

Covid 19 Diagnostics: Images of the Borderline CT Values and Resolution Through Retesting

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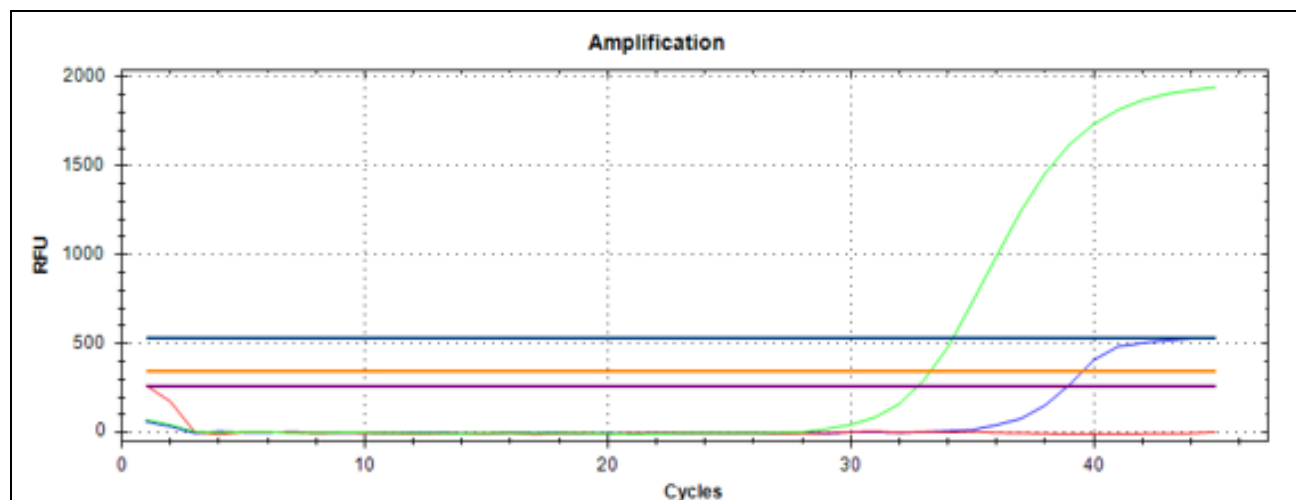


Figure 1: Bio-Rad CFX96 thermal cycler (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.) [1]. Here, we present the RT-PCR results of the sample with a high Ct value of the N gene (Ct of 39.56). The cut-off (Ct) value of the kit is set as 40 [2]. The Ct value of IC detection in the CY5 channel was 32.77. We decided to retest the sample due to the high Ct value of the N target gene and lack of ORF1ab amplification. Retesting of borderline samples with Ct values in the intermediate cut-off zone is needed to confirm the results. The sample was retested using the Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 assay [3]. The results are shown in Figure 2.

