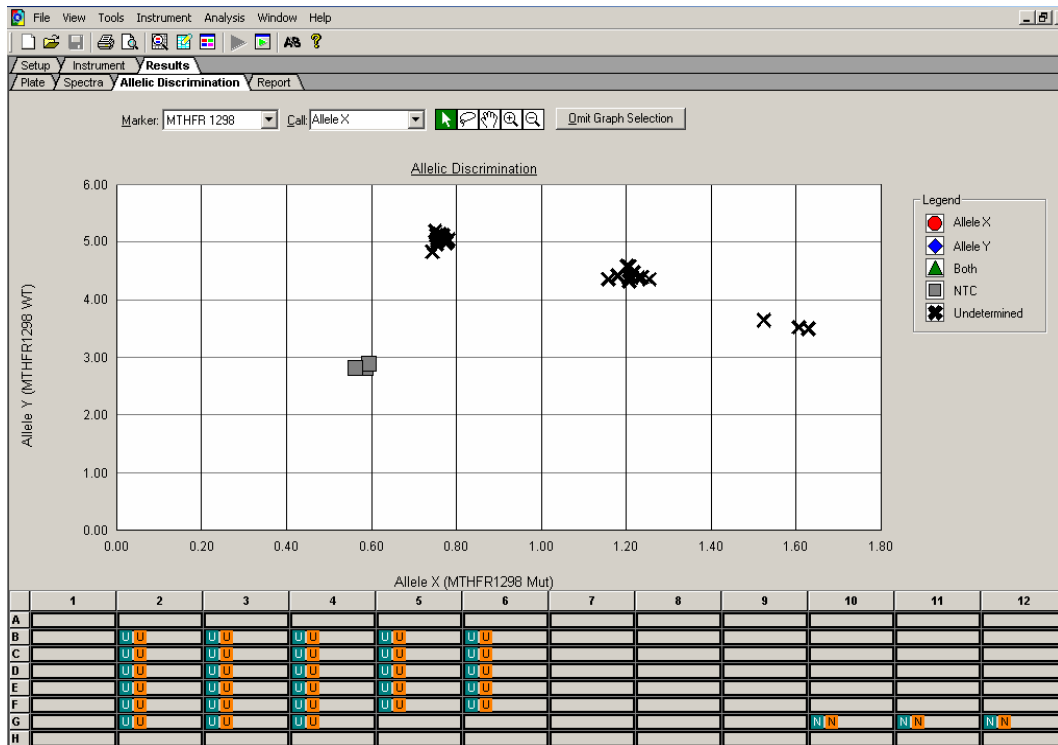
It is recommended to proceed with the *Post-Read Run* immediately in order to obtain correct reading of the *end-point* fluorescence data, obtained during the *Amplification Run*.

11.2.5 *Post-Read run*

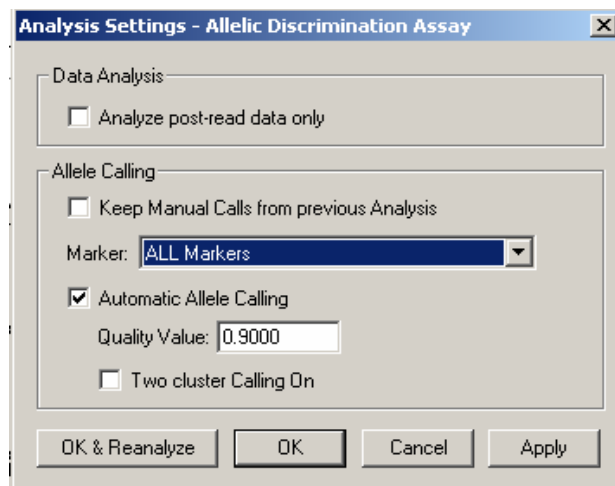
1. Open the *Post-Read* document
2. Name and save the *Post-Read* document (es.: *Post-Read_MTHFR1298_yymmdd*)
3. Click *Post-Read*
4. At the end of the run, a window indicating the end of the reaction will appear after a couple of minutes
5. Click OK

