Development of a convenient detection method for *Trichomonas vaginalis* based on loop-mediated isothermal amplification targeting adhesion protein 65

Yuhua Li

Xinxiang Medical University

Shuai Wang

Xinxiang Medical University

Haoran Li

Xinxiang Medical University

Xiaoxiao Song

Xinxiang Medical University

Hao Zhang

Xinxiang Medical University

Yujuan Duan

Xinxiang Medical University

Chengyang Luo

Xinxiang Medical University

Bingli Wang

Xinxiang Medical University

Sifan Ji

Xinxiang Medical University

Qing Xie

Xinxiang Medical University

Zhenchao Zhang (✉ zhangzhenchao525@163.com)

Xinxiang Medical University <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3386-9947>

Research article

Keywords: *Trichomonas vaginalis*, adhesion protein 65, LAMP, Diagnosis, Analytical sensitivity and specificity

Posted Date: April 29th, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.2.24375/v2>

License: This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published at BMC Infectious Diseases on May 1st, 2020.

See the published version at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-020-05048-w>.

Abstract

Background: Trichomoniasis resulting from *Trichomonas vaginalis* (*T. vaginalis*) has been considered as a commonly seen disease with the transmission way of sex. At present, the detection methods of *T. vaginalis* mainly include wet mount microscopy, culture, PCR, immunofluorescence and ELISA. However, all of these detection methods exist shortcomings.

Methods: In this study, a loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay that targeted the species-specific sequence of adhesion protein 65 (AP65) gene had been conducted to detect *T. vaginalis* . The optimum reaction system and conditions were optimized in this rapid detection method.

Results: The results of sensitivity analysis showed that the LAMP assay targeting the AP65 gene was 1000 times more sensitive than the nested PCR targeting the actin gene commonly used for detection of *T. vaginalis* , and the detecting limitation of the former was 10 trichomonad. Moreover, the amplification of the target gene AP65 by LAMP assay exhibited high specificity and the product was exclusively from *T. vaginalis* . The detection technique of LAMP did not exhibit cross-reactivity with the common pathogens of *Trichinella spiralis* , *Toxoplasma gondii* , *Escherichia coli* , *Candida albicans* , *Staphylococcus aureus* , *Haemophilus* .

Conclusions: According to the present study, the LAMP assay with the target of AP65 gene, was suitable for the early diagnosis of *T. vaginalis* infections. Consequently, the LAMP assay was proposed by the current study as a point-of-care examination and an alternative molecular tool which exhibited the potential value in the treatment, control and prevention of trichomoniasis transmission and relevant complication.

Background

Trichomoniasis, which is resulting from *T. vaginalis*, a kind of protozoa with flagella, has been considered as a commonly seen curable disease with the transmission approach of sex and the quantity of affected people all around the world reaches 276.4 million [1, 2]. *T. vaginalis* is parasitized in the vagina and urethra of female, and in the urethra and prostate gland of male [3, 4]. The disease is characterized by asymptomatic status with the pathogen and acute or chronic inflammation [5]. As an extracellular parasite, *T. vaginalis* adheres to the surface of epithelial cells, and the damage to epithelial cells mainly depends on direct contact [6]. The wound of the parasitic site of epithelial cells was caused by the mechanical action of pleomorphic pseudopodia of trophozoite passing through and wrapping and flagellum movement, the digestion of releasing hydrolase, phagocytosis, and complex effects of exfoliative factors, after *T. vaginalis* infected human reproductive urinary tract. Then inflammation of tissues and organs was caused [7, 8].

According to statistics, more than 170 million people were infected with the disease every year in the world, and the infection rate of people around the world was different and had an increasing trend [9]. In the United States, nearly 5 million people were infected with *T. vaginalis* every year, while the infection

rate was 24.3% in Japan, 23.8% in Uganda and 18.0% in South Africa [10]. In China, the infection rate in different places and people fluctuated greatly, ranging from a few percent to dozens of percent [11-13]. Clinical manifestations of the disease in women possibly contain vulvovaginal irritation, lower abdominal pain, dyspareunia, dysuria, malodorous vaginal discharge [2, 14], although the infection is usually asymptomatic in men or in a few cases with the clinical manifestations of dysuria, irritation, urethral discharge [15, 16]. In addition, pregnant women infected with *T. vaginalis* could cause decrease of birth weights, premature rupture of fetal membrane, premature delivery, abortion [17]. Recent studies have shown that *T. vaginalis* infection is also related to cervical cancer in women [18], prostate cancer in men and infertility [18, 19]. The widespread infection and prevalence of *T. vaginalis* increased the risk of human infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and mycoplasma, and *T. vaginalis* has become an important co-factor of HIV infection [20].

