

Description

The pandemic coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). As the first step of the viral replication, the virus attaches to the host cell surface before entering the cell. The viral Spike protein recognizes and attaches to the Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptor found on the surface of type I and II pneumocytes, endothelial cells, and ciliated bronchial epithelial cells. Drugs targeting the interaction between the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 and ACE2 may offer protection against the viral infection. A variant called B.1.1.529 (also known as the Omicron Variant) was identified in South Africa in November of 2021. This variant has a large number of mutations that allow the virus to spread more easily and quickly than other variants.

The Spike (B.1.1.529 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus were produced with SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 Variant Spike (Genbank Accession #QHD43416.1 with B.1.1.529 mutations; see below for details) as the envelope glycoproteins instead of the commonly used VSV-G. These pseudovirions contain the firefly luciferase gene driven by a CMV promoter (Figure 1), therefore, the spike-mediated cell entry can be measured via luciferase activity. The Spike (B.1.1.529 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) pseudotyped lentivirus can be used to measure the activity of neutralizing antibody against SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 variant in a Biosafety Level 2 facility.

As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the Spike Omicron pseudovirus has been validated for use with target cells ACE2-HEK293 (which overexpress ACE2; [BPS Bioscience, #79951](#)).

Spike Mutations in B.1.1.529 Variant:

A67V, Δ69-70, T95I, G142D, Δ143-145, Δ211, L212I, ins214EPE, G339D, S371L, S373P, S375F, K417N, N440K, G446S, S477N, T478K, E484A, Q493R, G496S, Q498R, N501Y, Y505H, T547K, D614G, H655Y, N679K, P681H, N764K, D796Y, N856K, Q954H, N969K, L981F

Applications

Screen for or titrate neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 Spike in ACE2-HEK293 cells

Formulation

The lentiviruses were produced from HEK293T cells. Supplied in medium containing 90% DMEM + 10% FBS.

Titer

The titer will vary with each lot; the exact value is provided with each shipment.

As recommended in our protocol, 5 µl/well in a 96-well plate of any lot of Spike pseudovirus provides a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio to perform inhibition studies in ACE2-HEK293. The amount of virus added to the cells may be scaled down according to the user's need.

Storage



Lentiviruses are shipped with dry ice. For long term storage, it is recommended to store the virus at -80°C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Titers can drop significantly with each freeze-thaw cycle.

Biosafety



None of the HIV genes (gag, pol, rev) will be expressed in the transduced cells, as they are expressed from packaging plasmids lacking the packing signal. Although the pseudotyped lentiviruses are replication-incompetent, they require the use of a Biosafety Level 2 facility. BPS recommends following all local federal, state, and institutional regulations and using all appropriate safety precautions.

Materials Required but Not Supplied



These materials are not supplied with this lentivirus but are necessary to follow the designed protocol. BPS Bioscience media, reagents, and luciferase assay systems are all validated and optimized for use with this lentivirus and are highly recommended for best results.

Name	Ordering Information
Thaw Medium 1 or HEK293 Growth Medium	BPS Bioscience #60187
ACE2-HEK293 Recombinant Cell Line	BPS Bioscience #79951
Spike Neutralizing Antibody (Clone C-A11) (SARS-CoV-2)	BPS Bioscience #101024
Spike Neutralizing Antibody (Clone G10xA1) (SARS-CoV-2)	BPS Bioscience #101326
Spike Neutralizing Antibody (Clone G10xA5) (SARS-CoV-2)	BPS Bioscience #101327
96-well tissue culture treated, white clear-bottom assay plate	Corning #3610
ONE-Step™ Luciferase assay system	BPS Bioscience #60690

Media Formulation

Thaw Medium 1 (BPS Bioscience #60187):

MEM medium supplemented with 10% FBS, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1 mM Na pyruvate, 1% Penicillin/Streptomycin.

