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Chips for viral pathogens

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Easy and reliable viral detection is important for clinical diagnosis, agricultural analysis and monitoring the threat of bioterrorism. In the Early Edition of the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), Wang *et al.* describe a [genomic strategy](#) for efficient viral detection using microarrays. In an attempt to overcome the limitations imposed by conventional PCR-based detection, they designed a long oligonucleotide (70-mer) [DNA microarray](#) that can simultaneously detect hundreds of viruses. A random PCR amplification step avoided the need for sequence-specific or degenerate oligonucleotide primers. The microarray was tested with nasal lavage fluid from individuals with respiratory tract infection to demonstrate its efficacy in a clinical setting.

References

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