The accurate diagnosis of trichomoniasis is an important link in the prevention and treatment of the disease, and it is of great significance to prevent the transmission of the disease. At present, the detection methods of *T. vaginalis* mainly contain wet mount microscopy, PCR, culture, immunofluorescence as well as ELISA [21, 22]. Among the diagnostic methods, the wet mount microscopy is low in cost, but poor in sensitivity [23]. The method of culture *T. vaginalis* is widely recognized as the "gold standard" for diagnosing trichomoniasis [24]. The sensitivity of the diagnostic method is high, but it takes a long time and requires high quality specimens, and microscopic examiner needs to be professional and experienced. PCR detection is highly sensitive and specific, but it relies on the expensive instrument, and the amplified products need to be analyzed by gel electrophoresis [25]. The fluor immunofluorescence and ELISA are sensitive, but the specificity is poor, and the cost of antibody is expensive, and the detection time is long [26]. In 2000, Notomi et al. established LAMP technology, which had the advantages of simplicity, rapidity, high sensitivity, strong specificity and low cost [27]. The technology could amplify a large number of target genes in a short time and isothermal condition. In addition, this technology has been applied to the detection of bacteria, viruses and other pathogens [28].

AP65, as a specific protein of *T. vaginalis*, is a dominant functional protein which is targeted both to the surface and hydrogenosomes, and mediate binding to host cells [29, 30]. Garcia et al indicated that TvAP65 was a prominent adhered protein of trichomonad compared to other adhesin, and the protein was the hydrogenosomal NAD-dependent decarboxylating malic enzyme [31]. In this study, we developed a novel way to detect *T. vaginalis* based on loop-mediated isothermal amplification targeting adhesion protein 65.

Methods

Parasites

In the current work, the strain of *T. vaginalis* was isolated from the vaginal secretions of female patients clinically exhibiting certain trichomoniasis symptoms in the Third Affiliated Hospital of Xinxiang Medical University. The culture of *T. vaginalis* was performed using 10% calf serum, TYM medium added with

antibiotics (100 mg/ml ceftriaxone, 50 mg/ml ciprofloxacin), fungicides (2.5 mg/ml amphotericin B) in a humidified chamber containing 5% CO₂ at 37 °C. The stationary phase parasites (2 × 10⁶ parasites) were collected using a centrifuge and used subsequently in the experiments.

DNA extraction of *T. vaginalis*

PBS (pH 7.2) was used to wash the *T. vaginalis* trophozoite for thrice, which was subsequently isolated by centrifugation under the velocity of 5000 rpm for five minutes and subjected to DNA extraction using commercial kits (OMEGA) in accordance with the instruction.

The DNA sample of *Trichinella spiralis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Haemophilus* were stored in Xinxiang Key Laboratory of Pathogenic Biology.

Detection of actin gene from *T. vaginalis* using nest-PCR

DNA extracts were subjected to species-specific nested PCR for *T. vaginalis* actin (GenBank Accession No. AF237734). Briefly, the primary PCR was performed in a 25 µL reaction mixture consisting of 12.5 µL of 2×PCR Master Mix (YIFEI XUE BIOTECHNOLOGY, Nanjing, China), 1 µL (0.1 µmol/L) each of the primers OUT-F and OUT-R (Table 1), 1.0 µL of DNA template (100-200ng), and 9.5 µL of double distilled water. The procedures and conditions of amplifying DNA included: three minutes at 95 °C for denaturation, 95 °C for 45 s, 55 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 1 min through 35 cycles, and 72 °C for 10 minutes for final extension. Then the second PCR was performed as the primary PCR, and 1.0 µL the products of primary PCR and 1 µL (0.1 µmol/L) each of the primers IN-F and IN-R (Table 1) were used as template and primers in this reaction. Electrophoresis using 1.5% agarose stained by 1.0 µL of Goldview Safe DNA Gel Stain (Yifei Xue Biotechnology, Nanjing, China) in advance was used to resolve the obtained DNA sequences at 100 V and a UV transilluminator (UVP, Upland, CA, USA) was used to visualize the bands.

Designing the primers of LAMP

LAMP Designer version 1.02 (Premier Biosoft, Palo Alto, CA, USA) was used to design the specific LAMP primers of *T. vaginalis* AP65 on the basis of the sequence in NCBI (GenBank Accession No. U35243.1). Four primers including outer primers (AP65-F3, AP65-B3), inner and forward primers (AP65-BIP, AP65-FIP) were chosen (Table 1). BLAST search was used to assess the specificity of these primers towards the sequences of target genes recorded by NCBI (<http://www.blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>).

Detection of AP65 gene of *T. vaginalis* by LAMP assays

The mixed reaction solution with the volume of 20 µL which contained Betaine (5M) 6 µL (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA), 10×Bst DNA polymerase Buffer 2 µL, dNTPs Mixture (10mM each) 2 µL, each of AP65-FIP and AP65-BIP (16µM) 1 µL, each of F3 and B3 (4µM) 1 µL, MgCl₂ (25mM) 3 µL, 8.0 U Bst DNA polymerase (TaKaRa, Dalian, China) 1.5 µL, and ddH₂O 1.5 µL was used to perform the LAMP assays. The temperature condition of the LAMP reaction system was 63 °C for 120 minutes during the incubation

and 80 °C for 10 minutes during the termination in a heating block. The experiment contained negative control (ddH₂O) and positive control (*T. vaginalis* DNA).