11.3 *Data analysis*





1. In the *Post-Read* document, select the *Results* tab, then select the *Allelic Discrimination* sublevel
2. Select the wells on the plate for which the data will be analyzed (if also another targets were amplified on the same plate, the wells containing other targets must be excluded from the analysis, by activating the option *Omit Well* in the *Analysis* menu); before the analysis, the selected samples will be displayed in the graph with an **X** symbol (undetermined). The positions occupied in the graph derive from the fluorescence data collected during the *Post-Read* phase. The three groups corresponding to three different genotypes should already be evident.

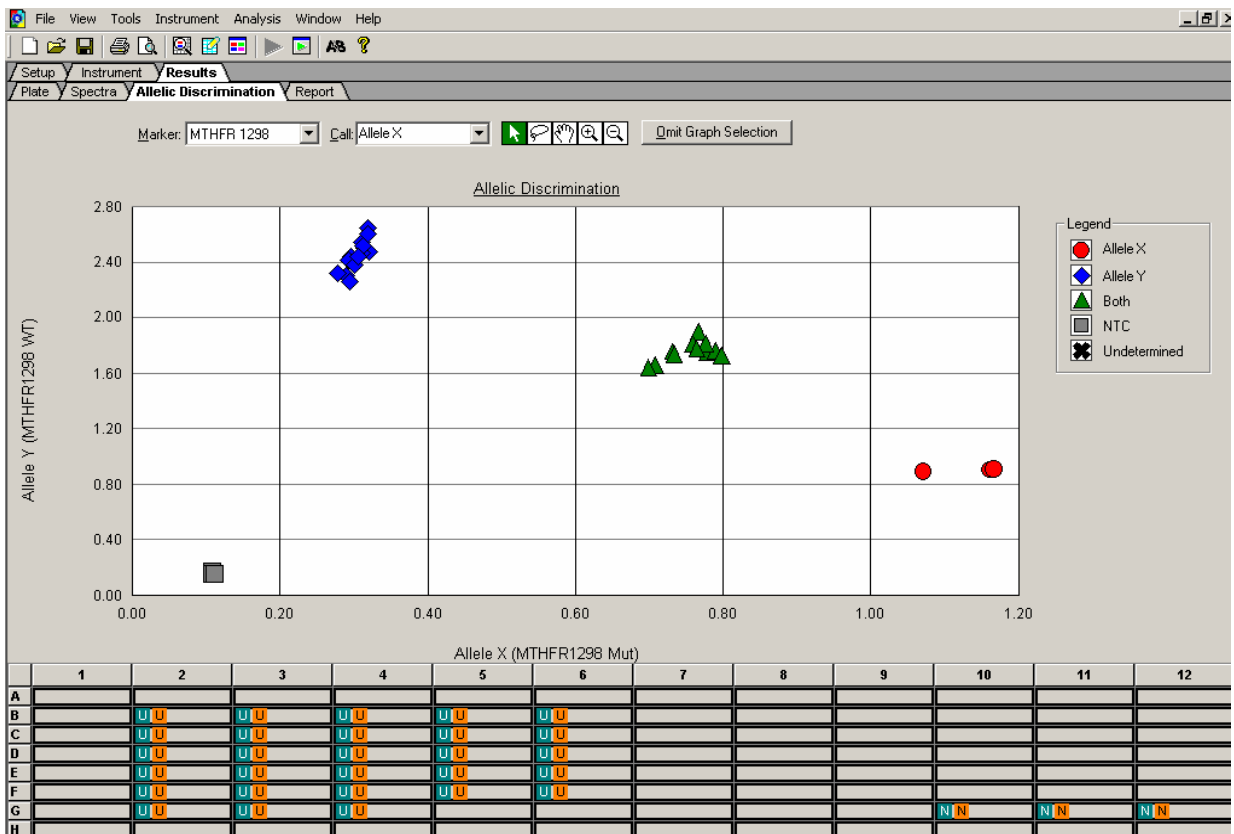


3. Select *Analysis > Analysis settings*
4. For automatic genotype assignment, deselect *Analyze post-read data only* (by doing so, the basal fluorescence acquired during the *Pre-Read* phase will be subtracted from the fluorescence data acquired during the *Post-Read* phase) and *Keep Manual Calls from previous Analysis* option; flag the *Automatic Allele Calling* instead.
5. Click *OK & Reanalyze*




