

HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Setup Guide for the DISCOVERY ULTRA

This Setup Guide demonstrates the use of an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH kit on the DISCOVERY ULTRA platform from Roche Diagnostics. Reagent preparation steps, including registering individual ULTRA Dispensers for their respective reagents, will be described in further detail. Each DISCOVERY ULTRA run takes approximately 10.5-11.5 hours followed by a short post-processing of stained slides. This time range depends on the type of chromogen or fluorophore used in the assay. The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH kit can be used to probe and visualize RNA transcripts in FFPE tissue sections. Please read through the Setup Guide for additional information so that you can easily incorporate the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH assay into your current workflow. Please note that this Setup Guide is for use with VSS 12.5.4 and above.

Table of Contents

HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Kit Information	2
<i>HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Starter Kit</i>	2
<i>HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Kit</i>	4
<i>Required Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA</i>	6
<i>Recommended Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA for Running a Chromogenic ISH Assay</i>	6
<i>Recommended Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA for Running a Fluorescent ISH Assay</i>	7
<i>Required Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA for Running an ISH + IHC/IF Co-Detection Assay</i>	7
<i>User-Supplied Materials</i>	7
Overall Workflow of the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Protocol	8
Reagent Preparation	9
Creating an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Protocol	10
<i>Post-Processing for AP-Based Detection</i>	16
<i>Post-Processing for HRP-Based Detection</i>	16
<i>Post-Processing for Fluorescent Detection</i>	16
Overall Workflow of the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF Protocol	17
Creating an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF Co-Detection Protocol	17
<i>Chromogenic ISH + IHC Co-Detection</i>	17
<i>Fluorescent ISH + IF Co-Detection</i>	18
Appendix	19
<i>Appendix A: HCR™ Pro RNA-CISH Protocol Summary [Chromogenic Detection - mRNA DAB detection]</i>	19
<i>Appendix B: HCR™ Pro RNA-FISH Protocol Summary [Fluorescent Detection - Cy5 Detection]</i>	20
<i>Appendix C: HCR™ Pro RNA-CISH + IHC Co-Detection Protocol Summary [CISH - mRNA Purple and IHC - Discovery Green]</i>	21
<i>Appendix D: HCR™ Pro RNA-FISH + IF Co-Detection Protocol Summary [FISH - Cy5 and IF - Rhodamine 6G]</i>	22
<i>Appendix E: Third-Party Recommended Tyramide Dyes</i>	23
<i>Appendix F: Tips & Tricks</i>	24
<i>Appendix G: FAQ</i>	26

HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Kit Information

Upon receiving an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Kit, please check all reagents and their storage conditions listed below.

HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Starter Kit

The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Starter Kit is provided with enough reagents to perform the assay on 20 slides and includes two HCR™ HiFi Probes and HCR™ Pro Detect reagents. The HCR™ HiFi Probes included in the Starter Kit (*Ppib/dapB*) are provided in volumes sufficient enough to perform the assay on 10 slides each. The Starter Kit also contains an HCR™ Membrane Stain to be used in an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF co-detection assay.

HCR™ HiFi Probes

HCR™ Reagents	Amount for an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Starter Kit	Storage Temperature
HCR™ HiFi Probe 1A <i>PPIB/Ppib</i> ¹ – Positive Control	4 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ HiFi Probe 1B <i>PPIB/Ppib</i> ¹ – Positive Control	4 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ HiFi Probe 1A <i>dapB</i> – Negative Control	4 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ HiFi Probe 1B <i>dapB</i> – Negative Control	4 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Membrane Stain ²	1.5 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Control Slides ³	2 Slides	2 to 8 °C

¹Upper and lower cases are used to denote human and mouse HCR™ HiFi Probes respectively.

²The HCR™ Membrane Stain's host species is in rabbit and is provided in a volume sufficient to perform the assay on 5 slides. Please reference pages 17-18 for more information on how to perform an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF co-detection assay.

³Please allocate one slide for the positive control and one slide for the negative control.

Ready-to-Use HCR™ Pro Detect

All HCR™ Pro Detect reagents for the Starter Kit come pre-filled in amber dispensers along with their corresponding barcodes, as these reagents are sensitive to light.

HCR™ Reagents	Amount for an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Starter Kit	Storage Temperature	Dispenser Barcode
Pretreat A	7 mL	2 to 8 °C	PRETREATMENT 1
Pretreat B	14 mL	2 to 8 °C	PRETREATMENT 2
Pretreat C	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	PRETREATMENT 3
HCR™ Pro Detect A	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 1
HCR™ Pro Detect B	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 2
HCR™ Pro Detect C	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 3
HCR™ Pro Detect D	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 4
HCR™ Pro Detect E	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 5
HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP ¹	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 6
HCR™ Pro Detect F AP ¹	5 mL	2 to 8 °C	DETECTION 7

¹HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP is included in the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH HRP Starter Kit, and HCR™ Pro Detect F AP is included in the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH AP Starter Kit.

HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Kit

The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Kit consists of an HCR™ HiFi Probe and HCR™ Pro Detect reagents. Each HCR™ HiFi Probe includes 2 components: (1) HCR™ HiFi Probe 1A and (2) HCR™ HiFi Probe 1B. The probes are provided ready-to-use and can be transferred directly to dispensers for use or storage.

HCR™ HiFi Probe

HCR™ Reagents	Amount for 20 Slides	Amount for 90 Slides	Storage Temperature
HCR™ HiFi Probe 1A ¹	7 mL	28 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ HiFi Probe 1B ¹	7 mL	28 mL	2 to 8 °C

¹HCR™ HiFi Probes are platform-specific. For example, probes designed for the DISCOVERY ULTRA autostainer are not compatible with the BOND RX, and vice versa.

HCR™ Pro Detect Kit

All HCR™ Pro Detect reagents are either provided in amber bottles or pre-filled in amber dispensers, as these reagents are sensitive to light. Please note that HCR™ Pro Detect reagents at a 90-slide scale always come in a pre-filled format for ease of use.

HCR™ Reagents	Amount for 20 Slides	Amount for 90 Slides	Storage Temperature
Pretreat A	7 mL	28 mL	2 to 8 °C
Pretreat B	14 mL	55 mL ¹	2 to 8 °C
Pretreat C	5 mL	15 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Pro Detect A	5 mL	19 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Pro Detect B	5 mL	19 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Pro Detect C	5 mL	15 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Pro Detect D	5 mL	19 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Pro Detect E	5 mL	19 mL	2 to 8 °C
HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP/AP ²	5 mL	19 mL	2 to 8 °C

¹Pretreat B at a 90-slide scale is provided in two pre-filled dispensers: one containing 30 mL and the other containing 25 mL.

²HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP is included in the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH HRP kit, and HCR™ Pro Detect F AP is included in the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH AP kit.