The LAMP products were assessed by gel electrophoresis and addition of SYBR Green® (Solarbio, Beijing, China). For gel electrophoresis, 1.5% agarose gel was used to resolve 5.0 µL of the product of LAMP, as mentioned above, and the positive result was indicated by the pattern of bands like ladders. For addition of SYBR Green®, 2.0 µL of 1000× SYBR Green® was added to the remainder 15 µL of LAMP products, and the positive result was revealed by dull to fluorescent signal or change of colors from orange to green under visible light.

Analytical sensitivity of detection of AP65 gene of *T. vaginalis* by LAMP assay

The DNA with the initial concentration of 90 ng/µL was diluted by 10¹ -10¹² times and kept for use. The trophozoites of *T. vaginalis* were diluted to 10³, 10², 10¹ and 1 respectively, and the DNA of these diluted samples was extracted. Then, the prepared DNA samples were amplified by nested PCR and LAMP respectively, as described above. All the experiments were conducted in triplicate independently.

Analytical specificity of detection of AP65 gene of *T. vaginalis* by LAMP assay

The examination of the analytical specificity of AP65 gene of *T. vaginalis* by LAMP assay was conducted for determining the cross-reactive degree among DNA extraction samples from various trichomonads, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Haemophilus* with close relation. The experiment contained negative control (ddH₂O) and positive control (*T. vaginalis* DNA). All the experiments were conducted in triplicate independently.

Results

Detecting *T. vaginalis* by nested PCR and LAMP

T. vaginalis actin gene was amplified using nest PCR with specific primers, and a positive sequence of about 1100 bp was obtained in line 3 and 4 with the expectation (Fig.1A). There were no target amplicons in negative controls. The products of nest PCR were further confirmed by sequence analysis.

According to the results of electrophoresis, the products amplified by LAMP with the target of AP65 in *T. vaginalis* exhibited distinctive pattern of multiple bands (Fig.1B). An orange-to-green color change was observed under natural light or a dull to fluorescent signal under UV transilluminator, after addition of SYBR Green® (Fig.1C).

The analytical sensitivity of *T. vaginalis* nested PCR and LAMP

The initial concentration of 90 ng/µL of *T. vaginalis* DNA was diluted by 10¹ -10¹² times. As shown in Fig.2, the lowest template concentration was 90 × 10⁻⁷ ng/µL detected by nested PCR (Fig.2A), while that was 90 × 10⁻¹⁰ detected by LAMP amplification (Fig.2B and 2C). It could be seen that the analytical

sensitivity of LAMP assays of *T. vaginalis* established in this study was 1000 times higher than that of nested PCR.

In order to further explore the sensitivity of LAMP amplification, the trophozoites of *T. vaginalis* were diluted to 10^3 , 10^2 , 10^1 and 1 respectively, and the DNA of these diluted samples was extracted. These results were shown that 10^3 trophozoites of *T. vaginalis* could be detected by nested PCR (Fig.3A), while 10 trophozoites of *T. vaginalis* could be detected by LAMP amplification (Fig.3B and 3C).

The analytical specificity of LAMP for *T. vaginalis*

There were no cross reactions in the LAMP using DNA extractions from *T. vaginalis* and other microorganisms including *Trichinella spiralis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Haemophilus*. There were objective bands exclusively in experiments using DNA from *T. vaginalis*, either the results were observed under visible light by adding SYBR Green or using a UV transilluminator (Fig. 4).

Discussion

As a kind of protozoan parasite that infects the genito-urinary system of human beings, *T. vaginalis* is found worldwide but receives less attention compared to other agents of STIs such as *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* [32-35]. From 2011 to 2014, the *T. vaginalis* prevalence in Granada, a capital city in Southern Spain was 2.4% [36]. According to the results of a cross-sectional research in a city attached to Yunnan Province, southern China, the *T. vaginalis* prevalence was 9.0% among 734 female sex workers [37]. In addition, according to an observation conducted in Xinxiang of Henan Province, China, 267 of 16294 (1.64%) samples from female patients suffering from certain trichomoniasis symptoms exhibited clinical positive results under wet mount microscopy [11].

Accurate and rapid diagnosis of trichomoniasis is the key process of treatment, prevention and blocking transmission. However, there are disadvantages in the existing diagnostic methods [14]. In this study, the developed LAMP assay was a rapid and handy way to detect *T. vaginalis* with high analytical sensitivity and specificity, which was verified as superior to traditional nested PCR. Complicated equipment like thermal cycler was not necessary for LAMP, which could be conducted using hot water bath or common heating block. Moreover, the time for producing 10^9 target gene copies by the LAMP assay was no more than 3h, which could be reduced by half through the usage of additional loop primers which was perfect for the point-of-care examinations demanding rapidness [27]. It was revealed by an orange-to-green color change due to adding SYBR Green that large quantity of target gene copies were amplified successfully using LAMP [38]. The LAMP has been considered as a tool of cost-efficiency and rapidness for detecting numerous infections like HIV and malaria, although the potential value of which in detecting *T. vaginalis* hasn't been developed up to now [39].

