

Aug 01, 2020

anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike RBD antibody discovery from phage display library

 In 1 collection

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bitykepw

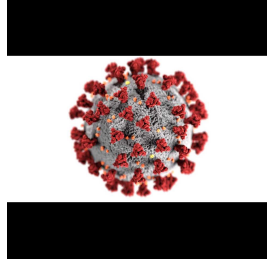
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Coronavirus Method Deve...



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DOI: dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bitykepw

Protocol Citation: Eve Ngho, Bei Wang, Cheng-I Wang 2020. anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike RBD antibody discovery from phage display library. [protocols.io https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bitykepw](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bitykepw)

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Protocol status: Working


We use this protocol in our workspace and it is working.

Created: July 21, 2020

Last Modified: August 02, 2020

Protocol Integer ID: 39512

Safety warnings

 Please refer to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for health and environmental hazards.



Bio-panning Round 1

- 1 Day 1: 1st round bio-panning
 - 1.1 Add 2 μ M mouse IgG₁ (as mouse Fc blocker) to the HX02 human Fab phage library (Humanyx Pte Ltd) and incubate at RT, 30min.
 - 1.2 Wash 60 μ l of DynaBeads M-280 Streptavidin (Invitrogen #11205D) with 1 ml PBS twice.
 - 1.3 Add 100 nM of biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 RBD-mFc protein in casein to the beads and incubate at room temperature for 1 hour.
 - 1.4 Wash beads 4 times with 1 ml PBS.
 - 1.5 Add the pre-mix of phage library and mouse IgG₁ to the washed beads of biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 RBD-mFc.
 - 1.6 Mix for 1 hour at room temperature.
 - 1.7 Wash beads 7 times with 1.5 ml 0.1% PBST.
 - 1.8 Add 250 μ l of 0.1M TEA (Triethylamine) to beads at room temperature for 15 min to elute bound phage.
 - 1.9 Collect eluted phage using magnet and neutralize pH with 125 μ l of 1M Tris pH 8.
 - 1.10 Infect neutralized phage to TG1 cells at 37°C for 45 min and spread phage infected cells onto 150 mm AG agar plates (2xYT agar, 100 μ g/ml Ampicillin, 2% Glucose).
 - 1.11 Incubate agar plates at 37°C overnight.
- 2 Day 2: Harvest and package phages



- 2.1 Harvest the phage infected TG1 cells by scraping up the cells on the agar plates and let it grow to $OD_{600nm} \sim 0.5$ at 37°C, shaking at 250rpm.
- 2.2 Infect the bacteria culture with M13K07 helper phage (NEB #N0315S) at 37°C for 45 min.
- 2.3 Culture the M13K07 helper phage infected cells at 30°C for 7 hrs with shaking at 250 rpm in AKG media (2x YT media, 100 µg/ml Ampicillin, 25 µg/ml Kanamycin).
- 2.4 Centrifuge down the bacterial cell culture and precipitate phage (supernatant) by adding 1/5 volume of PEG (20% PEG 6000, 2.5M NaCl) to the supernatant.
- 2.5 Incubate at 4°C overnight.

3 Day 3: Phage preparation

- 3.1 Centrifuge down the PEG-precipitated phage and discard supernatant.
- 3.2 Resuspend the phage pellet with 500 µl of PBS so that it is ready for use for Bio-panning Round 2.

Bio-panning Round 2

- 4 Day 3: 2nd round bio-panning
- 4.1 Wash 50 µl DynaBeads M-280 Streptavidin (Invitrogen # 11205D) with 1 ml PBS twice.
- 4.2 During the 2nd wash, split the beads into 2 tubes (tube 1 and tube 2).
- 4.3 Add 10nM of biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 RBD-mFc protein in casein to tube 1 beads and incubate at room temperature for 1 hr.
- 4.4 Wash beads 4 times with 1 ml PBS.



