DIRECT CLONING OF MELANOMA ANTIGEN 1 (MAGE-1) AND THE E2 GENE OF HOG CHOLERA VIRUS (HCV) FROM THE BLUNT END PCR PRODUCT USING pET 101/D-TOPO

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ABSTRACT
The objective of this study was to clone the full length of coding region of Mage-1 and E2 gene of Hog Cholera Virus (HCV) using the plasmid pET101/D-TOPO to get the corresponding recombinant plasmid. Samples were obtained from the liver tissue with hepatocellular carcinoma and a pig spleen infected by HCV from Sukoharjo Middle Java. cDNA were amplified by PCR using GMTOPOF-GMTOPOR for Mage-1 and RS-1-RS-2 for E2 HCV. The purified PCR products were cloned into pET101/D-TOPO as direct cloning expression vector. The gene targets were transformed into E. coli Top10. Analysis of the recombinant plasmid was undertaken by sequencing and restriction test. The PCR of Mage-1 gene resulted fragments at +1105 bp for first round PCR and at +931 bp for the second round. The PCR of E2 gene HCV produced fragment at +1200 bp. The DNA targets were cloned into pET101/D-TOPO from the blunt end PCR product directly. The sequence of full length of coding region of Mage-1 contained 927 nucleotides that encoded 309 amino acids residues. The sequence of the full length coding region of E2 gene HCV was encoded by 1218 nucleotides. EcoRV enzyme cuts vector pET101/D-TOPO at nucleotide positions at 545 and 4775 bp. The result of EcoRV restriction was obtained from the blunt end PCR product for direct cloning using pET101/D-TOPO. (FMI 2013;49:101-108)

Keywords: direct cloning, Mage-1, E2 Hog Cholera Virus, pET101/D-TOPO

INTRODUCTION
The gene cloning is an isolation of the target DNA inserted into vector to form the recombinant DNA molecules (Casali & Preston 2003). At the most cases, cloning of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) product into a circular vector require restriction site extension terminal ends of the DNA target. The extension is used to ligate the PCR product properly into the vector. Principally both the purified PCR product and the circular vector are digested by the same restriction enzymes and the produced fragments are ligated using T4 DNA ligase for 2 hours at 16°C to form a new recombinant vector. Normally, this recombinant vector is then transformed into Escherichia coli (E. coli) (Sambrook & Russell 2001).
There is a new type of cloning from a blunt end PCR product directly without addition of the restriction sites and digestion by restriction enzymes. The cloning can be done easily and quickly. It only takes five minutes at room temperature, unlike the conventional cloning into the circular plasmid that takes two hours at 16°C. The direct cloning uses an linear vector that is ready for cloning the DNA target and expressing its encode protein. This vector plasmid is pET101/D-TOPO. The plasmid has a size of 5753 bp and is available in a linear form, so that the insertion process can be done directly (direct cloning) without using any form of restriction enzymes as in the case of using a circular plasmid.

Vector pET101/D-TOPO is designed for facilitating a direct cloning of a blunt-end product PCR and over expressing in E. coli. Vector pET101/D-TOPO has T7 promoter to control the gene target expression by induction with isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). T7 lac promoter has a lac operator located at down stream of T7 promotor. Lac operator has a binding site for lac repressor (LacI gene) that serves to suppress T7 RNA polymerase but induces basal transcription of the target gene in E. coli BL21 star. VectorpET101/D-TOPO has the size of 5753bp and is available in a linear form, so that a direct insertion process can be performed (direct cloning) without restricting plasmid such as on a circular (Invitrogen 2006). The cloning is very simple. Typically mixture of 1µl of the cloning buffer, 1.5µl of the PCR product, and 0.5µl. Vector incubated on ice for 5minutes and then immediately transformed into E. coli Top10. It is very simple for cloning.

The DNA target was purified from the PCR product and cloned into the pET101/D-TOPO as direct cloning expression vector. The produced recombinant plasmid was transformed into E. coli Top10. Analyze of the recombinant plasmid was undertaken by sequencing and restriction test. This study was a laboratory explorative study intended to clone the coding sequence of Mage-1 and E2 Hog Cholera Virus using pET101/D-TOPO and to get the recombinant plasmid of the gene target.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Collecting sampel

Samples were obtained from liver tissue with hepatocellular carcinoma by fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) and a pig spleen infected by Hog Cholera Virus (HCV), an RNA virus. mRNA of Mage-1 was isolated as previously report (Mastutik et al 2010). E2 gene of Hog Cholera virus was collected from a pig spleen infected by HCV when disease out break in 1995 at Sukoharjo of Middle Java. The spleen was crushed and made 10% suspension for virus identification and isolation its RNA by Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT PCR).