Previous researches have shown that LAMP has a 10 to 1000 fold lower limit of detection compared to conventional PCR [40-42]. A LAMP assay designed to detect *Cryptosporidium parvum* was even proven to

have a 100000 fold lower limit of detection compared to PCR [43]. The LAMP assay exhibited 1000 times higher sensitivity than the nested PCR in amplifying target genes of *T. vaginalis*. According to the results, the detecting limitation of LAMP was 10 trophozoites of *T. vaginalis* and that of nested PCR was as many as 10^3 , and the difference was possibly due to the *Bst* DNA polymerase which was highly tolerate to inhibitors of nucleic acid amplification tests. Toye et al indicated that PCR was rarely inhibited using urine specimens, infrequently inhibited using endocervical swabs while frequently inhibited using urethral swabs [44]. Although the inhibiting effect could be reduced by various preparing approaches, it is not sufficient to eliminate the inhibitors of PCR from genital swabs by boiling the specimens. Moreover, for LAMP there was no decrease of signal intensity up to 100 trichomonads/mL and the bands in gel with stains of SYBR Safe exhibited typical ladder-like pattern, possibly resulting from significantly higher amplifying product quantity in comparison to that of PCR [38]. As complicated body fluid, urine and genital secretion had been applied to detecting *T. vaginalis* on the basis of nucleic acid, and the sensitivity of which were 64% - 100% for urine samples and 81% - 100% to genital secretion swabs [45, 46]. Previous studies have shown that LAMP reactions were not inhibited in spiked urine specimens [47]. Nevertheless, due to the usage of the wild type enzyme in the LAMP approach, unwanted activity of DNA polymerase in the process of setup possibly led to fail in reproducible amplification. In order to solve this problem, a warm start strand-displacing DNA polymerase which kept stable under ambient temperature while didn't work until 50 °C was used by Tanner et al [48]. In our study, the time cost for performing LAMP of *T. vaginalis* with high analytical sensitivity from preparing samples to detecting LAMP products was no longer than 130 minutes.

Although some studies showed that LAMP could detect trichomonad based on target genes of actin, 18S rRNA and the 2-kbp repeated DNA, these genes have relatively high homology among different species [49-51]. AP65 is a prominent adhesin of *T. vaginalis* that mediates binding of parasites to host vaginal epithelial cells (VECs) [52]. We found that the sequences of AP65 had almost no homology with other species. Accordingly, AP65 as the target gene for detection possessed excellent specificity. In this current study, the LAMP of *T. vaginalis* was highly specific without crossreactivity to trichomonads of human beings with close relationship, such as *Trichinella spiralis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Haemophilus*. Many previous studies shown that 6 primers were used for LAMP amplification of target genes [53, 54]. However, in the research, the 4 primers that recognized 6 instinct sites of the target gene led to the high specificity of LAMP, and AP65 gene could be detected specifically and sensitively without primers LF and LB. Therefore, the AP65 gene of *T. vaginalis* which was selected as the target gene for conducting highly specific LAMP could be used in the diagnosis of trichomoniasis [55, 56].

Nevertheless, there are a few shortages of LAMP. In spite of the high sensitivity and specificity, it is possible for the large quantity of DNA sequences obtained through the experiment to be contaminated by the opened tubes, which results in fault-positive consequences. In most cases, staining materials of nucleic acids, such as SYBR Green and Pico Green, are used in LAMP for detecting the product, while these materials exert an inhibiting effect on the amplifying process of LAMP. In addition, more than 1%

contamination of biological substances such as blood and urine or more than 30% of saline solution or PBS can inhibit LAMP as well as PCR reactions [57]. Raw milk contaminants can even inhibit LAMP but not PCR. Consequently, using a real-time turbidimeter to monitor the reaction in close tubes [38], using hydroxynaphthol blue dye added in advance to conduct colorimetric determination [58], or adding wax barrier to SYBR Green [59] are capable of preventing contamination due to opened tubes for visualizing endpoint results of LAMP.

Conclusions

The LAMP assay of *T. vaginalis* based on AP65 gene in the current work is convenient, specific, sensitive, and rapid way to detect trichomoniasis. However, this is a basic research, and more studies are needed in the future for verifying the diagnosing value of the LAMP assay of *T. vaginalis* in clinic. The valid and cost-effective nucleic acid amplification test exhibits a promising potential in accurately diagnosing, extensively monitoring, effectively controlling and screening trichomoniasis in resource-limited and point-of-care settings.

Abbreviations

TV: *Trichomonas vaginalis* (*T. vaginalis*); LAMP: Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification; AP65: Adhesion Protein 65; PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus; PBS: Phosphate Buffer Saline; ELISA: Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay; TYM: Trypticase Yeast extract Maltose; NCBI: National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study was reviewed and approved by the Ethics Review Committee of the Xinxiang Medical University (Reference No. 2015016). The participants agreed that the vaginal secretions were used for this study and signed a consent form.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Funding

This study was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 81802028) and the Doctoral Scientific Research Activation Foundation of Xinxiang Medical University (No. XYBSKYZZ201631 and XYBSKYZZ201504). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Authors' contributions

YHL and ZCZ conceived and designed the experiments. HZ and YD isolated and cultured the strain of *T. vaginalis* from the vaginal secretions. CYL and BLW extracted the DNA from *T. vaginalis* trophozoite. SFJ and QX performed nest-PCR. ZCZ designed the primers of LAMP. HRL and XXS performed LAMP. YHL and SW analyzed the data. ZCZ and YHL prepared the figures and tables. YHL wrote the paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Authors' information

¹ Xinxiang Key Laboratory of Pathogenic Biology, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Xinxiang Medical University, Xinxiang, Henan, 453003, PR China.

