



Case study

DNA collected with Oragene®•DNA facilitates multiple skin biology studies at the Institute of Medical Biology (IMB), Singapore

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Study overview

The Institute of Medical Biology (IMB), Singapore is involved in a range of research studies including stem cell development and differentiation, skin biology, cancer and genetic diseases. The institute believes that new knowledge will lead to novel therapeutic strategies for improved quality of life by studying how molecular changes lead to increasing cell specialization and complexity in the context of human tissues and diseases. The institute is involved in a large number of overlapping genetic studies into atopic dermatitis (AD) in children and acne vulgaris (AV). These studies are designed to examine the spectrum of filaggrin-null (*FLG*) mutations in Singaporean Chinese individuals and investigate the association of *FLG* mutations with atopic dermatitis and its clinical markers while comparing the *FLG* landscape between Asia and Europe.

Main challenges

There were two main challenges for these studies. The first was related to the age range of the target population for the AD study (2–21 years old). The researchers wanted to make participation in the study as easy as possible for young people and their parents/guardians. The second challenge was that while the DNA samples would be collected in a clinic, the clinic was not in the same location as the lab so samples would have to withstand storage in the clinic until transport to the lab could be arranged.

Collection methods considered

Oragene®•DNA was the primary method considered for the AD study. As the studies were extended to include adults and acne vulgaris patients, the team decided to offer both saliva collection using the Oragene®•DNA collection kit as well as blood sample collection.



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