Comparison of Measurable Residual Disease in Pediatric B-Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Using Multiparametric Flow Cytometry and Next-Generation Sequencing

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¹Department of Laboratory Medicine, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seongnam, Korea; ²Department of Laboratory Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea Validation of in-house multiparametric flow cytometric-measurable residual disease (MFC-MRD) assay

The analytical performance was assessed by evaluating accuracy, precision, linearity, limit of detection (LOD) and lower limit of quantitation (LLOQ) based on Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute H62 guideline with modification [1]. Accuracy was validated by comparison against validated molecular results in 20 samples. The MRD results should reach \geq 90% concordance for qualitative results. For precision, low-level samples were tested at least twice and coefficient of variation (CV) should be within 35%. For linearity, leukemic samples and normal samples were mixed and created at least 3 levels and the correlation coefficient (R²) > 0.95. The limit of blank (LOB) and LOD were assessed using three normal samples. Calculation for LOB and LOD were based on the following formulas: LOB = mean + 1.654SD (standard of deviation), LOD = mean + 3SD. For LLOQ, samples with low level of target population were assessed twice and the MRD events within 35% CV was selected for LLOQ.

1) Accuracy: Comparison with previously validated tests

The MFC-MRD results of 20 samples with BCR::ABL1, ETV6::RUNX1 RT-PCR results were compared. Out of 20 samples, 1 discordant case was present, within the prespecified acceptance criteria (\geq 90% concordance).

ID	MFC- MFC-		Molecular test results		
	MRD	MRD (%)			
1	Negative		<i>BCR-ABL1/ABL1</i> minor % ratio = Not detected		
2	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = 0.002		
3	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected		
4	Positive	0.0013	<i>BCR-ABL1/ABL1</i> minor% ratio = 0.1		
5	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected		
6	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected		
7	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected		

8	Negative		<i>BCR-ABL1/ABL1</i> minor % ratio = Not detected				
9	Negative		<i>BCR-ABL1/ABL1</i> minor % ratio = Not detected				
10	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor% ratio = Not detected				
11	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected				
12	Positive 0.0021		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor% = 0.02				
13	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor% = 0.004				
14	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected				
15	Negative		BCR-ABL1/ABL1 minor % ratio = Not detected				
16	Negative		<i>ETV6-RUNX1/ABL1</i> % ratio = Not detected				
17	Negative		<i>ETV6-RUNX1/ABL1</i> % ratio = Not detected				
18	Positive	0.3400	ETV6-RUNX1/ABL1 % ratio = 5.8				
19	Positive	0.0620	ETV6-RUNX1/ABL1 % ratio = 3.0				
20	Positive	0.0090	ETV6-RUNX1/ABL1 % ratio = 0.7				

2) Precision

Low-level leukemic samples were tested at least twice and the mean event of leukemic cell was 34, SD 5.66 with CV 16.6% and another level sample with mean leukemic events 75 with SD 19.80 and CV of 26.4% within 35% CV.

3) Linearity or reportable range

 R^2 of the simulated samples (leukemic samples mixed with normal sample) at least three levels were >0.95. The linearity was validated from 0.001 to 85.0%.









4) Limit of detection and lower limit of quantitation

Using bone marrow samples from three non-leukemic samples, LOB and LOD were assessed and resulted in LOB of 8 events, 0.000132%, and LOD of 10 events, 0.000169%. LLOQ was assigned as a level at <35% CV. Since the level of MRD events with 25 did not pass CV criteria, MRD events with mean 75, and 80.5 passed the criteria. The MRD events with highest value was 100, thus 100 events were set as the LLOQ value.

sample 1	Total nucleated cell events	3984652	3906414	Mean	SD	CV	CV <35%
	MRD event	12	38	25	18.38478	73.53911	Not passed
	MRD %	0.000301	0.000973				
sample 2	Total nucleated cell events	4301160	4287261				
	MRD event	61	89	75	19.79899	26.39865	ОК
	MRD%	0.001418	0.002076				
sample 3	Total nucleated cell events	4314412	4309081				
	MRD event	61	100	80.5	27.57716	34.25735	OK
	MRD%	0.001414	0.002321				

References

 Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Validation of Assays performed by flow cytometry. 1st ed. CLSI guideline H62. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, USA, 2021.

Case	Patient	MFC-MRD	MFC-MRD (%)	NGS-MRD	NGS-MRD (%)	Major MRD clone	Other molecular studies
1	1	Negative		Positive	0.0050	V3-J4	
2	2	Negative		Positive	0.0034	V4-J3	
3	3	Negative		Positive	0.0022	V1-J6	
4	4	Negative		Positive	0.0023	V3-J4	
5	5	Negative		Positive	0.0037	V3-J4	
6	6	Negative		Positive	0.0263	V4-J5	
7	7	Negative		Positive	0.0229	V3-J2	
8	8	Negative		Positive	0.0012	V1-J2	
9	9	Negative		Positive	0.5250	V3-none	BCR::ABL1 detected
10	10	Negative		Positive	0.0005	V1-J4	
11	11	Negative		Positive	0.0054	V3-J6	BCR::ABL1 not detected
12	12	Negative		Positive	0.0029	V4-J4	
13	13	Negative		Positive	0.0052	V3-J6	
14	13	Negative		Positive	0.0074	V3-J6	
15	13	Negative		Positive	0.0080	V3-J6	
16	14	Negative		Positive	0.0041	V2D-DEL	ETV6::RUNX1 Not detected
17	14	Negative		Positive	0.0018	V2D-DEL	ETV6::RUNX1 Not detected
18	14	Negative		Positive	0.0026	V2D-DEL	ETV6::RUNX1 Not detected
19	15	Negative		Positive	0.0027	V1-J4	
20	16	Negative		Positive	0.0122	V3-J4	
21	17	Negative		Positive	0.0009	V2-IGKDEL	BCR::ABL1 detected
22	17	Negative		Positive	0.0001	V2-IGKDEL	BCR::ABL1 not detected
23	18	Negative		Positive	0.0057	V6-J4	BCR::ABL1 detected
24	19	Negative		Positive	0.0035	V1-J4	ETV6::RUNX1 Not detected
25	20	Negative		Positive	0.0001	V4_39-J6	BCR::ABL1 detected

Supplementary Table 1. Details of the discordant cases.

26	21	Positive	0.0025	Negative	V1-J5	
27	22	Positive	0.0026	Negative	V1-J4	
28	23	Positive	0.0089	Negative	V3-J6	BCR::ABL1 detected