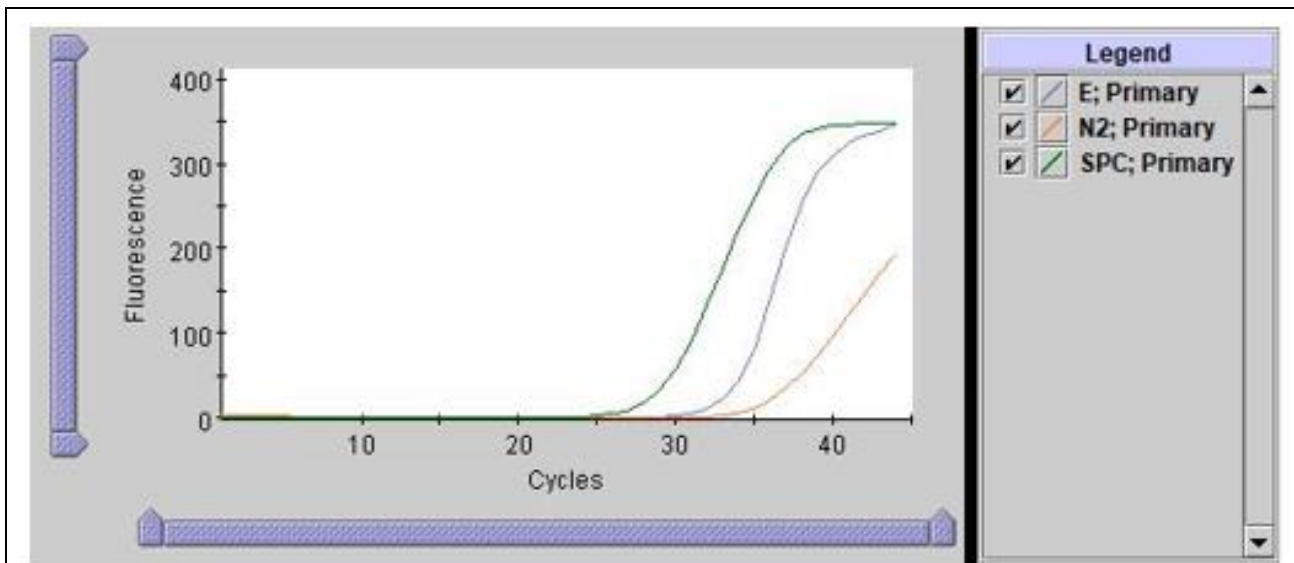


Figure 2: Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test (Cepheid GeneXpert) [3]. After retesting, the Ct value of the N2 target gene was 37.6, and that of the E gene was 33.6. The Ct value of the Sample Processing Control (SPC) was 28.8. The results indicate strong positivity and appropriate conditions for the RT-PCR reaction.