Ready-to-Use HCR™ Pro Detect

Ready-to-use HCR™ Pro Detect reagents are provided with pre-filled dispensers along with the appropriate barcodes for each reagent.

HCR™ Reagents	Amount for 20 Slides	Amount for 90 Slides	Dispenser Barcode
Pretreat A	7 mL	28 mL ¹	PRETREATMENT 1
Pretreat B	14 mL	55 mL ¹	PRETREATMENT 2
Pretreat C	5 mL	15 mL	PRETREATMENT 3
HCR™ Pro Detect A	5 mL	19 mL	DETECTION 1
HCR™ Pro Detect B	5 mL	19 mL	DETECTION 2
HCR™ Pro Detect C	5 mL	15 mL	DETECTION 3
HCR™ Pro Detect D	5 mL	19 mL	DETECTION 4
HCR™ Pro Detect E	5 mL	19 mL	DETECTION 5
HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP ²	5 mL	19 mL	DETECTION 6
HCR™ Pro Detect F AP ²	5 mL	19 mL	DETECTION 7

¹Pretreat A and B are used at faster rates than other reagents, causing their associated barcodes to reach the test limit sooner. To accommodate this, Pretreat A and Pretreat B at the 90-slide scale are provided with two PRETREATMENT 1 and two PRETREATMENT 2 barcodes.

²HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP is included in the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH HRP kit, and HCR™ Pro Detect F AP is included in the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH AP kit.

Note: When running HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH HRP and AP assays simultaneously, be sure to use the appropriate DETECTION 6 and DETECTION 7 barcodes as provided by MI. To avoid confusion, please do not use the DETECTION 6 barcode for HCR™ Pro Detect F AP or the DETECTION 7 barcode for HCR™ Pro Detect F HRP.

Required Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA

The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH protocol requires specific materials available only from Roche. It is essential to check the availability of these materials prior to setting up an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH experiment. Please note that ready-to-use HCR™ Pro Detect reagents are pre-filled into their appropriate dispensers and are provided with their corresponding barcodes, ensuring the reagents are ready for immediate use. For more information, please inquire with your Roche/MI representative.

Materials from Roche		
	Catalog #	Quantity
PRETREATMENT Barcodes and Open Dispensers	Varies	3
PROBE Barcodes and Open Dispensers	Varies	Varies ¹
DETECTION Dispensers and Barcodes	Varies	6 ²
Light Protective Prep Kit ³	Varies	6

¹Each HCR™ HiFi Probe requires two probe barcodes. For example, running the *dapB* HCR™ HiFi Probe, the *Ppib* HCR™ HiFi Probe, and one target HCR™ HiFi Probe would require 6 probe barcodes.

²You will need to obtain additional detection barcodes if you are using third-party Tyramide dyes.

³The Light Protective Prep Kit contains one amber dispenser that needs to be used for HCR™ Pro Detect reagents A-F. The ordering code for this kit is 07475144001.

Recommended Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA for Running a Chromogenic ISH Assay

Materials from Roche		
	Catalog #	Storage Temperature
DISCOVERY mRNA Teal Kit	08352941001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY mRNA Green HRP Kit	08952612001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY mRNA DAB Detection	06614353001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY mRNA Purple	08352909001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY Red Kit ¹	07425333001	2 to 8 °C
Hematoxylin II	05277965001	2 to 8 °C
Bluing Reagent	05266769001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY Inhibitor RUO ²	07017944001	2 to 8 °C

¹The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH AP Kit requires the use of the DISCOVERY Red Detection Kit.

²DISCOVERY Inhibitor is necessary for multiplex ISH and IHC staining.

Recommended Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA for Running a Fluorescent ISH Assay

Materials from Roche		
	Catalog #	Storage Temperature
DISCOVERY Cy5 Kit	07551215001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY Rhodamine 6G Kit	07988168001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY DCC Kit	07988192001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY FAM Kit	07988150001	2 to 8 °C
DISCOVERY Red 610 Kit	07988176001	2 to 8 °C

Required Materials for the DISCOVERY ULTRA for Running an ISH + IHC/IF Co-Detection Assay

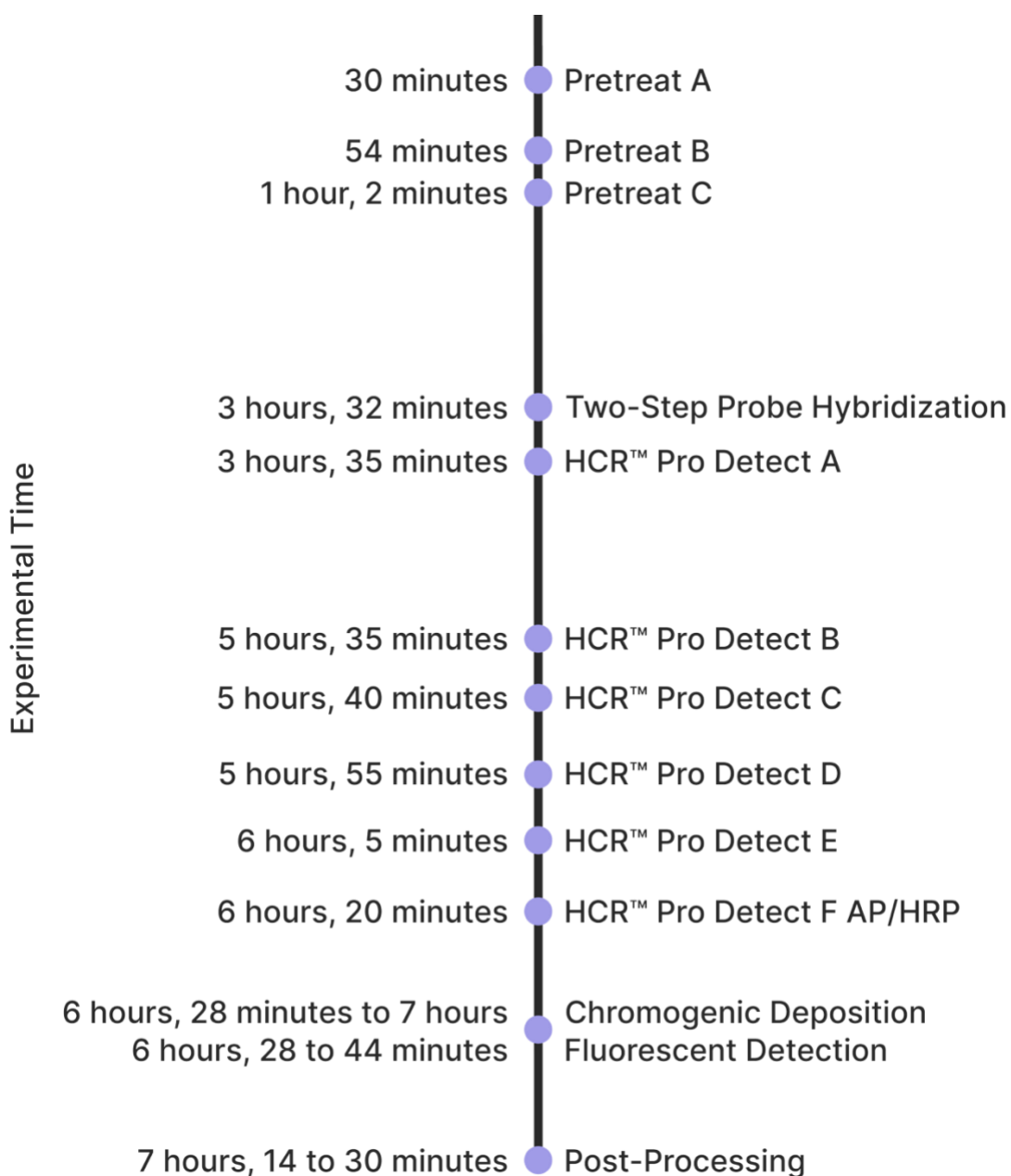
Materials from Roche		
	Catalog #	Quantity
ANTIBODY Dispensers and Barcodes	Varies	1
DISCOVERY Inhibitor RUO	07017944001	1
OmniMAP or UltraMAP HRP/AP ¹	Varies	1