Amplification of Full Lenght Coding Sequence of Mage-1 and E2 Gene Hog Cholera Virus

cDNA were amplified using a primer pair of GMTOPOF (forward) 5'-CACCATGTCCTTTGAGCAGGAGGTGTC-3' and GMTOPOR (reverse) 5'-GGTTAGAGAGGAGGAGGAGGAGGAGTC-3', producing 931bp for Mage 1 and a primer pair of RS-1(forward) 5'-CACCATGGCATCAACCCGGCATCTCCT-3' and RS-2 (reverse) 5'-ACCAGCGCGGATGTGTTTCGT-3', producing 1200bp for E2 HCV. CACC sequence was added to the 5'-end of the forward primers for sticking on the pET101/D-TOPO cloning site. The reverse primers were designed to be attached to the second last codon before the stop codon TGA as the vector stop codon to facilitate the purification of the expressed protein. The PCR product was electrophoresisized with 2% electrophoresis gel and visualized with UV transilluminator. The PCR products were then purified for cloning preparation.

Direct Cloning of the Full Lenght Coding Sequence of Mage-1 and E2 Gene Hog Cholera Virus into plasmid pET101/D-TOPO

The PCR products were cloned into the expression vector pET101/D-TOPO that has a histidine tag marker to facilitate the purification of the expressed recombinant proteins. The cloning reaction consisted of 1µl of the cloning buffer, 1.5µl of the PCR product, and 0.5µl vector. The reaction mixture was homogenized by gently. Incubated on ice for 5minutes and then immediately transformed into E. coliTop10 for the characterizing of the DNA target.

Preparation of competentcells E. coliTop10

E. coliTop10 cells were grown in 500ml Luria Bertani (LB) medium by shaking at 37°Cto obtain an OD600 of 0.4-0.6. The cell incubated on ice for 30minutes and centrifuged at 4000rpm. The supernatant was discarded and the E. coli Top10 cells pellet was mixed gently with 50 ml of 100mM the sterile cold CaCl2. The mixture was placed on ice for 30 minutes, shaken occasionally, and the cells were harvested by centrifugation at 3000 rpm. The cells pellet was resuspended with 10 ml the 100mM CaCl2 pellets and allowed to stand for 1-2 hours on the ice. The cells suspension was then aliquoted and stored at-80°C until usage. The E. coli
Top10 competent cells are ready for a plasmid transformation.

**Transformation of the DNA Target into E. coli Top10**

In a 1.5ml microcentrifuge tube, an aliquot of the ligationmix (3μl) was mixed with 200μl of E. coli Top10 competent cells carefully and equilibrated on ice for 30minutes. The tube was transferred to a 42°C water bath for 45seconds for heat shocking and then on ice for 5minutes at which 100μl of the room temperature of SOC medium was added. The mixture was incubated for 60 min at 37°C temperature water bath and 25μl, 50μl and 75μl of the mixture were grown on solid LB media containing 100μg/ml ampicillin at 37°C for 16 hours. Negative controls were carried out using the same protocols by replacing E. coli Top10 cells with the sterile water.

**Plasmid Isolation**

Transformant cells containing the DNA target were grown in 10 ml of liquid LB medium containing ampicillin 100mg/ml by shaking at 200 rpm in a 37°C incubator for overnight and harvested by centrifugation. The recombinant plasmid was isolated from the cells pellet by a protocol from High Speed Plasmid Mini Kit (Geneaid).

**Analyze of recombinant plasmid pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH**

The recombinant plasmid was analyzed by sequencing to find the nucleotide sequence of target DNA with Genetic Sequenzer (ABI Prism 310) and by restriction test to find cloning accomplishment. The restriction test was performed using EcoRV enzyme that restricts pET101/D-TOPO at nucleotide positions at 545and 4775 bp. The result of the restriction experiment was run on 1% gel electrophoresis. The length of the empty pET101/D-TOPO was 5753 bp. The final result was a plasmid recombinant of the target gene.

**RESULT**

**Amplification of the full lenght coding sequence of Mage-1 and E2 gene Hog Cholera Virus**

The mRNA of Mage-1 gene was isolated using RT PCR. cDNA was amplified with a primer pair of GMTOPOF (forward) 5'-CACCATGTCTCTTTGAGCA GAGG AGTC-3' and GMTOPOR (reverse) 5'-GCT TGGAGAGAGGAGGAGGAGTC-3', producing 931bp. The result of this study was band at ± 1105bp for the first round PCR and at ± 931bp for the second round PCR (Figure 1). The full length E2 gene of HCV was isolated using RT PCR. cDNA was amplified with a primer pair of RS-1(forward) 5'-CACCATGCGCAT CAACCACGGCATCCTT-3' and RS-2 (reverse) 5'- ACCACGGCGAGTTGTCTG-3'. The result of this study was a band at ± 1200 bp (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** The agarose gel electroforosis of the PCR product. A. The PCR product of the coding sequences of Mage-1 gene from FNAB of hepatic tissue of the carcinoma hepatocellular patients (Mastutik et al 2008, 2010) 1= the first round of the PCR product (± 1105 bp), 2= the second round of the PCR product (± 931bp), M= Marker; B. The PCR Product of the full length of the coding region of E2 gene HCV Isolate Sukoharjo. 1=The PCR product (± 1200 bp), M= Marker.
Direct Cloning of the Full Length Coding Sequence of Mage-1 and E2 Gene Hog Cholera Virus into Plasmid pET101/D-TOPO and Transformation into E. coli Top10

