

Spectral Karyotyping

Spectral karyotyping (SKY) is a molecular cytogenetic method that marks all pairs of human chromosomes in one hybridization.

Marking methodology

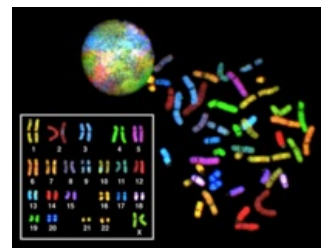
The **Spectral Karyotyping** (SKY) method is similar to M-FISH method. The SKY method uses a mixture of differently labeled dye probes to label chromosomes. Each probe hybridizes with a different chromosome according to its complementarity. Based on this, we can distinguish all 24 human chromosomes. Different probes are distinguished by the use of **different fluorochromes** and their **combinations**. For example, the probe on the 1st chromosome is labeled with fluorochrome A, the probe on the 2nd chromosome is labeled with fluorochrome B, the probe on the 3rd chromosome is labeled with a combination of fluorochromes A+B.

- the total number of combinations **k** is given by the formula: **$k = 2^n - 1$** where n is the number of dyes used.

If we substitute $n = 5$, we find that using 5 fluorochromes we get enough combinations to label all 24 human chromosomes.

Signal evaluation

A fluorescence microscope equipped with a **Sagnac interferometer** is used to detect individual signals. The image created by the interferometer is then captured by a camera, transferred to a computer, and special software then distinguishes all the color shades of the chromosomes.



Sky spectral karyotype

Links

Related articles

- Identification of chromosomes

External links

- Spectral Karyotyping (<http://www.itmhrt.ca/students/files/garinietalpdf18.pdf>)

References

- KOČÁREK, Eduard – PÁNEK, Martin – NOVOTNÁ, Drahuše. *Klinická cytogenetika 1. 2.*, upravené vydání edition. Praha : Karolinum, 2010. 134 pp. ISBN 978-80-246-1880-7.