¹The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Starter Kit requires an anti-Rb secondary antibody for IHC/IF detection given that the HCR™ Membrane Stain's host species is in rabbit. You should use anti-species multimer HRP/AP kits required by their primary antibodies.

User-Supplied Materials

Materials from Other Vendors		
	Supplier	Comment
FFPE Sample Slides	Any	SuperFrost or SuperFrost® Plus slides are recommended for best results
Propar (xylene substitute)	Fisher Scientific	Xylene may be substituted
Drying Oven	Any	Capable of maintaining temperature at ~60 °C
BioCare EcoMount, Leica CV Ultra Mounting Media, or Vectorlabs VectaMount	BioCare, Leica Biosystems, and Vectorlabs	Mounting medium compatible with all DISCOVERY chromogens
Cytoseal	Any	Suitable mounting medium for HRP-driven chromogens
Cover Glass	Any	Dimension depends on the size of the tissue
100% Ethanol	Any	None

Overall Workflow of the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Protocol



As mentioned earlier, each DISCOVERY ULTRA run takes approximately 10.5 to 11.5 hours. The timeline above only accounts for 7 hours and 14-30 minutes of this run (depending on whether you're performing the assay for chromogenic or fluorescent detection), as the remaining time comes from the additional DISCOVERY ULTRA washing steps.

Reagent Preparation

Refer to the Roche Manual (pages 296-309) for directions on how to fill and register user-fillable dispensers. For ready-to-use HCR[™] Pro Detect reagents, refer to the same manual for instructions on how to register the barcodes provided with each dispenser. After registration, apply each barcode to its respective dispenser as shown in the table below.

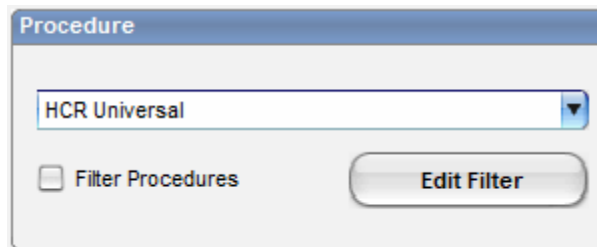
Reagent	Dispenser Barcode	Recommended Incubation Time
Pretreat A	PRETREATMENT 1	Default
Pretreat B	PRETREATMENT 2	16-24 minutes
Pretreat C	PRETREATMENT 3	8 minutes
HCR [™] HiFi Probe 1A	PROBE	1 hour, 16 mins
HCR [™] HiFi Probe 1B	PROBE	1 hour, 16 mins
HCR [™] Pro Detect A	DETECTION 1	Default
HCR [™] Pro Detect B	DETECTION 2	2 hours
HCR [™] Pro Detect C	DETECTION 3	Default
HCR [™] Pro Detect D	DETECTION 4	32 mins
HCR [™] Pro Detect E	DETECTION 5	8 mins
HCR [™] Pro Detect F HRP	DETECTION 6	32 mins
HCR [™] Pro Detect F AP	DETECTION 7	32 mins
HCR [™] Membrane Marker	ANTIBODY	16 mins

Other important notes:

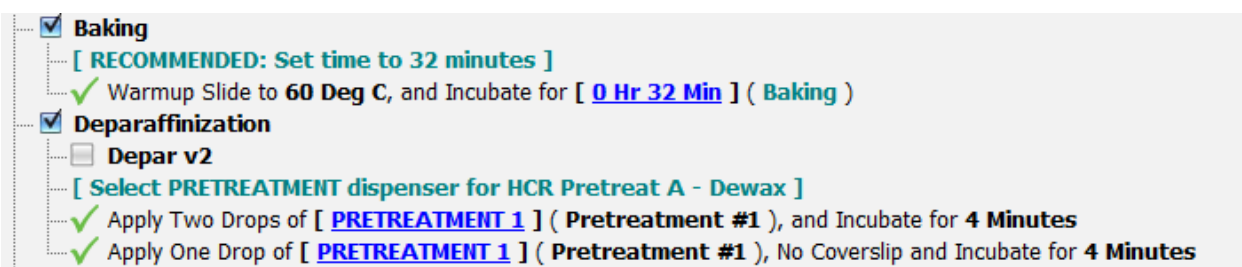
1. Please avoid excessive bubbles when transferring the HCR[™] HiFi Probe and HCR[™] Pro Detect solutions to the DISCOVERY ULTRA Dispensers.
2. If the reagent-filled DISCOVERY ULTRA Dispensers have not been used for more than a week, it is highly recommended to gently invert the dispensers several times to ensure solution uniformity before next use.

Creating an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Protocol

STEP 1: Select **HCR™ Universal** from the **Procedure** drop-down menu.



STEP 2: Begin building the HCR™ protocol. To start, select **Baking and Deparaffinization**.



If you prefer baking slides offline, de-select **Baking**. **Pretreat A** must be placed into an open **PRETREATMENT** dispenser. Make sure that the **Pretreatment** selections are the same.

STEP 3: Select **Pretreatment**.



The **Pretreat B** must be placed into an open **PRETREATMENT** dispenser that is a different value than the one assigned to Pretreat A. The recommended target retrieval is HCR™ Target Retrieval v2 for 16 minutes and 24 minutes at 97 °C for FFPE cell pellets and tissues, respectively. For over-fixed tissues, you can increase the time to 32 minutes. To perform a less rigorous target retrieval, you can switch over to the following HCR™ Target Retrieval option shown below.

Optional: HCR™ Target Retrieval uses less Pretreat B solution.