Acknowledgements

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

All of the data in the present research are contained in the article.

References

1. Wiringa AE, Ness RB, Darville T, Beigi RH, Haggerty CL: **Trichomonas vaginalis, endometritis and sequelae among women with clinically suspected pelvic inflammatory disease.** *Sex Transm Infect* 2019.
2. Van Gerwen OT, Muzny CA: **Recent advances in the epidemiology, diagnosis, and management of Trichomonas vaginalis infection.** *F1000Research* 2019, **8**.

3. Harp DF, Chowdhury I: **Trichomoniasis: evaluation to execution.** *European journal of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive biology* 2011, **157**(1):3-9.
4. Kim JH, Moon HS, Kim KS, Hwang HS, Ryu JS, Park SY: **Comparison of Seropositivity to Trichomonas vaginalis between Men with Prostatic Tumor and Normal Men.** *The Korean journal of parasitology* 2019, **57**(1):21-25.
5. Kim SS, Kim JH, Han IH, Ahn MH, Ryu JS: **Inflammatory Responses in a Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia Epithelial Cell Line (BPH-1) Infected with Trichomonas vaginalis.** *The Korean journal of parasitology* 2016, **54**(2):123-132.
6. Nieves YR, Coceres VM, Midlej V, de Souza W, Benchimol M, Pereira-Neves A, Vashisht AA, Wohlschlegel JA, Johnson PJ, de Miguel N: **Membrane-shed vesicles from the parasite Trichomonas vaginalis: characterization and their association with cell interaction.** *Cellular and molecular life sciences : CMLS* 2018, **75**(12):2211-2226.
7. Chen YP, Riestra AM, Rai AK, Johnson PJ: **A Novel Cadherin-like Protein Mediates Adherence to and Killing of Host Cells by the Parasite Trichomonas vaginalis.** *mBio* 2019, **10**(3).
8. Hinderfeld AS, Phukan N, Bar AK, Robertson AM, Simoes-Barbosa A: **Cooperative Interactions between Trichomonas vaginalis and Associated Bacteria Enhance Paracellular Permeability of the Cervicovaginal Epithelium by Dysregulating Tight Junctions.** *Infection and immunity* 2019, **87**(5).
9. Escobedo-Guajardo BL, Gonzalez-Salazar F, Palacios-Corona R, Torres de la Cruz VM, Morales-Vallarta M, Mata-Cardenas BD, Garza-Gonzalez JN, Rivera-Silva G, Vargas-Villarreal J: **Trichomonas vaginalis acidic phospholipase A2: isolation and partial amino acid sequence.** *Acta parasitologica* 2013, **58**(4):519-526.
10. Sutton M, Sternberg M, Koumans EH, McQuillan G, Berman S, Markowitz L: **The prevalence of Trichomonas vaginalis infection among reproductive-age women in the United States, 2001-2004.** *Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America* 2007, **45**(10):1319-1326.
11. Zhang Z, Kang L, Wang W, Zhao X, Li Y, Xie Q, Wang S, He T, Li H, Xiao T *et al*: **Prevalence and genetic diversity of Trichomonas vaginalis clinical isolates in a targeted population in Xinxiang City, Henan Province, China.** *Parasites & vectors* 2018, **11**(1):124.
12. Liu J, Feng M, Wang X, Fu Y, Ma C, Cheng X: **Unique Trichomonas vaginalis gene sequences identified in multinational regions of Northwest China.** *Bioscience trends* 2017, **11**(3):303-307.
13. Yang S, Zhao W, Wang H, Wang Y, Li J, Wu X: **Trichomonas vaginalis infection-associated risk of cervical cancer: A meta-analysis.** *European journal of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive biology* 2018, **228**:166-173.
14. Edwards T, Burke P, Smalley H, Hobbs G: **Trichomonas vaginalis: Clinical relevance, pathogenicity and diagnosis.** *Critical reviews in microbiology* 2016, **42**(3):406-417.
15. Schumann JA, Plasner S: **Trichomoniasis.** In: *StatPearls*. edn. Treasure Island (FL); 2019.
16. Sheele JM, Crandall CJ, Arko BL, Vallabhaneni M, Dunn CT, Chang BF, Fann P, Bigach M: **The OSOM(R) Trichomonas Test is unable to accurately diagnose Trichomonas vaginalis from urine in**

