

Electronic Supplementary Information

**Universal point-of-care detection of protein based on  
proximity hybridization-mediated isothermal exponential  
amplification**

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### **Preparation of anti-digoxin antibody-AuNP conjugates**

Conjugation reactions were performed by adding 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1 mg/ml anti-digoxin antibody to 2 mL of a tenfold-concentrated AuNP solution (pH 8.4), followed by incubation at room temperature with gentle shaking for 1 h. Then a 10% wt/vol BSA stock solution (pH 7.0) was added to the AuNP solution to a final concentration of 1% wt/vol. After incubation at room temperature for one hour, the resulting AuNP solution was concentrated by centrifugation for 30 min at  $13\,400 \times g$ . The supernatant was discarded without disturbing the pellet. The pellet was resuspended with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of suspension solution comprising 20 nM  $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4$ , 10% BSA, and 0.05%  $\text{NaN}_3$  and stored at 4  $^\circ\text{C}$

### **preparation of hairpin solution**

Before DNA assay, three kinds of hairpin probes (10  $\mu\text{M}$  in HEPES buffer) was heated to 95 $^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min, allowed to cool down at the rate of 1  $^\circ\text{C s}^{-1}$  to 65 $^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min, and then continued to cool down at the rate of 1  $^\circ\text{C s}^{-1}$  to room temperature (25 $^\circ\text{C}$ ) for 2 h to form the stem-loop hairpin structure. The obtained solution was stored at 4  $^\circ\text{C}$  for further use.

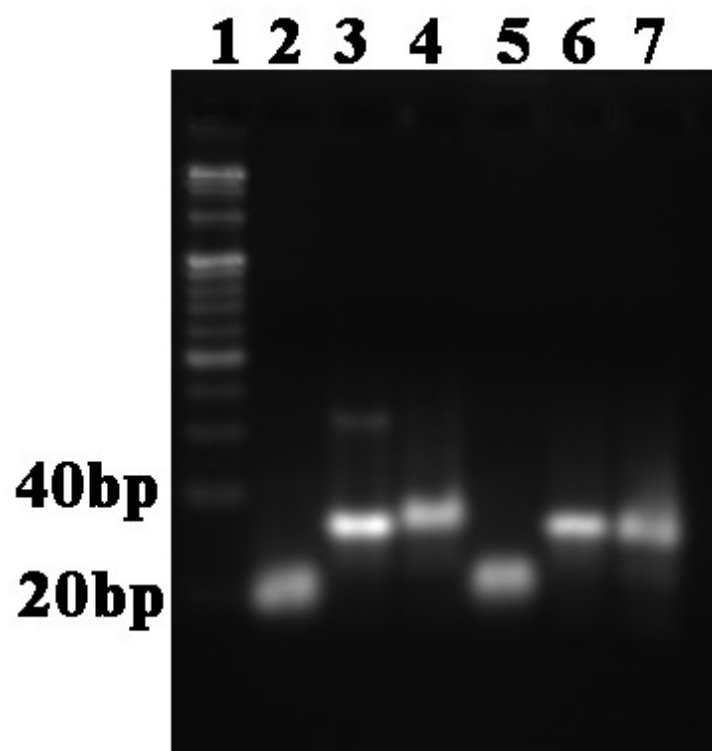
### **Gel electrophoresis**

Gel electrophoresis of different reaction product was conducted with a 4% gel (3% NuSeive GTG agarose + 1% agarose) prepared in 1  $\times$  TBE buffer (89 mmol/L Tris; 89 mmol/L Boric acid; 2 mmol/L EDTA pH 8.3) at 65 V constant voltage for about 75 min. After the gel was stained for 30 min in a 4S GelRed solution, it was photographed by FluorChem FC3 Chemiluminescent imaging system. (ProteinSimple, USA).

### **Optimization of detection conditions**

The hairpin probes used in this assay must be treated to form stem-loop structure.

AS shown in the Fig. S1, the untreated hairpin probe 2 (H2) formed self-dimer (lane 3, upper band about 60 bp). All the treated hairpin probes have formed stem-loop structure without self-dimers.



**Fig. S1** Gel electrophoresis analysis of treated and untreated hairpins. 1: DNA ladder, 2: untreated H1, 3: untreated H2, 4: untreated H3, 5: treated H1, 6: treated H2, 7: treated H3.

**Table S1** Comparison of our approach with other protein assay.

Methods	Strategy	LOD	Ref
Fluorescence	Dropcast Single Molecule Assays	19 aM	[1, 2]
Electrochemiluminescence	Dual-Polar Electrochemiluminescence from Au 25 Nanoclusters	0.43 pg mL <sup>-1</sup>	[3, 4]
Electrochemical ELISA	Protein Biosensing in Undiluted Serum Using a Polypyrrole-Based Platform	78 pg mL <sup>-1</sup>	[5]

Electrochemical	peptide inhibitor-based biosensing platform	0.03 ng mL <sup>-1</sup>	[6, 7]
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**Table S2** Spiking test in human serum and saliva samples.

Sample	Spiked	Found	Recovery	RSD
serum	100 nM	98.2 nM	98.2%	5.2%
serum	10 pM	10.5 pM	105.5%	6.2%
serum	100 fM	96.2 fM	96.2%	5.5%
saliva	100 nM	99.3 nM	99.3%	4.3%
saliva	10 pM	9.53 pM	95.3%	4.9%
saliva	100 fM	102.5 fM	102.5%	6.0%

All the data in the table represents the average of three measurements

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