☒ **Pretreatment**
 [Recommended Temp and Time = 97 C and 16-24 minutes]

☒ **HCR Target Retrieval**
 [Select PRETREATMENT dispenser for HCR RNA-CISH Antigen Retrieval]

☒ Apply Three Drops of [**PRETREATMENT 2**] (Pretreatment #2) and Incubate for **4 Minutes**

☒ Warmup Slide to [**97 Deg C**] from **All Temperatures (Cycle 1)**

☒ **16 Minutes**

☒ **24 minutes**

☐ **32 minutes**

Optional: You can forego the use of Pretreat B and rely on the DISCOVERY ULTRA onboard buffers for their antigen retrieval. You may also use CC1 or CC2 in conjunction with **HCR™ Target Retrieval** selections.

☒ **Pretreatment**
 [Recommended Temp and Time = 97 C and 16-24 minutes]

☐ **HCR Target Retrieval**

☐ **HCR Target Retrieval v2**

☒ **CC1 Reservoir**

☐ **Low Temp CC1**

☒ Warmup Slide to [**Very High Temperature**], and Incubate for **4 Minutes (Cell Conditioner #1)**

☐ **CC1 8 Min**

☐ **CC2 Reservoir**

☐ **CC Option**

☐ **Protease Options**

☐ **Blocker**

☐ **Inhibitor**

☒ **Pretreatment**
 [Recommended Temp and Time = 97 C and 16-24 minutes]

☐ **HCR Target Retrieval**

☐ **HCR Target Retrieval v2**

☐ **CC1 Reservoir**

☒ **CC2 Reservoir**

☐ **Low Temp CC2**

☐ [**91°C is the standard temperature**]

☒ Warmup Slide to [**Very High Temperature**], and Incubate for **4 Minutes (Cell Conditioner #2)**

☐ **CC2 8 Min**

☐ **CC Option**

☐ **Protease Options**

☐ **Blocker**

☐ **Inhibitor**

Optional: A mild protease pretreatment can be done in addition to any antigen retrieval. Please keep in mind that protease can have harmful effects on targeting proteins with any downstream IHC/IF assays.

☒ **Pretreatment**
 [Recommended Temp and Time = 97 C and 16-24 minutes]

☐ HCR Target Retrieval

☐ HCR Target Retrieval v2

☐ CC1 Reservoir

☐ CC2 Reservoir

☐ CC Option

☒ **Protease Options**
 [RECOMMENDED: If using temperatures above 42°C, set incubation for less than 1 hour]

☒ Warmup Slide to [37 Deg C], and Incubate for 4 Minutes (Enzyme Temp RB)

☒ Apply One Drop of [PROTEASE 3] (Enzyme), and Incubate for [0 Hr 4 Min]

☐ **Blocker**

☐ **Inhibitor**

STEP 4: Select **Blocker** OR **DISCOVERY Inhibitor** to place an enzyme inhibitor solution onto the slide.

☒ **Pretreatment**
 [Recommended Temp and Time = 97 C and 16-24 minutes]

☐ HCR Target Retrieval

☒ **HCR Target Retrieval v2**
 [Select PRETREATMENT dispenser for HCR Pretreat B - Target Retrieval]
 [Tissue Pretreatment]

☒ Apply Three Drops of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2) and Incubate for 4 Minutes

☒ Warmup Slide to [97 Deg C] from Very High Temperatures (Cycle 1)

☒ **16 Minutes**
☒ Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes

☒ **24 minutes**
☒ Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes

☐ 32 minutes

☐ CC1 Reservoir

☐ CC2 Reservoir

☐ CC Option

☐ **Protease Options**

☒ **Blocker**
 [Select PRETREATMENT dispenser for HCR Pretreat C - Endogenous Enzyme Block]
☒ Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 3] (Pretreatment #3), and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]

☐ **Inhibitor**

Pretreat C must be placed into an open **PRETREATMENT dispenser** different from the aforementioned dispensers. If you select **Blocker**, incubate for 8 minutes.

Optional: If **Inhibitor** is selected, then Roche's DISCOVERY Inhibitor RUO (Catalog #: 07017944001) needs to be present on the reagent rack. Incubate the solution for 12 minutes.

STEP 5: Select HCR™ RNA-ISH.

☒ **HCR RNA ISH**

☐ **Pre-Hybridization**

[Select PROBE dispenser for HCR Probe & Incubate for 4 minutes]

[HCR Probe A incubate for 1hr 16min at 43C]

✓ Apply Three Drops of [[PROBE 1](#)] (**Probe #1**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[4 Minutes](#)]

✓ Warmup Slide to [[43 Deg C](#)], and Incubate for [[1 Hr 16 Min](#)] (**Hybridization #1**)

[HCR Probe B incubate for 1hr 16min at 43C]

✓ Apply Three Drops of [[PROBE 2](#)] (**Probe #2**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[4 Minutes](#)]

✓ Warmup Slide to [[43 Deg C](#)], and Incubate for [[1 Hr 16 Min](#)] (**Hybridization #2**)

HCR™ HiFi Probe 1A and HCR™ HiFi Probe 1B must be placed into **PROBE dispensers**. Follow the comments (displayed in green text) for recommendations on a standard starting protocol.

*NOTE: Each target requires **two** probe dispensers.*

NOTE: While the protocol on the DISCOVERY ULTRA instrument refers to our probes as HCR Probes, these have been rebranded as HCR™ HiFi Probes. Both names refer to the same reagent.

✓ Apply Two Drops of [[DETECTION 1](#)] (**Detection #1**), and Incubate for **4 Minutes**

[Select DETECTION dispenser for HCR Detect B]

✓ Apply Two Drops of [[DETECTION 2](#)] (**Detection #2**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for **4 Minutes**

[Recommended temp = 42C; Target Time = 2 hours]

✓ Warmup Slide to [[42 Deg C](#)], and Incubate for [[2 Hours](#)] (**Hybridization #3**)

[Select DETECTION dispenser for HCR Detect C]

✓ Apply One Drop of [[DETECTION 3](#)] (**Detection #3**), No Coverslip and Incubate for **4 Minutes**

[Select DETECTION dispenser for HCR Detect D]

[Recommended incubation time is 32 minutes]

✓ Apply Two Drops of [[DETECTION 4](#)] (**Detection #4**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[0 Hr 32 Min](#)]

[Select DETECTION dispenser for HCR Detect E]

[Recommended incubation time is 8 minutes]

✓ Apply Two Drops of [[DETECTION 5](#)] (**Detection #5**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[0 Hr 8 Min](#)]

[Select DETECTION dispenser for HCR Detect F HRP/AP]

[Recommended incubation time is 32 minutes]

✓ Apply Two Drops of [[DETECTION 6](#)] (**Detection #6**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[0 Hr 32 Min](#)]

HCR™ Pro Detect A to F must be placed into **Detection dispensers**. Select **DETECTION dispensers** for each of the HCR™ Pro Detect reagents and follow the comments (displayed in green text) for recommendations on a standard starting protocol. Please note that all HCR™ Pro Detect reagents must be placed into light-protective amber dispensers, as these reagents are sensitive to light.