- men. *The American journal of emergency medicine* 2019, **37**(5):1002-1003.
17. Nateghi Rostami M, Hossein Rashidi B, Habibi A, Nazari R, Dolati M: **Genital infections and reproductive complications associated with *Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, and *Streptococcus agalactiae* in women of Qom, central Iran.** *International journal of reproductive biomedicine* 2017, **15**(6):357-366.
 18. Tsang SH, Peisch SF, Rowan B, Markt SC, Gonzalez-Feliciano AG, Sutcliffe S, Platz EA, Mucci LA, Ebot EM: **Association between *Trichomonas vaginalis* and prostate cancer mortality.** *International journal of cancer* 2019, **144**(10):2377-2380.
 19. Mielczarek E, Blaszkowska J: ***Trichomonas vaginalis*: pathogenicity and potential role in human reproductive failure.** *Infection* 2016, **44**(4):447-458.
 20. Muzny CA, Burkholder GA, Fry KR, Austin EL, Schwebke JR: ***Trichomonas vaginalis* Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing at an Urban HIV Clinic.** *Sexually transmitted diseases* 2016, **43**(8):483-488.
 21. Asmah RH, Agyeman RO, Obeng-Nkrumah N, Blankson H, Awuah-Mensah G, Cham M, Asare L, Ayeh-Kumi PF: ***Trichomonas vaginalis* infection and the diagnostic significance of detection tests among Ghanaian outpatients.** *BMC women's health* 2018, **18**(1):206.
 22. Adjei C, Boateng R, Dompheh A, Okyere B, Owiredo EW: **Prevalence and the evaluation of culture, wet mount, and ELISA methods for the diagnosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis* infection among Ghanaian women using urine and vaginal specimens.** *Tropical medicine and health* 2019, **47**:33.
 23. Nabweyambo S, Kakaire O, Sowinski S, Okeng A, Ojiambo H, Kimeze J, Najjingo I, Bwanga F: **Very low sensitivity of wet mount microscopy compared to PCR against culture in the diagnosis of vaginal trichomoniasis in Uganda: a cross sectional study.** *BMC research notes* 2017, **10**(1):259.
 24. Testardini P, Vaulet ML, Entrocassi AC, Menghi C, Eliseht MC, Gatta C, Losada M, Touzon MS, Corominas A, Vay C *et al*: **Optimization of *Trichomonas vaginalis* Diagnosis during Pregnancy at a University Hospital, Argentina.** *The Korean journal of parasitology* 2016, **54**(2):191-195.
 25. Noh CS, Kim SS, Park SY, Moon HS, Hong Y, Ryu JS: **Comparison of Two PCR Assays for *Trichomonas vaginalis*.** *The Korean journal of parasitology* 2019, **57**(1):27-31.
 26. Fonseca THS, Oliveira FMS, Alacoque M, Rocha MI, Leite HV, Santos JFG, Busatti H, Caliarri MV, Gomes MA: **Immunocytochemistry Improving the Diagnosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis* Infections.** *BioMed research international* 2017, **2017**:5642535.
 27. Mori Y, Notomi T: **Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP): a rapid, accurate, and cost-effective diagnostic method for infectious diseases.** *Journal of infection and chemotherapy : official journal of the Japan Society of Chemotherapy* 2009, **15**(2):62-69.
 28. Mori Y, Kanda H, Notomi T: **Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP): recent progress in research and development.** *Journal of infection and chemotherapy : official journal of the Japan Society of Chemotherapy* 2013, **19**(3):404-411.
 29. Alderete JF, Garza GE: **Specific nature of *Trichomonas vaginalis* parasitism of host cell surfaces.** *Infect Immun* 1985, **50**(3):701-708.