The software will group the samples in the following manner:

GENOTYPE	POSITION	SHAPE AND COLOR
Allele X Homozygotes (XX)	Downer right angle of the graph	
Allele Y Homozygotes (YY)	Upper left angle of the graph	
Heterozygotes (XY)	In the centre of the graph, between the wt and mutant homozygotes	
Negative control (NTC)	Downer left angle of the graph	
undetermined	dispersed	X



By selecting the *Report* menu, the data shall be displayed as a table.

Seldom, it may occur that the software can not assign the genotypes to all or some of analyzed samples automatically. These samples are reported in the graph as **X** (undetermined). In this case, it is possible to assign the genotypes manually (as indicated below), by referring to positions of the samples in the graph and/or by analyzing the curves in the amplification file (*Absolute Quantification*).

1. Activate the button 
2. Use it to identify the undetermined sample or the group of undetermined samples, and assign the correct genotype one by one, by selecting it from the *Call* menu

12 TROUBLESHOOTING

1. Absence of FAM and JOE signal in the samples and positive controls.

The instrument was not programmed correctly:

- Repeat the amplification taking care of the instrument programming; pay particular attention to the thermal profile, the selected fluorophores and the correspondence between the plate protocol and the plate itself.

The amplification mix was not prepared correctly:

- Prepare a new amplification mix making sure to follow the instructions given in the paragraph 11.2.2.

The kit was not stored properly or it was used beyond the expiry date:

- Order a new product and make sure to follow the instructions in paragraph 3 and on the labels

The amplification reaction was inhibited:

- Repeat the analysis using a suitably extracted DNA (paragraph 11.1)
- If an extraction system employing Ethanol wash steps was used, make sure no ethanol residue remains in the DNA sample

2. Low fluorescence intensity

The fluorophores may have decayed

- Store the oligomix as indicated in the instructions in paragraph 3; do not expose to direct light (also during the thawing of the reagents)

An extremely low amount of DNA was amplified

- Do not amplify less than 2-5 ng of DNA. The optimum amount of DNA to be used for this amplification is 20-50 ng/reaction.

The 2X AD Real Time Mix and Oligomix reagents were thawed for more than two times

- Check if the reagents were thawed for more than two times, and repeat the experiment with another aliquot of these reagents

3. Low fluorescence intensity and delayed Ct

The 2X ED Real Time Mix was not activated correctly

- the 2X ED Real Time Mix requires an initial activation of 6 minutes. If the RS-FATTORE V Leiden, RS-FATTORE II G20210A or RS-MTHFR C677T products are used in the same analysis, adjust the initial activation time for these products from 3 to 6 minutes, NOT *viceversa*.

4. Variable fluorescence intensity from sample to sample

The reaction mix was not mixed well prior to aliquoting

- Once prepared, mix the amplification mix thoroughly by inverting the tube in which it was prepared several times

Some wells contained air bubbles at the bottom

- Once you aliquot the mix, check the bottom of the plate to make sure no air bubbles are present at the bottom of the wells and/or centrifuge the plate at 4000 rpm for about 1 minute.