STEP 5a: To perform **chromogenic ISH**, select the appropriate **Chromogen** that corresponds to your HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH kit.

*NOTE: The Chromogen defaults to mRNA DAB unless a Chromogen or Fluorescent Detection is selected. See **Appendix A** for an example protocol summary for HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH with mRNA DAB detection.*

☐ [Disabling heat is recommended]

☒ **Disable heat for 1st Detection**

☐ [Default detection is mRNA DAB unless a chromogen or fluorescent detection is selected]

☐ mRNA Purple

☐ mRNA Green

☐ mRNA Teal

☒ **DISCOVERY Red**

☐ [To be used with HCR RNA-CISH AP detection]

☐ [Recommended incubation time is 12 minutes]

☒ Apply One Drop of **DISC Naphthol** and One Drop of **DISC Fast Red**, Apply Coverslip, Incubate for [**12 Minutes**]

☐ **Fluorescent Detection**

Table of Chromogens with Recommended Incubation Times

Chromogen	Enzyme	Incubation Time	Activator Time
mRNA DAB	HRP	Defaults to 8 minutes	N/A
DISCOVERY Red	AP	12-16 minutes	N/A
mRNA Purple	HRP	8 – 32 minutes	N/A
mRNA Teal	HRP	16 minutes	16 minutes
mRNA Green	HRP	24 minutes	16 minutes

STEP 5b: To perform **Fluorescent ISH**, select **Fluorescent Detection**.

*NOTE: This selection requires the use of an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH HRP kit. See **Appendix B** for an example protocol summary for HCR™ Pro RNA-FISH with Cy5 Detection.*

☒ **Disable heat for 1st Detection**

☐ [Default detection is mRNA DAB unless a chromogen or fluorescent detection is selected]

☐ mRNA Purple

☐ mRNA Green

☐ mRNA Teal

☐ DISCOVERY Red

☒ **Fluorescent Detection**

☒ **Cy5**

☒ Apply One Drop of **Cy5 H2O2**, and Incubate for [**0 Hr 12 Min**]

☐ Rhodamine 6G

☐ DCC

☐ FAM

☐ Red 610

☐ Open Detection Kit

Table of Roche Fluorescent Dyes with Recommended Incubation Times

Tyramide Dyes	Recommended Incubation Time Range
Cy5	8-24 minutes
Rhodamine 6G	8-24 minutes
DCC	8-24 minutes
FAM	8-24 minutes
Red 610	8-24 minutes

Instead of using Roche's Fluorophore Kits, you can also use third-party TSA dyes by selecting **Open Detection Kit** (see **Appendix E** for recommendations).

NOTE: This selection requires another open Detection dispenser.

☒ **Disable heat for 1st Detection**
 [Default detection is mRNA DAB unless a chromogen or fluorescent detection is selected]

☐ mRNA Purple
☐ mRNA Green
☐ mRNA Teal
☐ DISCOVERY Red

☒ **Fluorescent Detection**
☐ Cy5
☐ Rhodamine 6G
☐ DCC
☐ FAM
☐ Red 610
☒ **Open Detection Kit**
 [User Provided Fluorescent Dye]
 ✓ Apply Two Drops of [[DETECTION 7](#)] (**Detection #7**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[0 Hr 12 Min](#)]

STEP 6 (Chromogenic ISH only): For counterstain and post-counterstain, select **Hematoxylin II** and **Bluing reagent**, respectively, and incubate for 4 mins each.

[Disabling heat is recommended]

☒ **Disable heat for 1st Detection**
☐ SxS Automated Open Detection
☒ **Chromogen Block**
☐ mRNA Purple
☒ **DISCOVERY Red**
 [To be used with HCR RNA-CISH AP detection]
 [Recommended incubation time is 12 minutes]
 ✓ Apply One Drop of **DISC Naphthol** and One Drop of **DISC Fast Red**, Apply Coverslip, Incubate for [[12 Minutes](#)]

☐ Research Fork #16
☐ DAB
☐ DISCOVERY Purple
☐ Silver
☐ DISCOVERY Green HRP
☐ DISCOVERY Yellow HRP
☐ DISCOVERY Blue HRP

☐ **IHC**
☒ **Counterstain**
 ✓ Apply One Drop of [[HEMATOXYLIN II](#)] (**Counterstain**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[4 Minutes](#)]
☒ **Post Counterstain**
 ✓ Apply One Drop of [[BLUING REAGENT](#)] (**Post Counterstain**), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [[4 Minutes](#)]

Post-Processing for AP-Based Detection

After slides are unloaded from the DISCOVERY ULTRA, we recommend washing the slides thoroughly with soapy water to remove any liquid coverslip. Bake the slides for 15 minutes (or until dry) at 60 °C. We recommend using EcoMount (Biocare) or VectaMount (Vectorlabs) mounting media for cover-slipping.

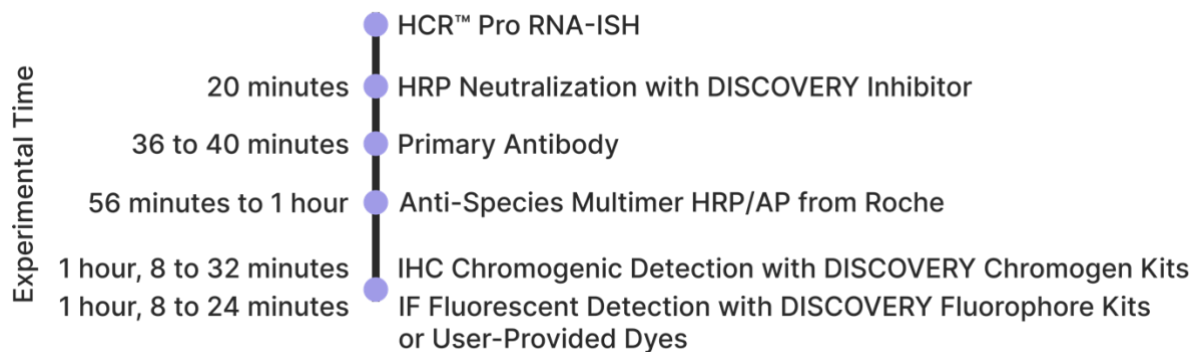
Post-Processing for HRP-Based Detection

After slides are unloaded from the DISCOVERY ULTRA, we recommend washing the slides thoroughly with soapy water to remove any liquid coverslip. After washing the slides, rinse them with water. Dehydrate by immersing the slides in 95% ethanol for 2 minutes twice followed by 100% ethanol for 2 minutes twice. Then, immerse the slides in a xylene (or xylene substitute) solution for 5 minutes and lay the slides flat inside a fume hood. Mount slides one at a time with Cytoseal (or any other xylene-based mounting medium). Allow slides to air dry for 5 minutes before imaging.