30. Espiritu CAL, Justo CAC, Rubio MJ, Svobodova M, Bashammakh AS, Alyoubi AO, Rivera WL, Rollon AP, O'Sullivan CK: **Aptamer Selection against a Trichomonas vaginalis Adhesion Protein for Diagnostic Applications.** *ACS infectious diseases* 2018, **4**(9):1306-1315.
31. Garcia AF, Chang TH, Benchimol M, Klumpp DJ, Lehker MW, Alderete JF: **Iron and contact with host cells induce expression of adhesins on surface of Trichomonas vaginalis.** *Mol Microbiol* 2003, **47**(5):1207-1224.
32. Garber GE: **The laboratory diagnosis of Trichomonas vaginalis.** 2016.
33. Spence MR: **Epidemiology of sexually transmitted diseases.** *Sex Transm Dis* 1989, **16**(3):453-466.
34. Lockhart A, Psioda M, Ting J, Campbell S, Mugo N, Kwatampora J, Chitwa M, Kimani J, Gakure A, Smith JS: **Prospective Evaluation Of Cervico-Vaginal Self And Cervical Physician-Collection For The Detection Of Chlamydia Trachomatis, Neisseria Gonorrhoeae, Trichomonas Vaginalis, And Mycoplasma Genitalium Infections.** *Sex Transm Dis*:1.
35. Sonkar S, Wasnik K, Mishra P, Mittal P, Kumar A, Suri J, Saluja D: **Prevalence and co-infection study of Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, and Trichomonas vaginalis among symptomatic women using PCR assay.** *BMC Infect Dis*, **14**(3 Supplement):P5.
36. Carrillo-Ávila JA, Serrano-García ML, Fernández-Parra J, Sorlózano-Puerto A, Navarro-Marí JM, Stensvold CR, Gutiérrez-Fernández J: **Prevalence and genetic diversity of Trichomonas vaginalis in the general population of Granada and co-infections with Gardnerella vaginalis and Candida species.** 2017, **66**(10):1436.
37. Luo L, Reilly KH, Xu JJ, Wang GX, Ding GW, Wang N, Wang HB: **Prevalence and correlates of Trichomonas vaginalis infection among female sex workers in a city in Yunnan Province, China.** *International journal of STD & AIDS* 2016, **27**(6):469-475.
38. Mori Y, Nagamine K, Tomita N, Notomi T: **Detection of loop-mediated isothermal amplification reaction by turbidity derived from magnesium pyrophosphate formation.** *Biochemical and biophysical research communications* 2001, **289**(1):150-154.
39. Curtis KA, Rudolph DL, Owen SM: **Sequence-specific detection method for reverse transcription, loop-mediated isothermal amplification of HIV-1.** *J Med Virol* 2009, **81**(6):966-972.
40. Njiru ZK, Mikosza AS, Matovu E, Enyaru JC, Ouma JO, Kibona SN, Thompson RC, Ndung'u JM: **African trypanosomiasis: sensitive and rapid detection of the sub-genus Trypanozoon by loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) of parasite DNA.** *Int J Parasitol* 2008, **38**(5):589-599.
41. Njiru ZK, Ouma JO, Enyaru JC, Dargantes AP: **Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) test for detection of Trypanosoma evansi strain B.** *Exp Parasitol* 2010, **125**(3):196-201.
42. Wang L, Li L, Alam MJ, Geng Y, Li Z, Yamasaki S, Shi L: **Loop-mediated isothermal amplification method for rapid detection of the toxic dinoflagellate Alexandrium, which causes algal blooms and poisoning of shellfish.** *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 2008, **282**(1):15-21.
43. Karanis P, Thekisoe O, Kiouptsi K, Ongerth J, Igarashi I, Inoue N: **Development and preliminary evaluation of a loop-mediated isothermal amplification procedure for sensitive detection of**

- cryptosporidium oocysts in fecal and water samples. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2007, **73**(17):5660-5662.
44. Toye B, Woods W, Bobrowska M, Ramotar K: **Inhibition of PCR in genital and urine specimens submitted for Chlamydia trachomatis testing.** *J Clin Microbiol* 1998, **36**(8):2356-2358.
45. Huppert JS, Mortensen JE, Reed JL, Kahn JA, Rich KD, Miller WC, Hobbs MM: **Rapid antigen testing compares favorably with transcription-mediated amplification assay for the detection of Trichomonas vaginalis in young women.** *Clin Infect Dis* 2007, **45**(2):194-198.
46. Lawing LF, Hedges SR, Schwebke JR: **Detection of trichomonosis in vaginal and urine specimens from women by culture and PCR.** *J Clin Microbiol* 2000, **38**(10):3585-3588.
47. Fernandez-Soto P, Gandasegui J, Carranza Rodriguez C, Perez-Arellano JL, Crego-Vicente B, Garcia-Bernalt Diego J, Lopez-Aban J, Vicente B, Muro A: **Detection of Schistosoma mansoni-derived DNA in human urine samples by loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP).** *PLoS One* 2019, **14**(3):e0214125.
48. Tanner NA, Zhang Y, Evans TC, Jr.: **Simultaneous multiple target detection in real-time loop-mediated isothermal amplification.** *Biotechniques* 2012, **53**(2):81-89.
49. Reyes JC, Solon JA, Rivera WL: **Development of a loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay for detection of Trichomonas vaginalis.** *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis* 2014, **79**(3):337-341.
50. Adao DE, Rivera WL: **Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay for the rapid detection of the sexually-transmitted parasite, Trichomonas vaginalis.** *Annals of parasitology* 2016, **62**(1):25-31.
51. Goo YK, Shin WS, Yang HW, Joo SY, Song SM, Ryu JS, Kong HH, Lee WK, Chung DI, Hong Y: **Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification Targeting Actin DNA of Trichomonas vaginalis.** *Korean J Parasitol* 2016, **54**(3):329-334.
52. Garcia AF, Alderete J: **Characterization of the Trichomonas vaginalis surface-associated AP65 and binding domain interacting with trichomonads and host cells.** *BMC Microbiol* 2007, **7**:116.
53. Notomi T, Okayama H, Masubuchi H, Yonekawa T, Watanabe K, Amino N, Hase T: **Loop-mediated isothermal amplification of DNA.** *Nucleic Acids Res* 2000, **28**(12):E63.
54. Zhang M, Liu Y, Chen L, Quan S, Jiang S, Zhang D, Yang L: **One simple DNA extraction device and its combination with modified visual loop-mediated isothermal amplification for rapid on-field detection of genetically modified organisms.** *Anal Chem* 2013, **85**(1):75-82.
55. Caliendo AM, Jordan JA, Green AM, Ingersoll J, Diclemente RJ, Wingood GM: **Real-time PCR improves detection of Trichomonas vaginalis infection compared with culture using self-collected vaginal swabs.** *Infectious diseases in obstetrics and gynecology* 2005, **13**(3):145-150.
56. Queza MI, Rivera WL: **Diagnosis and molecular characterization of Trichomonas vaginalis in sex workers in the Philippines.** *Pathogens and global health* 2013, **107**(3):136-140.
57. Kaneko H, Kawana T, Fukushima E, Suzutani T: **Tolerance of loop-mediated isothermal amplification to a culture medium and biological substances.** *Journal of biochemical and biophysical methods* 2007, **70**(3):499-501.