- 4.5 Add 2 μM mouse IgG₁ (as mFc blocker) to the Round 1 amplified phage and incubate at RT, 30 min.
- 4.6 Add the pre-mix of phage and mouse IgG₁ to the tube 2 of washed beads from Step 4.2.
- 4.7 Rotate at room temperature for 1 hr.
- 4.8 Collect supernatant (contains phage where streptavidin-binding phage have been removed by bead binding) using magnet and add supernatant to the washed biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 RBD-mFc coated beads from Step 4.4 above.
- 4.9 Rotate at room temperature, 1hr.
- 4.10 Wash beads 15 times with 1.5ml 0.1% PBST.
- 4.11 Add 120 μl of 0.1 M TEA (Triethylamine) to beads at room temperature for 15 min to elute bound phage.
- 4.12 Collect eluted phage using magnet and neutralize pH with 60 μl of 1M Tris pH 8.
- 4.13 Infect neutralized phage into HB2151 cells at 37°C for 45min and spread phage infected cells onto 90 mm AG agar plates (2xYT agar, 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ Ampicillin, 2% Glucose).
- 4.14 Incubate agar plates at 37°C overnight.
- 5 Day 3: Collect the agar plates and proceed with the Fab screening by ELISA.

Binding avidity ELISA of the Fab supernatant to SARS-CoV-2 spike RBD protein

- 6 Day 3: Pick colonies for Fab production



- 6.1 Pick colonies from [Biopanning Round 2] **Step 5** into 96-well plate 1 containing 100 μ l of AG media (2xYT media, 100 μ g/ml Ampicillin, 2% Glucose) per well.
- 6.2 Shake the plate 1 at 37°C, 300 rpm for 4 hrs.
- 6.3 Prepare a new 96-well plate 2 with 270 μ l/well of 2xYT media + 100 μ g/ml Ampicillin.
- 6.4 Transfer 10 μ l of each bacterial culture from 96-well plate 1 (**Step 6.2**) to respective wells on 96-well plate 2.
- 6.5 Culture the 96-well plate 2 at 37°C, 300 rpm, 1.5 hrs.
- 6.6 When the cultures from the 96-well plate 2 is slightly turbid, add 40 μ l of 8 mM IPTG (prepared in 2xYT + 100 μ g/ml Ampicillin) to each well. This will give a final 1 mM IPTG in each well.
- 6.7 Culture the 96-well plate 2 at 30°C overnight, 300 rpm.
- 7 Day 3: Coat ELISA plates.
 - 7.1 Coat 96-well ELISA plate with 70 μ l per well of 5 μ g/ml NeutrAvidin Protein (ThermoFisher scientific, #31000) in carbonate coating buffer (8.4 g/L NaHCO₃, 3.56 g/L Na₂CO₃, pH 9.5).
 - 7.2 Incubate ELISA plate at 4°C overnight.
- 8 Day 4: Continue with binding avidity ELISA using Fab supernatant
 - 8.1 Wash each well of the ELISA plate from **Step 7** with 0.05% PBST (Tween-20), 4 times.
 - 8.2 Block each well with 200 μ l casein (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #A37528) at room temperature for 2 hrs.
 - 8.3 Wash each well of the ELISA plate with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.



- 8.4 Add 70 μ l of 0.2 μ g/ml biotinylated recombinant SARS-CoV-2 spike protein RBD-mFc (Sino Biological, 40592-V05H) in casein per well of the ELISA casein-blocked plate. Incubate at room temperature, 1 hr.
- 8.5 Wash each well of the ELISA plate with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.
- 8.6 Add 20 μ l of 7% milk (in PBS) to each well. This will give a final [milk] to 2% after addition of 50 μ l Fab supernatant culture.
- 8.7 Centrifuge the overnight 96-well plate 2 culture from **Step 6.7** at 4000 rpm, 10min to pellet the IPTG-induced HB2151 cells. Without disturbing the cell pellet, gently transfer 50 μ l of each culture supernatant into respective wells in binding ELISA plate.
- 8.8 Incubate the ELISA plate at room temperature, 2 hrs.
- 8.9 Wash each well of the ELISA plate with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.
- 8.10 Add 70 μ l of (1:3000 in casein) Peroxidase-AffiniPure F(ab')₂ Fragment Goat Anti-Human IgG, F(ab')₂ Fragment Specific (JACKSON ImmunoResearch, #109-036-097) in each well. Incubate the ELISA plate at room temperature, 1 hr.
- 8.11 Wash each well of the ELISA plate with 0.05% PBST, 5 times.
- 8.12 Add 70 μ l of TMB One Component HRP (SurModics, #TMBW-1000-01) per well. Stop each reaction with 70 μ l 1M HCl.
- 8.13 Measure OD_{450nm} and OD_{570nm} (baseline).