Post-Processing for Fluorescent Detection

After slides are unloaded from the DISCOVERY ULTRA, we recommend washing the slides thoroughly with soapy water to remove any liquid coverslip. After washing the slides, rinse them with water. Immerse the washed slides in 1 x PBST and mount each slide one at a time with ProLong[™] Gold Antifade mounting medium (or any other suitable mounting medium that you are familiar with).

Overall Workflow of the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF Protocol



Creating an HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF Co-Detection Protocol

Chromogenic ISH + IHC Co-Detection

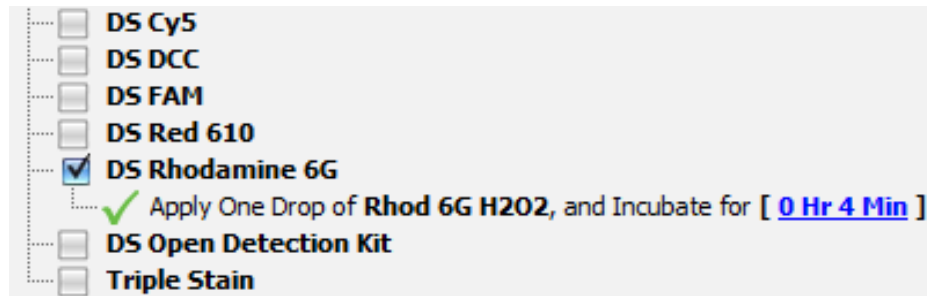
Program the HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH Protocol as outlined previously (see page 10). A dropdown list will appear once IHC is selected. An example for the selection of primary and HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies is shown below. You should determine the appropriate selection for which secondary antibodies to use (e.g., anti-species, HRP/AP-conjugated, and OmniMap/UltraMap). To deactivate HRP that was introduced from the ISH assay, select **DS Inhibitor** and **Neutralize**. Please note that this step is *NOT* required if you opt to use an AP-driven chromogen for the IHC staining. The last step is to select the appropriate chromogen needed for the IHC staining (example shown below). See **Appendix C** for an example protocol summary for HCR™ Pro RNA-CISH + IHC Co-Detection with mRNA Purple for CISH and Discovery Green for IHC.

☒ IHC/IF

- ☐ DS Pretreatment
- ☐ DS Option
- ☒ DS Inhibitor
 - [Use of HRP conjugates requires DISC Inhib to inactivate endogenous peroxidase]
 - ☒ Neutralize
 - [Neutralize step of previously bound HRP conjugates]
- ☐ DS ISH
- ☒ DS Antibody
 - ☐ DS Antibody Manual Application
 - ☐ DS Antibody Blocking
 - ☐ Disable heat for DS Antibody
 - ☐ DS High Temp Ab incubation
 - ✓ Warmup Slide to [37 Deg C] from Very Low Temperatures (DS Primary Antibody)
 - ☐ DS Extended Ab incubation
 - ✓ Apply One Drop of [ANTIBODY 1] (DS Antibody), and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
 - ☐ Disable heat for 2nd Fixative
 - ☐ DS Post-Antibody Fixative
 - ☐ DS Linking Antibody
 - ☒ Disable heat for 2nd Detection
 - ☒ DS Multimer HRP
 - ☐ DS Multimer HRP Blocker
 - [Select Multimer species]
 - ✓ Apply One Drop of [OMap anti-Rb HRP] (DS Multimer HRP), and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
 - ☐ DS Multimer AP
 - ☐ DS Enzyme conjugate
 - ☐ DS DISCOVERY Amplification
 - ☐ DS DAB
 - ☐ DS Silver
 - ☒ DS DISCOVERY Purple
 - ✓ Apply One Drop of DISC H202 P, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]

Fluorescent ISH + IF Co-Detection

Program the HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH Protocol as outlined previously (see page 10). The setup for IF is identical to the setup for IHC, except that you will choose a Roche provided dye instead of a chromogen. See **Appendix D** for an example protocol summary for HCR[™] Pro RNA-FISH + IF Co-Detection with Cy5 for FISH and Rhodamine 6G for IF.



<input type="checkbox"/>	DS Cy5
<input type="checkbox"/>	DS DCC
<input type="checkbox"/>	DS FAM
<input type="checkbox"/>	DS Red 610
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DS Rhodamine 6G
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Apply One Drop of Rhod 6G H2O2 , and Incubate for [0 Hr 4 Min]
<input type="checkbox"/>	DS Open Detection Kit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Triple Stain

Appendix

Appendix A: HCR™ Pro RNA-CISH Protocol Summary [Chromogenic Detection - mRNA DAB detection]

Protocol Summary

Procedure: HCR Universal (v3.01.0000)

DISCOVERY ULTRA

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Validated: No		Active: Yes	
Protocol No	Protocol Name	Version	Creation Date
1801	mRNA DAB Protocol Summary	1	11/28/2023 3:58:05 PM
1	Baking [Selected]		
2	Warmup Slide to 60 Deg C, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min] (Baking)		
3	Deparaffinization [Selected]		
4	Apply Two Drops of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
5	Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
6	Pretreatment [Selected]		
7	HCR Target Retrieval v2 [Selected]		
8	Apply Three Drops of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2) and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
9	Warmup Slide to [97 Deg C] from Very High Temperatures (Cycle 1)		
10	16 Minutes [Selected]		
11	Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
12	24 minutes [Selected]		
13	Blocker [Selected]		
14	Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 3] (Pretreatment #3), and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]		
15	HCR RNA ISH [Selected]		
16	Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 1] (Probe #1), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]		
17	Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #1)		
18	Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 2] (Probe #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]		
19	Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #2)		
20	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 1] (Detection #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
21	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 2] (Detection #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
22	Warmup Slide to [42 Deg C], and Incubate for [2 Hours] (Hybridization #3)		
23	Apply One Drop of [DETECTION 3] (Detection #3), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
24	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 4] (Detection #4), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]		
25	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 5] (Detection #5), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]		
26	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 6] (Detection #6), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]		
27	Disable heat for 1st Detection [Selected]		
28	Counterstain [Selected]		
29	Apply One Drop of [HEMATOXYLIN II] (Counterstain), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]		
30	Post Counterstain [Selected]		
31	Apply One Drop of [BLUING REAGENT] (Post Counterstain), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]		

* one drop is one reagent dispense

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Page 1 of 1

NOTE: Chromogen defaults to mRNA DAB when no chromogen is selected.