There is a great difference in concentration among the amplified DNA samples

- Use the samples extracted with validated extraction methods and/or determine the DNA concentration before amplification in order to render them more homogeneous

5. The automatic call of the genotypes does not allow the genotype assignment in all/some samples, also when considering the *Pre-Read* data

There was an error in *Pre-Read* process

- Try to use the *Post-Read* data only for the automatic call, by flagging the *Post-Read data only* option in the *Analysis Setting - Allelic Discrimination Assay* window
- If the same result is obtained, proceed with manual genotype assignment (paragraph 11.3) or repeat the analysis of the undetermined samples

For any further problems contact AB ANALITICA's technical support at: laboratorio@abanalitica.it, fax (+39) 049-8709510, or tel. (+39) 049-761698).

13 DEVICE LIMITATIONS

The kit can have reduced performances if:

- The clinical sample is not suitable for this analysis (improper storage after extraction; use of heparin as anticoagulant);
- the histological sample is not suitable for this analysis (use of alternative fixatives instead of neutral formalin buffer, not correct sample storage);
- The kit was not stored at recommended temperature.

14 DEVICE PERFORMANCES

14.1 Analytical specificity

The specificity of the RS-MTHFR A1298C code RQ-S31 kit, is guaranteed by an accurate and specific selection of sequence-specific primers and fluorogenic probes, designed to amplify only the gene sequence of interest, and also by the use of the stringent amplification conditions.

The alignment of *primers* and *probes* in the most important databanks shows the absence of non-specific pairing.

14.2 Diagnostic sensitivity and specificity

A significant number of samples, previously genotyped for the 1296 position of the MTHFR gene with another CE-IVD or other validated methods, were tested.

The RS-MTHFR A1298C device assigned the correct genotype to all of the analyzed samples (100% diagnostic sensitivity and specificity).

14.3 Analytical sensitivity

Serial dilutions of human genomic DNA WT, homozygous mutant and heterozygous for MTHFR 1298 mutation, were amplified in order to determine the analytical sensitivity. Even the smallest amount tested (2 ng of DNA) was shown to be high enough for genotype determination by this device.

In order to define the maximum amplifiable amount of DNA, experiments were performed, amplifying up to 250 ng of DNA per reaction: even in these conditions, the assay was shown to be fully functioning.

14.4 Accuracy

This value was calculated by the number of correct amplifications over the total number of executed amplifications. The RS-MTHFR A1298C has an accuracy of 100%.

15 REFERENCES

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16 RELATED PRODUCTS

REALQUALITY RS-FATTORE II G20210A: Kit for the identification and genotyping of G20210A mutation in gene encoding the human coagulation Factor II by means of real-time PCR.

Contains all the reagents needed for the Real time amplification.

This product is in accordance with [98/79/CE Directive regarding the *In Vitro* medical diagnostic devices \(CE mark\)](#).

Code	Product	PKG
RQ-S27-48A	RS-FATTORE II G20210A	48 reactions
RQ-S27-96A	RS-FATTORE II G20210A	96 reactions

REALQUALITY RS-FATTORE V Leiden: Kit for identification and genotyping of G1691A (Leiden) mutation in gene coding for human coagulation Factor V, by *Real time PCR* amplification.

Contains all the reagents needed for the Real time amplification.

This product is in accordance with [98/79/CE Directive regarding the *In Vitro* medical diagnostic devices \(CE mark\)](#).

Code	Product	PKG
RQ-S25-48A	RS-FATTORE V Leiden	48 reactions
RQ-S25-96A	RS-FATTORE V Leiden	96 reactions

REALQUALITY RS-MTHFR C677T: Kit for the identification and genotyping of C677T mutation in gene encoding the human Methylene-tetrahydrofolate Reductase. by means of real-time PCR.

Contains all the reagents needed for the Real time amplification.

This product is in accordance with [98/79/CE Directive regarding the *In Vitro* medical diagnostic devices \(CE mark\)](#).

Code	Product	PKG
RQ-S29-48A	RS-MTHFR C677T	48 reactions
RQ-S29-96A	RS-MTHFR C677T	96 reactions

NOTE: The product was validated on ABI 7300 (*Applied Biosystems*). The compatibility with the ABI7000 (*Applied Biosystems*) and SmartCycler (*Cepheid-Celbio*) instruments was confirmed experimentally).