58. Goto M, Honda E, Ogura A, Nomoto A, Hanaki K: **Colorimetric detection of loop-mediated isothermal amplification reaction by using hydroxy naphthol blue.** *BioTechniques* 2009, **46**(3):167-172.
59. Tao ZY, Zhou HY, Xia H, Xu S, Zhu HW, Culleton RL, Han ET, Lu F, Fang Q, Gu YP *et al*: **Adaptation of a visualized loop-mediated isothermal amplification technique for field detection of Plasmodium vivax infection.** *Parasites & vectors* 2011, **4**:115.

Table

Table 1 Oligonucleotide primer sequences used for Nested PCR in this research.

Name	Sequences(5'-3')	Description
OUT-F	TCTGGAATGGCTGAAGAAGACG	Forward primer for the actin gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in the first stage
OUT-R	CAGGGTACATCGTATTGGTC	Reverse primer for the actin gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in the first stage
IN-F	CAGACACTCGTTATCG	Forward primer for the actin gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in the second stage
IN-R	CGGTGAACGATGGATG	Reverse primer for the actin gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in the second stage
AP65-FIP	GCCGACATAGAAGGATGGGA CGCCCACTCAACCCAAAGGC	Forward inner primer for the AP65 gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in LAMP assay
AP65-BIP	CCTCTACTCCTCTGGCCGTACAA ACTGTGTGGGAAACACCAT	Backward inner primer for the AP65 gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in LAMP assay
AP65-F3	CAACAGAGCACCCAGTTCTT	Forward outer primer for the AP65 gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in LAMP assay
AP65-B3	TGTGGAAGGGAGTAGCCTT	Backward outer primer for the AP65 gene of <i>T. vaginalis</i> in LAMP assay

Figures

Figure 1

Detection of *T. vaginalis* with amplification of actin gene by nested PCR and AP65 gene by LAMP. A: Agarose gel electrophoresis of nested PCR products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1) Negative control outer amplification products; (Lane 2) Negative control inner amplification products; (Lane 3) *T. vaginalis* DNA outer amplification products; (Lane 4) *T. vaginalis* DNA inner amplification products. B: Agarose gel electrophoresis of LAMP products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1) Negative control LAMP products; (Lane 2) *T. vaginalis* DNA LAMP products; C: LAMP products detected by addition of SYBR Green[®]. (Lane 1) Negative control LAMP products (orange); (Lane 2) *T. vaginalis* DNA LAMP products (green).

Figure 2

Compare sensitivity of detection of *T. vaginalis* by nested PCR and LAMP with gradient dilution of *T. vaginalis* DNA template. A: Agarose gel electrophoresis of inner amplification products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1-8) The initial

concentration of 90 ng/μL of *T. vaginalis* DNA was diluted by 10¹ -10⁸ times, amplified by outer amplification, and then amplified by inner amplification. B: Agarose gel electrophoresis of LAMP products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1-7) The initial concentration of 90 ng/μL of *T. vaginalis* DNA was diluted by 10⁶ -10¹² times. C: LAMP products detected by addition of SYBR Green[®]. (Lane 1-7) The initial concentration of 90 ng/μL of *T. vaginalis* DNA was diluted by 10⁶ -10¹² times.

Figure 3

Compare sensitivity of detection of *T. vaginalis* by nested PCR and LAMP with gradient dilution of *T. vaginalis* trophozoites. A: Agarose gel electrophoresis of inner amplification products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1-4) The *T. vaginalis* trophozoites were diluted to 10³, 10², 10¹ and 1, amplified by outer amplification, and then amplified by inner amplification. B: Agarose gel electrophoresis of LAMP products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1-4) The *T. vaginalis* trophozoites were diluted to 10³, 10², 10¹ and 1. C: LAMP products detected by addition of SYBR Green[®]. (Lane 1-4) The *T. vaginalis* trophozoites were diluted to 10³, 10², 10¹ and 1.

A

B

Figure 4

Analytical specificity of detection of *T. vaginalis* by LAMP. A: Agarose gel electrophoresis of LAMP products. (Lane M) DL 2000 the DNA molecular weight marker (ordinate values are expressed in bp); (Lane 1-7) The template DNA for LAMP amplification was from *T. vaginalis*, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Haemophilus* respectively. B: LAMP products detected by addition of SYBR Green®. (Lane 1-7) The template DNA for

LAPM amplification was from *T. vaginalis*, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Haemophilus* respectively.