Appendix B: HCRTM Pro RNA-FISH Protocol Summary [Fluorescent Detection - Cy5 Detection]
Protocol Summary
Procedure: HCR Universal (v3.01.0000)
DISCOVERY ULTRA
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Validated: No		Active: Yes	
Protocol No	Protocol Name	Version	Creation Date
778	FISH Cy5 Detection	2	10/09/2023 1:31:09 PM
1	Baking [Selected]		
2	Warmup Slide to 60 Deg C, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min] (Baking)		
3	Deparaffinization [Selected]		
4	Apply Two Drops of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
5	Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
6	Pretreatment [Selected]		
7	HCR Target Retrieval v2 [Selected]		
8	Apply Three Drops of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2) and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
9	Warmup Slide to [97 Deg C] from Very High Temperatures (Cycle 1)		
10	16 Minutes [Selected]		
11	Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
12	24 minutes [Selected]		
13	Blocker [Selected]		
14	Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 3] (Pretreatment #3), and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]		
15	HCR RNA ISH [Selected]		
16	Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 1] (Probe #1), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]		
17	Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #1)		
18	Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 2] (Probe #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]		
19	Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #2)		
20	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 1] (Detection #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
21	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 2] (Detection #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
22	Warmup Slide to [42 Deg C], and Incubate for [2 Hours] (Hybridization #3)		
23	Apply One Drop of [DETECTION 3] (Detection #3), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes		
24	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 4] (Detection #4), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]		
25	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 5] (Detection #5), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]		
26	Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 6] (Detection #6), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]		
27	Disable heat for 1st Detection [Selected]		
28	Fluorescent Detection [Selected]		
29	Cy5 [Selected]		
30	Apply One Drop of Cy5 H2O2, and Incubate for [0 Hr 16 Min]		

* one drop is one reagent dispense

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Page 1 of 1

Appendix C: HCR™ Pro RNA-CISH + IHC Co-Detection Protocol Summary [CISH - mRNA Purple and IHC - Discovery Green]

Protocol Summary

Procedure: HCR Universal (v3.01.0000)

DISCOVERY ULTRA

Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., 1910 Innovation Park Drive Tucson, Arizona USA

Validated: No		Active: Yes	
Protocol No	Protocol Name	Version	Creation Date
1802	CISH mRNA Purple IHC green duplex	1	11/28/2023 4:05:30 PM

- 1 Baking [Selected]
- 2 Warmup Slide to 60 Deg C, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min] (Baking)
- 3 Deparaffinization [Selected]
- 4 Apply Two Drops of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 5 Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 6 Pretreatment [Selected]
- 7 HCR Target Retrieval v2 [Selected]
- 8 Apply Three Drops of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2) and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 9 Warmup Slide to [97 Deg C] from Very High Temperatures (Cycle 1)
- 10 16 Minutes [Selected]
- 11 Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 12 24 minutes [Selected]
- 13 Blocker [Selected]
- 14 Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 3] (Pretreatment #3), and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]
- 15 HCR RNA ISH [Selected]
- 16 Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 1] (Probe #1), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]
- 17 Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #1)
- 18 Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 2] (Probe #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]
- 19 Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #2)
- 20 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 1] (Detection #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 21 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 2] (Detection #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 22 Warmup Slide to [42 Deg C], and Incubate for [2 Hours] (Hybridization #3)
- 23 Apply One Drop of [DETECTION 3] (Detection #3), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 24 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 4] (Detection #4), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]
- 25 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 5] (Detection #5), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 4 Min]
- 26 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 6] (Detection #6), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]
- 27 Disable heat for 1st Detection [Selected]
- 28 mRNA Purple [Selected]
- 29 Apply One Drop of mRNA Purple H2O2, and Incubate for [0 Hr 20 Min]
- 30 IHC/IF [Selected]
- 31 DS Inhibitor [Selected]
- 32 Neutralize [Selected]
- 33 DS Antibody [Selected]
- 34 Warmup Slide to [37 Deg C] from Very Low Temperatures (DS Primary Antibody)
- 35 Apply One Drop of [ANTIBODY 1] (DS Antibody), and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
- 36 Disable heat for 2nd Detection [Selected]
- 37 DS Multimer HRP [Selected]
- 38 Apply One Drop of [OMap anti-Rb HRP] (DS Multimer HRP), and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
- 39 DS DISCOVERY Green HRP [Selected]
- 40 Apply One Drop of Green H2O2, and Incubate for [28 Minutes]
- 41 Apply One Drop of Green Activator, and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
- 42 Counterstain [Selected]

* one drop is one reagent dispense

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Page 1 of 2

Protocol Summary

Procedure: HCR Universal (v3.01.0000)

DISCOVERY ULTRA

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Validated: No		Active: Yes	
Protocol No	Protocol Name	Version	Creation Date
1802	CISH mRNA Purple IHC green duplex	1	11/28/2023 4:05:30 PM

- 43 Apply One Drop of [HEMATOXYLIN II] (Counterstain), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]
- 44 Post Counterstain [Selected]
- 45 Apply One Drop of [BLUING REAGENT] (Post Counterstain), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]

Appendix D: HCRTM Pro RNA-FISH + IF Co-Detection Protocol Summary [FISH - Cy5 and IF - Rhodamine 6G]

Protocol Summary

Procedure: HCR Universal (v3.01.0000)

DISCOVERY ULTRA

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Validated: No		Active: Yes	
Protocol No	Protocol Name	Version	Creation Date
776	FISH Cy5 IF Rho 6G	2	10/09/2023 1:34:53 PM

- 1 Baking [Selected]
- 2 Warmup Slide to 60 Deg C, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min] (Baking)
- 3 Deparaffinization [Selected]
- 4 Apply Two Drops of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 5 Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 1] (Pretreatment #1), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 6 Pretreatment [Selected]
- 7 HCR Target Retrieval v2 [Selected]
- 8 Apply Three Drops of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2) and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 9 Warmup Slide to [97 Deg C] from Very High Temperatures (Cycle 1)
- 10 16 Minutes [Selected]
- 11 Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 2] (Pretreatment #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 12 24 minutes [Selected]
- 13 Blocker [Selected]
- 14 Apply One Drop of [PRETREATMENT 3] (Pretreatment #3), and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]
- 15 HCR RNA ISH [Selected]
- 16 Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 1] (Probe #1), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]
- 17 Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #1)
- 18 Apply Three Drops of [PROBE 2] (Probe #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [4 Minutes]
- 19 Warmup Slide to [43 Deg C], and Incubate for [1 Hr 16 Min] (Hybridization #2)
- 20 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 1] (Detection #1), and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 21 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 2] (Detection #2), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 22 Warmup Slide to [42 Deg C], and Incubate for [2 Hours] (Hybridization #3)
- 23 Apply One Drop of [DETECTION 3] (Detection #3), No Coverslip and Incubate for 4 Minutes
- 24 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 4] (Detection #4), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]
- 25 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 5] (Detection #5), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 8 Min]
- 26 Apply Two Drops of [DETECTION 6] (Detection #6), Apply Coverslip, and Incubate for [0 Hr 32 Min]
- 27 Disable heat for 1st Detection [Selected]
- 28 Fluorescent Detection [Selected]
- 29 Cy5 [Selected]
- 30 Apply One Drop of Cy5 H2O2, and Incubate for [0 Hr 16 Min]
- 31 IHC/IF [Selected]
- 32 DS Inhibitor [Selected]
- 33 Neutralize [Selected]
- 34 DS Antibody [Selected]
- 35 Warmup Slide to [37 Deg C] from Very Low Temperatures (DS Primary Antibody)
- 36 Apply One Drop of [ANTIBODY 1] (DS Antibody), and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
- 37 Disable heat for 2nd Detection [Selected]
- 38 DS Multimer HRP [Selected]
- 39 Apply One Drop of [OMap anti-Rb HRP] (DS Multimer HRP), and Incubate for [16 Minutes]
- 40 DS Rhodamine 6G [Selected]
- 41 Apply One Drop of Rhod 6G H2O2, and Incubate for [0 Hr 4 Min]