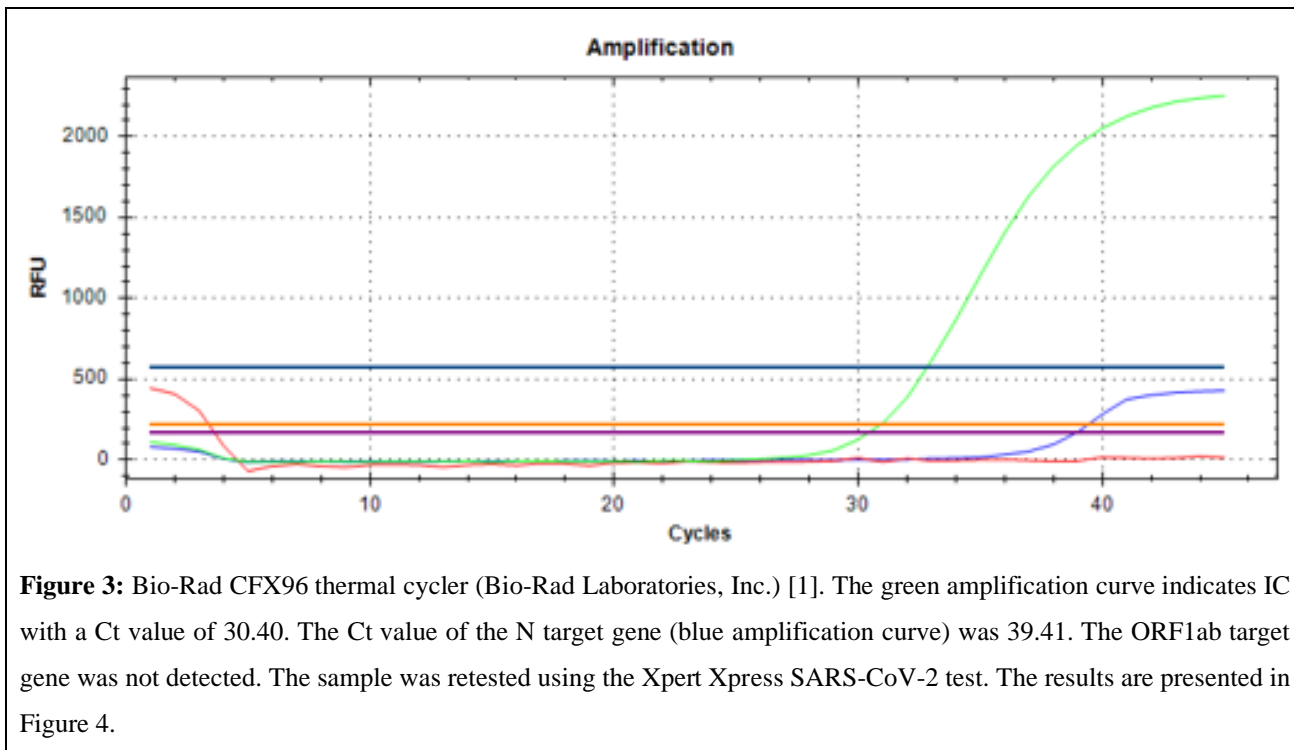
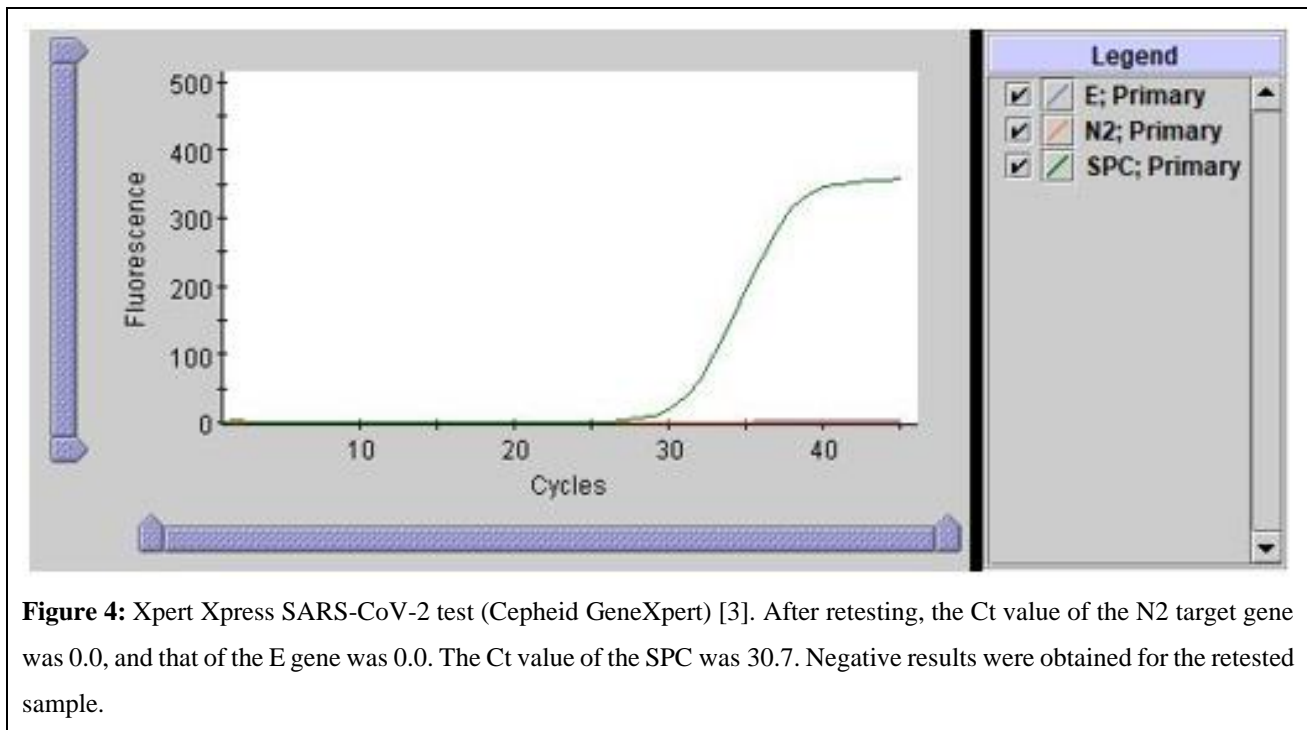


Figure 3: Bio-Rad CFX96 thermal cycler (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.) [1]. The green amplification curve indicates IC with a Ct value of 30.40. The Ct value of the N target gene (blue amplification curve) was 39.41. The ORF1ab target gene was not detected. The sample was retested using the Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test. The results are presented in Figure 4.



The value of retesting is to resolve results that have high Ct values and minimize the risks of making the wrong diagnosis.

REFERENCES

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