

# The European perspective: Current genotyping in Spain

Núria Nogués

Centre de Transfusió i Banc de Teixits  
Barcelona

Current blood group genotyping in Spain is mostly applied to those cases in which the antigen determination is difficult or not possible.

However, genotyping methods are foreseen as a valuable alternative to serological methods and strategies for other applications, like high-throughput blood group typing are being developed.

Blood group genotyping in Spain is performed in Reference Laboratories and includes:

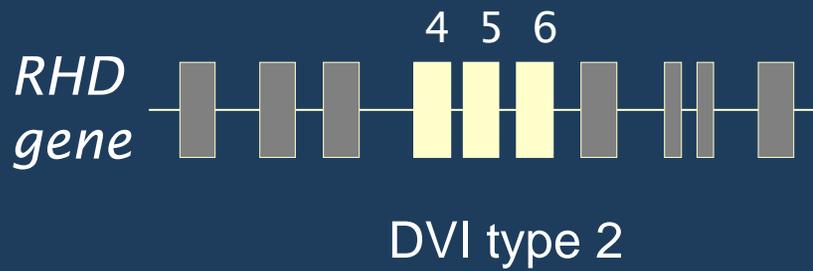
- RHD genotyping of donors (or patients) with an anomalous D antigen expression.

- RHD exon scanning

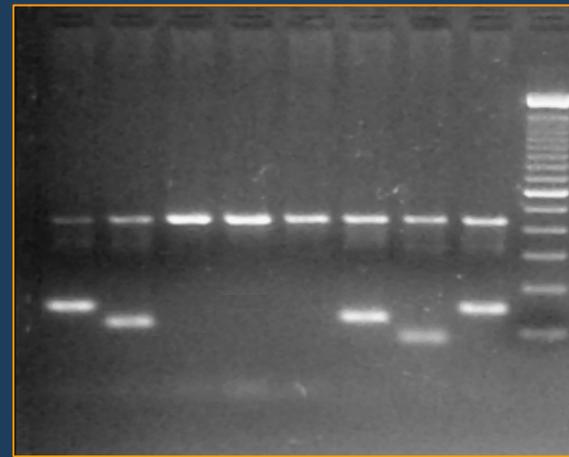
- RHCE specific polymorphisms (including intron 2)

- RHD pseudogen – PCR spanning the 37 bp insertion.