Binding avidity ELISA of the IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV spike RBD proteins

- 9 Coat ELISA plates.



- 9.1 Coat ELISA plates with 70 μ l per well of 5 μ g/ml NeutrAvidin Protein (ThermoFisher scientific, #31000) in carbonate coating buffer (8.4 g/L NaHCO₃, 3.56 g/L Na₂CO₃, pH 9.5).
- 9.2 Incubate ELISA plates at 4°C overnight.
- 10 On next day, continue with binding avidity ELISA using IgG antibodies
- 10.1 Wash each well of the ELISA plates from **Step 9** with 0.05% PBST (Tween-20), 4 times.
- 10.2 Block each well with 200 μ l casein (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #A37528) at room temperature for 2 hrs.
- 10.3 Wash each well of the ELISA plates with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.
- 10.4 Add 70 μ l of 0.2 μ g/ml biotinylated recombinant SARS-CoV-2 spike protein RBD-mFc (Sino Biological, 40592-V05H) or biotinylated recombinant SARS-CoV spike protein RBD-His (Sino Biological, 40150-V08B2) in casein into respective wells. Incubate at room temperature, 1 hr.
- 10.5 Wash each well of the ELISA plate with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.
- 10.6 Add 70 μ l per well of each concentration of different clones of anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike RBD IgGs (3-fold serial dilution) into respective wells. Incubate at room temperature, 1 hr.
- 10.7 Wash each well of the ELISA plate with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.
- 10.8 Add 70 μ l of (1:3000 in casein) Peroxidase-conjugated AffiniPure F(ab')₂ Fragment Goat Anti-Human IgG, Fc γ Fragment Specific (JACKSON ImmunoResearch, #109-036-098) to each well. Incubate at room temperature, 1 hr.
- 10.9 Wash each well of the ELISA plates with 0.05% PBST, 5 times.
- 10.10 Add 70 μ l TMB One Component HRP (SurModics, #TMBW-1000-01) per well. Stop each reaction with 70 μ l 1M HCl.



10.11 Measure OD_{450nm} and OD_{570nm} (baseline).

Competition ELISA of the anti-SARS-CoV2 spike RBD IgG antibodies

11 Coat ELISA plates.

11.1 Coat ELISA plates with 70 µl per well of 1 µg/ml ACE2_hFc protein in carbonate coating buffer (8.4 g/L NaHCO₃, 3.56 g/L Na₂CO₃, pH 9.5).

11.2 Incubate ELISA plates at 4°C overnight.

12 On next day, continue with the competition ELISA using IgG antibodies.

12.1 Wash each well of the ELISA plates from **Step 11** with 0.05% PBST (Tween-20), 4 times.

12.2 Block each well with 200 µl casein (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #A37528) at room temperature for 2 hrs.

12.3 During the 2 hours incubation time of blocking, in a separate 96-well plate, add final concentration of 0.5 nM biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 spike protein RBD-mFc with different concentrations of different anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike RBD IgG antibodies (3-fold serial dilution) in a total mixture of 100 µl per well. Incubate the plate at room temperature, 1 hr.

12.4 Wash the casein blocked ELISA plates from **Step 12.2** with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.

12.5 Add the pre-incubated mixture from **Step 12.3** at 100 µl/well into respective wells of the ELISA plates. Incubate at room temperature, 1 hr.

12.6 Wash each well of the ELISA plates with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.

12.7 Add 70 µl (1:3000 in casein) per well of streptavidin-HRP (Biolegend, #405210) to each well of the ELISA plates. Incubate at room temperature, 1 hr.



- 12.8 Wash each well of the ELISA plates with 0.05% PBST, 4 times.
- 12.9 Add 70 μ l TMB One Component HRP (SurModics, #TMBW-1000-01) per well. Stop each reaction with 70 μ l 1M HCl.
- 12.10 Measure OD_{450nm} and OD_{570nm} (baseline).