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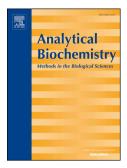
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Selection of DNA Aptamers to Streptococcus pneumonia and fabrication of graphene oxide based

fluorescent assay

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Abstract

Pneumococci are one of the leading causes of infections throughout the world causing problems mainly in

children, elderly, and immune-deficient patients. In recent years antibiotic resistant Streptococcus

pneumoniae strains become widespread. Therefore simple, rapid, and specific detection methods are

needed for public health. In this study, DNA aptamer probes against S. pneumoniae were selected using

bacterial Systematic Evolution of Ligands by Exponential Enrichment (SELEX) and these probes were

integrated in to a graphene oxide (GO) based fluorescent assay. Among the tested aptamers three

candidates Lyd-1, Lyd-2 and Lyd-3 showed K_d values of 844.7±123.6, 1984.8±347.5, and 661.8±111.3

nM, respectively. These candidates showed binding affinity to S. pneumoniae and no specific binding to

the bacteria used in negative selection. The binding of aptamers were showed by fluorescence

spectroscopy and flow cytometry. GO based label-free fluorescent assay developed using Lyd-3 aptamer

had a unique detection limit of 15 cfu.mL⁻¹. Thus we believe that the selected aptamers and fabricated GO

based assay has potential to be used in the detection of S. pneumoniae. Selected aptamers selectively bind

to S. pneumonia with anti-pneumococcal potential and holds great potential to be used as molecular

probes for identifying and targeting.

Key words: Aptamer; *pneumoniae*; SELEX; pathogen biosensor; biofilm

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