The DNA targets in this study were cloned into the vector pET101/D-TOPO and transformed into E. coli Top10 to confirm the accomplishment of the cloning, then cultured in LB medium containing ampicillin (100 µg/ml). E. coli Top10 is sensitive to ampicillin while pET101/D-TOPO was designed with resistance gene for ampicillin so that only colonies containing recombinant plasmid that can grow on the medium. The transformant cell E. coli Top10 containing recombinant plasmid pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH (Figure 2).

Figure 2. The plasmid recombinant in transformed cell E. coli Top10. A. pETGM/ MAGE1-HCC (Mastutik et al. 2010); B. pETRS/E2-SH

Analyze of recombinant plasmid pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH

Analysis of the recombinant plasmids pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH were performed using Genetic Sequenzer (ABI Prism 310) and by restriction test using a restriction enzyme to determine the cloning accomplishment. The full length sequence of the coding region of Mage-1 is shown at Figure 3. It contains 927 nucleotides that encoded 309 amino acids residues. The full length sequence of the coding region of E2 gene of HCV isolate Sukoharjo consists of 1218 nucleotide (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Sequence of the full length of coding sequence of Mage-1 gene from hepatic tissue of the carcinoma hepatocellular patients (Mastutik et al. 2010)
Restriction experiments were performed using EcoRV enzyme that restricts pET101/D-TOPO at nucleotide positions at 545 and 4775 bp. The fragments produced by the experiments were run on 1% gel agarose electrophoresis that produced two bands. Length of the empty pET101/D-TOPO is 5753 bp. The final result was a plasmid recombinant of the gene target. The results of EcoRV restriction show two bands at 4230 and 2450 bp for the pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and at 4200 and 2700 bp for the pETRS/E2-SH (Figure 5). The map of the recombinant plasmids pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH are shown at Figure 6.
DISCUSSION

The objective of this study was to clone the full length coding region of Mage-1 and E2 gene of HCV using pET101/D-TOPO and to get the corresponding recombinant plasmids. Mage-1 is a human gene which contains exon and intron. To express its protein, the gene should be isolated from the mRNA of Mage-1 to avoid the intron splicing during mRNA synthesis. The mRNA of Mage-1 was reverse transcribed to its cDNA, amplified by PCR, and cloned into an expression vector.

HCV was an RNA virus which causes diarrhea previously at a pig. The envelope site of the virus can induce immune response host without making infection. The envelope site can be used as vaccine to induce the immune response. Isolation of the full length of E2 gene was done to get the recombinant plasmid pETRS/E2-SH as candidate for vaccine Hog Cholera infection. Samples were obtained from a liver tissue with hepatocellular carcinoma and a pig spleen infected by HCV isolated from Sukoharjo, Central Java. cDNA were amplified with GMTOPOF (forward) and GMTOPOR (reverse) for Mage-1 and a primer pair of RS-1(forward) and RS-2 (reverse) for E2 Hog Cholera Virus. The blunt end of the PCR products was cloned into the pET101/D-TOPO as direct cloning expression vector.

An ideal plasmid for cloning vector should have the properties include 1) self-replicating autonomously in bacterial cells, 2) having one or more marker(s), e.g. antibiotics resistance marker, 3) has some sites for the restriction enzymes, 4) plasmid is not transmissible and mobilisable, 5) is smaller plasmid size (<10kb) for efficiency transformation because the transformation efficiency will decrease with increasing size of the plasmid, and 6) has multi copy plasmids per cell (Puspaningsih 1999). Vector pET101/D-TOPO has all the requirements. It is designed for facilitating a direct cloning of a blunt-end PCR product that can be overexpressed in E. coli. The vector pET101/D-TOPO has the size 5753bp and are available in the linear form, so that the process of insertions directly can be performed (direct cloning) without first doing restriction experiment such as in common case for a circular plasmid (Invitrogen 2006).

The pET101/D-TOPO plasmid is designed with GTGG overhang for attaching the PCR products that have CACC at its 5'-end that is complementary to GTGG. The GTGG overhang is generated due to the work of the enzyme topoisomerase I which derived from Vaccinia virus. This enzyme binds to duplex DNA at a specific site and cuts the phosphodiester back bone after 5'-CCCTC on one strand of DNA TOPO vector (Invitrogen 2006). The map of the pET101/D-TOPO is shown at Figure 7.