* one drop is one reagent dispense

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Page 1 of 2

Appendix E: Third-Party Recommended Tyramide Dyes

Validated Tyramide Dyes	Incubation Time	Recommended Starting Concentration	Vendor	Catalog #
CF488A	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	92171
CF550R	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	96077
CF555	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	96021
CF583R	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	96085
CF594	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	92174
CF640R	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	92175
CF754	8-24 min	10 µM	Biotium	96090
Alexa Fluor 488 - Tyramide	8-24 min	2x	ThermoFisher	B40953
Alexa Fluor 546 - Tyramide	8-24 min	2x	ThermoFisher	B40954
Alexa Fluor 647 - Tyramide	8-24 min	2x	ThermoFisher	B40958
Alexa Fluor 750 - Tyramide	8-24 min	2x	ThermoFisher	B56131

Appendix F: Tips & Tricks

Adjusting Signal Intensity with HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH

The HCR™ Pro RNA-ISH signal intensity can be adjusted using various parameters to either decrease or increase the strength of the signal.

If you would like to tune down the signal intensity to facilitate data interpretation (e.g., dot counting), we recommend the following options:

Level of Tuning	Guidelines
Coarse-tuning¹	To significantly reduce signal intensity, you can reduce the incubation time of HCR™ Pro Detect E (Step #25 as written in Appendix A-D) from 8 minutes to 4 minutes .
Fine-tuning²	To finely reduce signal intensity, you can either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the incubation time of HCR™ Pro Detect B (Step #22 as written in Appendix A-D) from 120 minutes to 60-90 minutes. 2. Reduce the chromogenic deposition time at an increment of 4 minutes (except for DISCOVERY Red, which should be kept at 12 minutes).

If you would like to increase the signal intensity, you can try the following:

Level of Tuning	Guidelines
Coarse-tuning¹	To significantly increase the signal, you can either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the incubation time of HCR™ Pro Detect E (Step #25 as written in Appendix A-D) from 8 minutes to 16-24 minutes. 2. De-select "Disable heat for 1st Detection" (Step #27 as written in Appendix A-D). Please note that the hematoxylin counterstain could be slightly more intense due to the heat.
Fine-tuning²	Increase the chromogenic deposition time at an increment of 4 minutes . Please see the recommended incubation times for various chromogens on page 14 of this Setup Guide.

¹Use coarse-tuning if the signal needs to be adjusted significantly.

²Use fine-tuning if the signal only needs to be tuned up/down slightly.

Increasing RNA Signal Performance

We have three recommendations for increasing the performance of RNA signal with your HCR[™] HiFi Probe:

1. To open up the tissue more (i.e., break the cross-linkage caused by formalin fixation) and help accessibility of the HCR[™] HiFi Probe and HCR[™] Pro Detect reagents to the target, increase the **Antigen Retrieval** time from 15 to up to **24-32 minutes**.
2. Though we recommend a 1.25-hour probe hybridization time, this may not be optimal across all tissue types. You can increase the **Probe Hybridization** time (Step #17 as written in Appendix A-D) from 1.25 hours to **2 hours** to allow sufficient time for probes to diffuse in and bind to their targets.
3. A hallmark feature of the HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH assay is that it has been optimized to not require protease digestion. However, there are rare cases in which protease can help increase the accessibility of the HCR[™] HiFi Probe to the target molecule. In these cases, incorporating a mild protease step can result in improvements, but could negatively impact co-detection capabilities. We suggest using Roche's "protease 3" at **37 °C** for **4 to 8 minutes**.

Appendix G: FAQ

1. **How do I incorporate HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH into existing IHC/IF assays?**
 - a. Please check out this [blog post](#) for a general overview of HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH and IHC/IF co-detection. For the IHC/IF portion of the protocol, you can use any off-the-shelf primary antibody (or Roche's validated primaries), any of Roche's detection kits (e.g., Multimer detection HRP/AP Kits), and any of Roche's fluorophore kits (e.g., for IF). There are no additional reagents that are required from MI to perform an IHC/IF co-detection assay with HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH.
2. **Which chromogens do you recommend for an HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH + IHC co-detection assay?**
 - a. We recommend using a red/DAB chromogen for RNA-ISH and any of Roche's translucent chromogens (e.g., green, purple, teal, and etc.) for IHC. This combination provides a nice contrast between targets, but you are not limited to these colors in any technical way.
3. **Which detection systems do you recommend using with the HCR[™] Membrane Stain?**
 - a. For ready-to-use amplified detection, we suggest using Roche's OmniMap anti-Rb HRP (Ordering Code: 05269679001) followed by any of Roche's chromogens or fluorophores. For direct-labeled detection, we recommend using either the [Donkey Anti Rabbit \(IgG\) secondary antibody \(Alexa Fluor 647\)](#) or the [Donkey Anti Rabbit \(IgG\) secondary antibody \(Alexa Fluor 555\)](#).
4. **Can you incorporate additional Antigen Retrieval Steps for an HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH + IHC/IF co-detection assay?**
 - a. Yes! If the target retrieval for HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH is insufficient/sub-optimal for your protein target, you can incorporate a separate CC1/CC2 target retrieval step after ISH, but before the IHC/IF staining.
5. **I'd like to incorporate protease in my sample. What are your suggestions?**
 - a. The HCR[™] Pro RNA-ISH protocol does not require any protease digestion, thereby supporting native compatibility with IHC/IF and preserving tissue morphology. However, we understand that there are certain situations where you may want to incorporate protease in your sample like over-fixed tissue samples or the need to unmask epitopes for certain IHC/IF targets (e.g., for an ISH + IHC/IF co-detection assay).
 - b. In such cases, we recommend that you use a light protease digestion with Roche's "protease 3" at **37 °C for 4 to 8 minutes**.