

Discriminatory Power of RAPD, PCR-RFLP and Southern Blot Analyses of *ureCD* or *ureA* Gene Probes on *Helicobacter pylori* Isolates

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The genetic diversity of 33 Nigerian *Helicobacter pylori* isolates were studied using RAPD, PCR-RFLP and Southern blot analysis of *ureA* or *ureCD* gene probes. RAPD was able to distinguish the following number of isolates using the primers 3880 : 5'-AAGAGCCCGT-3' (28), 3881 :5'-AACGCGCAAC-3' (33) and OPH8 :5'-GAAACACCCC-3' (25). Southern blot analysis using the *ureCD* probe was also able to distinguish the 12 isolates tested into ten different patterns. The PCR-RFLP technique distinguished all 33 isolates into six types. In conclusion, considering typeability, discriminatory power, and convenience, RAPD with the 3881 primer was considered the most useful technique.