Other advantages of using the plasmid pET101/D-TOPO is 1) The cloning is very simple. Typically, a mixture of 1μl of the cloning buffer, 1.5 μl of the PCR product, and 0.5μl of the linear vector is incubated on ice for 5 minutes and then immediately transformed into E. coliTop10; 2) there is a T7 promoter that can be induced by IPTG to express the desired gene in E. coli; 3) marker histidine (histidine tag) contained in the C-terminal can be used for detection of recombinant protein using Ni-NTA resin or anti-HisG; 4) there is a V5 epitope that also facilitates the detection of the recombinant proteins using antibodies against V5; 5) the protease recognition site can be used to cleave the tags from the produced recombinant proteins; 6) lac gene that encodes the lac repressor to suppress basal transcription vector pET101/D lac UV5 promoter-TOPO and chromosome contained in E. coli; 7) as a marker of resistance to ampicillin selection in E. coli; 8) containing pBR322 origin of replication and maintenance in E. coli (Studier et el 1990).
Vector pET101/D-TOPO has T7 promoter to control the gene target expression by induction with IPTG. T7lac promoter has a lac operator located at down stream of T7 promoter. Lac operator has a binding site for lac repressor (Lac I gene) that serves to suppress T7 RNA polymerase induces basal transcription of target gene in E. coli BL21 star.

Figure 7. The map of pET101/D-TOPO (Invitrogen 2006)

Direct Cloning of the Full Length Coding Sequence of Mage-1 and E2 Gene Hog Cholera Virus into plasmid pET101/D-TOPO and Transformation into E. coliTop10

The purified of PCR product was cloned into the expression vector pET101/D-TOPO directly from the blunt end PCR product without restriction enzyme treatment because this vector is already designed for a direct cloning. The PCR product was purified then inserted into vector, pET101/D-TOPO and transformed into E. coliTop10 to confirm the accomplishment of insertion. E. coliTop10 cells were grown on the LB agar plate medium containing ampicillin for selection. The results are shown at Figure 2.

E. coliTop10 was prepared as competent cells to accept plasmid by adding CaCl2 to transform E. coliTop10 in preparation. The function of CaCl2 is to weaken the cell wall of E. coli that facilitates the recombinant plasmid migrates across the cells during the heat shock (Puspaningsih 1999). E. coli that is ready for use is called transformation competent cells. The DNA target in this study was cloned to the vector pET101/D-TOPO and transformed into E. coliTop10. The cells were then cultured in LB medium containing ampicillin (100 ug/ml). E. coliTop10 is sensitive to ampicillin and pET101/D-TOPO is designed with resistance gene for ampicillin so that only colonies which contain the recombinant plasmid can grow on the medium. Selection of the transformant cells was done by selecting antibiotic and selecting white and blue colonies. Transformant cells were grown on LB medium containing ampicillin. E. coliis sensitive to ampicillin, while the plasmid are resistant to ampicillin so that only the E. coli containing the plasmid is able to grow on that medium. E. coli for cloning direction was designed to have X-gal. The plasmids have Lac Z gene that synthesize galactosidase. Galactosidase has the ability to hydrolyze X-gal and changes the colonies color to blue. The multiple cloning site is located in the area of Lac Z gene, while the target DNA fragments is inserted in the lac Z gene area. Because of that Lac Z gene cannot synthesize galactosidase so that X-gal is not hydrolyzed. The result is the white colonies, so E. coliTop10 colonies containing the recombinant plasmid are the white colonies (Sambrook & Russell 2001). The white colonies are shown at Figure 2.

Analysis of the recombinant plasmid was undertaken by sequencing and by restriction test. Sequencing of the recombinant plasmid pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH was performed using Genetic Sequenzer. The sequence is shown at Figure 4. The Bioinformatic analysis shown that EcoRV does not cut the coding sequence of MAGE-1 and E2 genes. EcoRV cuts in two sites at nucleotide position 545 and 4775 on the restriction that the blunt end GATATC site on TA.

Length of the empty pET101/D-TOPO is 5753 bp. Electrophoresis of the restriction results performed on 1% agarose gel containing ethidium bromide and then visualized with UV transilluminator. The result is shown at Figure 5. The final result was a plasmid recombinant of the gene target. The result of EcoRV restriction show band at +4230 and +2450 bp for pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and a +4200 and +2700 bp for pETRS/E2-SH. The final result of this study was to get the recombinant plasmid pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH that are shown at Figure 6.

CONCLUSION

The recombinant plasmid pETGM/MAGE1-HCC and pETRS/E2-SH were obtained form the blunt end PCR products by direct cloning using the plasmid pET101/D-TOPO.

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