Assay Protocol

The following protocol is a general guideline for transducing ACE2-HEK293 cells using SARS-CoV-2 Spike pseudotyped lentivirus (Luciferase reporter). The optimal transduction conditions (e.g. MOI, concentration of polybrene, time of assay development) should be optimized according to the cell type and the assay requirements. In most cell types, the expression of the reporter gene can be measured approximately 48-72 hours after transduction.

1. Day 1:

Harvest ACE2-HEK293 cells from culture and seed cells at a density of 5,000-10,000 cells per well into white, clear-bottom, 96-well microplate in 90 µl of Thaw Medium 1 (BPS Bioscience, #60187) (This step can be done during incubation of antibody and Spike pseudotyped lentivirus).

Prepare serial dilutions of anti-Spike or anti-ACE2 antibody in Thaw Medium 1.

To test anti-Spike antibody, preincubate 5 µl of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike pseudotyped lentivirus with 5 µl of diluted anti-Spike antibody for 30 minutes. After incubation, add 10 µl of virus/antibody mix into each well of the ACE2-HEK293 cells.

To test anti-ACE2 antibody, add 5 µl of diluted anti-ACE2 antibody into each well of ACE2-HEK293 cells and incubate for 30 minutes. At the end of the incubation, add 5 µl of SARS-CoV-2 Spike pseudotyped lentivirus into each well.

For control wells, the same number of ACE2-HEK293 cells were seeded, but no virus or antibody was added.

Incubate the plates at 37°C with 5% CO₂.

2. Day 3:

Approximately 48-66 hours after transduction, prepare the ONE-Step™ Luciferase reagent per recommended protocol. Add 100 µl of ONE-Step™ Luciferase Assay reagent per well. Incubate at room temperature for ~15 to 30 minutes and measure luminescence using a luminometer. The transduction efficacy was determined by measuring the luciferase activity.

Figures and Validation Data

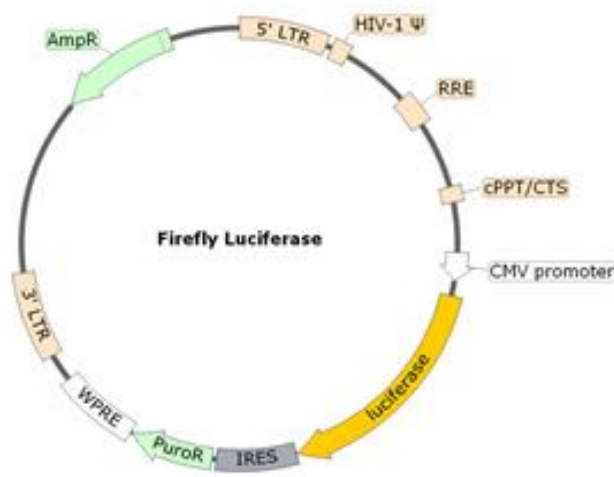


Figure 1. Schematic of the Luciferase Reporter in SARS-CoV-2 Spike Pseudovirion

SPIKE (B.1.1.529, OMICRON VARIANT) (SARS-CoV-2)
PSEUDOTYPED LENTIVIRUS (LUC REPORTER)

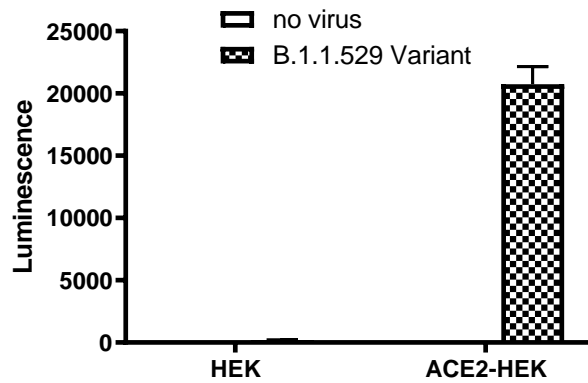


Figure 2. Transduction of ACE2-HEK293 cells

Approximately 8,000 cells/well of ACE2-HEK293 cells or HEK293 parental cells were transduced with 5 μ l/well of Spike (B.1.1.529 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc reporter). After 66 hours of transduction, ONE-Step™ Luciferase reagent (BPS Bioscience, #60690) was added to cells to measure the luciferase activity. The Spike (B.1.1.529 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus transduced ACE2-HEK293 with much greater efficiency compared with HEK293 parental cells, indicating the transduction is dependent upon ACE2 expression.

