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EIKEN Launches “ Loopamp® SARS-CoV detection kit ”

EIKEN CHEMICAL CO., LTD., its head office at Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is going to launch its product “Loopamp® SARS-CoV detection kit” on December 24, following the manufacturing approval by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare obtained today. In addition to “Loopamp® SARS-CoV detection kit”, EIKEN is going to market “Loopamp® Realtime Turbidimeter LA-320C” and “Loopamp® Realtime Turbidimeter RT-160C”, which are the exclusive use for the “LAMP” method.

This product utilizing “LAMP” method, a novel DNA amplification technology developed by EIKEN, is simple, rapid, specific and cost-effective. It has also high sensitivity for SARS corona virus, which requires only 10 copies of the gene to detect the virus. In addition, it takes only about one hour from the extraction of RNA and amplification to the detection of the virus.

In order to establish the efficacy with clinical specimens diagnosed as SARS based on the WHO diagnostic criteria, EIKEN conducted clinical research at foreign laboratories in Hong Kong and Vietnam, in cooperation with Nagasaki Univ., Institute of Tropical Medicine, National Institute of Infections Diseases, and WHO research network. As a result, this kit showed higher sensitivity for SARS corona virus compared with existing “RT-PCR” method. Moreover, it has high specificity and showed no false positive caused by influenza or other corona viruses which are concerned to widespread in the same season.

The product is expected to prevent further expansion of SARS by providing an aid in diagnosis for the suspected cases of SARS at the borders of non-infected areas.

This is the first medical product using “LAMP” method. EIKEN will be strongly committed to the further business related to “LAMP”. It will aim to apply the “LAMP” method to such fields as medicine, agriculture, food processing, animal husbandry, environmental protection and so on. It will also contribute to the expansion of the genetic testing market.

EIKEN CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

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[Information]

[Loopamp® SARS-CoV detection kit]

price : 120,000 yen (48 tests/1 kit)

store : keep frozen at - 20



[Loopamp® Realtime Turbidimeter LA-320C]

price : 2,000,000 yen

specification : 32 samples coincidence measurement

with Windows® PC



[Loopamp® Realtime Turbidimeter RT-160C]

price : 1,300,000 yen

specification : 16 samples coincidence measurement



["LAMP" method]

"LAMP", a novel DNA amplification method, developed by EIKEN CHEMICAL Co., Ltd. in 1998 has the potential to replace PCR because of its simplicity, rapidity, specificity and cost-effectiveness.

"LAMP" which stands for Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification is characterized by its use of four different primers specifically designed to recognize six distinct regions on the target gene and its process being performed at a constant temperature using a strand displacement reaction. Amplification and detection of genes can be completed in a single step, by incubating the mixture of gene sample, primers, DNA polymerase with strand displacement activity and substrates at a constant temperature (in the region of 60-65 °C). RNA amplification requires the same reagents for DNA amplification, with the addition of reverse transcriptase. It provides high amplification efficiency, with DNA being amplified 10^9 - 10^{10} times in 15-60 minutes. Because of its high specificity, the presence of the target gene sequence can easily be detected just by judging presence of amplified products.

『Loopamp®』 is a brand name of product using "LAMP" method.

For further information on the "LAMP" method, please visit EIKEN GENOME SITE
(<http://loopamp.eiken.co.jp/e/index.htm>)