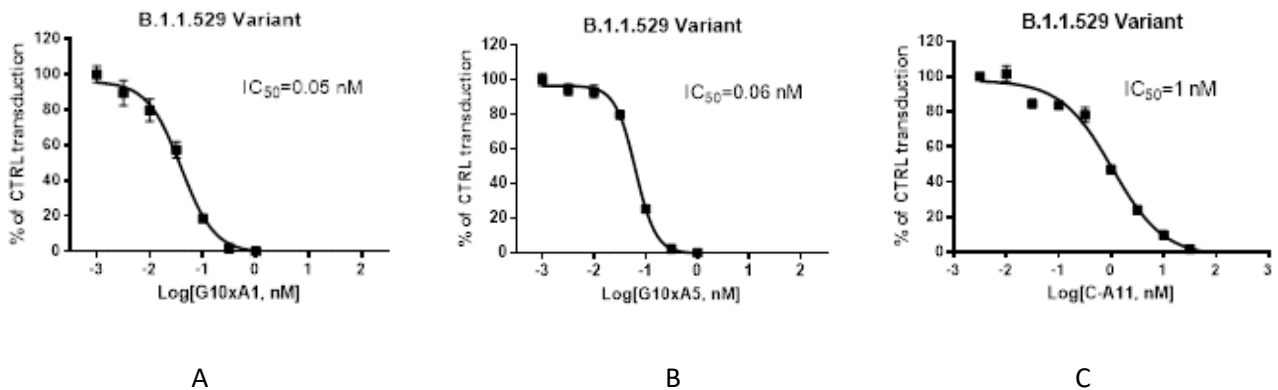


Figure 3. Neutralization assay by anti-SARS-CoV-2 Spike antibody

Approximately 8,000 ACE2-HEK293 cells/well were transduced with 10 μ l/well of Spike (B.1.1.529 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc reporter)/anti-Spike antibody mix. After 66 hours of transduction, ONE-Step™ Luciferase reagent (BPS Bioscience, #60690) was added to cells to measure the luciferase activity. The transduction efficiency was determined by measuring the luciferase activity. The transduction efficiency of the wells with virus only (no antibody treatment) was set as 100%, while the transduction efficiency of the wells without virus was set as 0%. The titration curves for Spike Neutralizing Antibody (SARS-CoV-2) A) Clone G10xA1 (BPS Bioscience, #101326) B) Clone G10xA5 (BPS Bioscience, #101327) and C) Clone C-A11 (BPS Bioscience, #101024) are shown.

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Troubleshooting Guide

Visit bpsbioscience.com/lentivirus-faq for detailed troubleshooting instructions. For all further questions, please email support@bpsbioscience.com.

Related Products

<i>Products</i>	<i>Catalog #</i>	<i>Size</i>
Bald Lentiviral Pseudovirion (Luciferase Reporter)	79943	500 µl x 2
ACE2 - HEK293 Recombinant Cell Line	79951	2 vials
Spike (B.1.617 Variant) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78204	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.617.1 Variant) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78205	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.618 Variant) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78206	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.1.7 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78112	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.429 Variant) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78172	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.351 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78142	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.617.2 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (Luc Reporter)	78215	500 µl x 2
Spike (B.1.1.529 Variant) (SARS-CoV-2) Pseudotyped Lentivirus (eGFP Reporter)	78349	500 µl x 2