# RHD specific PCR-SSP

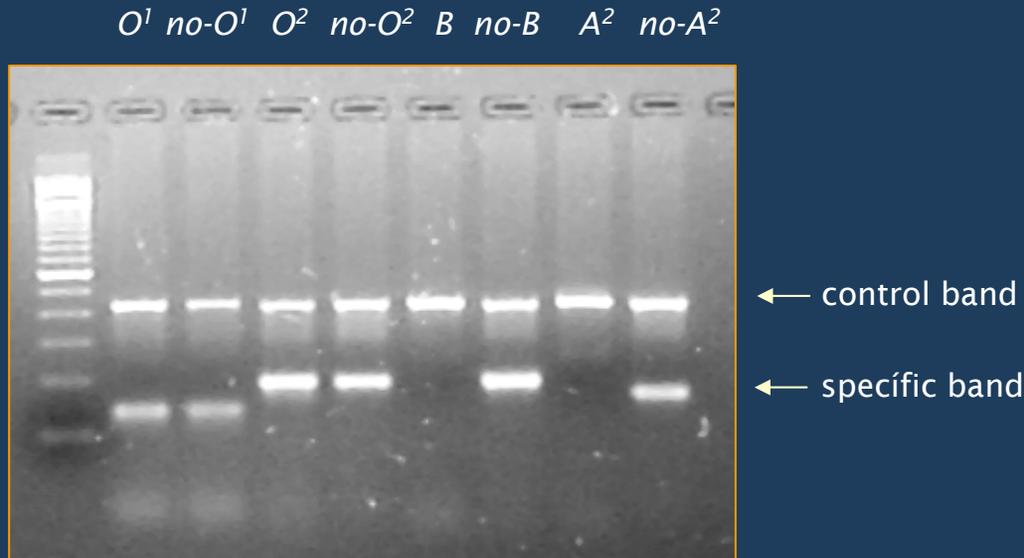


exons 2 3 4 5 6 7 9 10



Control band  
Specific band

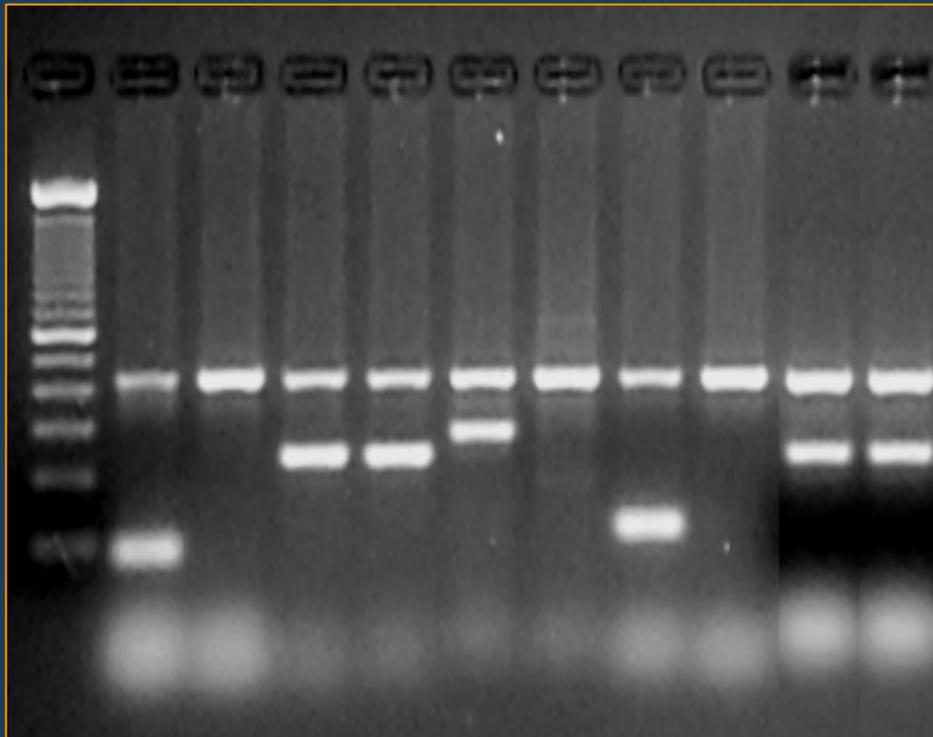
- ABO genotyping of donors (or patients) with a discrepancy in the forward and reverse grouping.



**ABO genotype: *O1/O2***

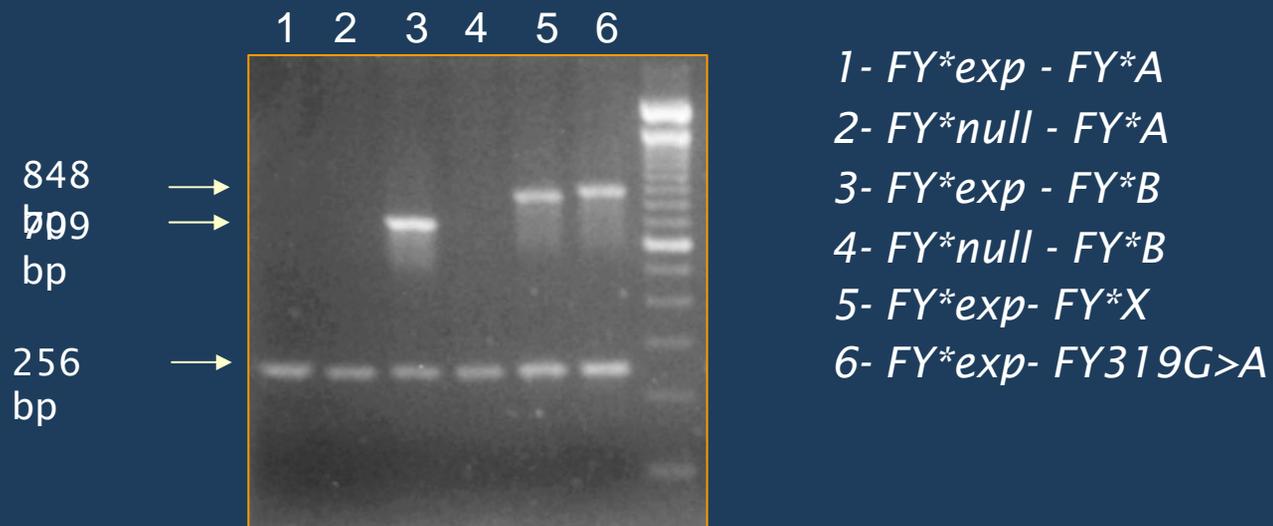
- HPA-1 typing to identify HPA-1a negative donors.

1a 1b 2a 2b 3a 3b 4a 4b 5a 5b



It is also used in blood group typing of red cell panel donors:

- For  $Fy^X$  confirmation in donors with weak  $Fy^b$  expression.

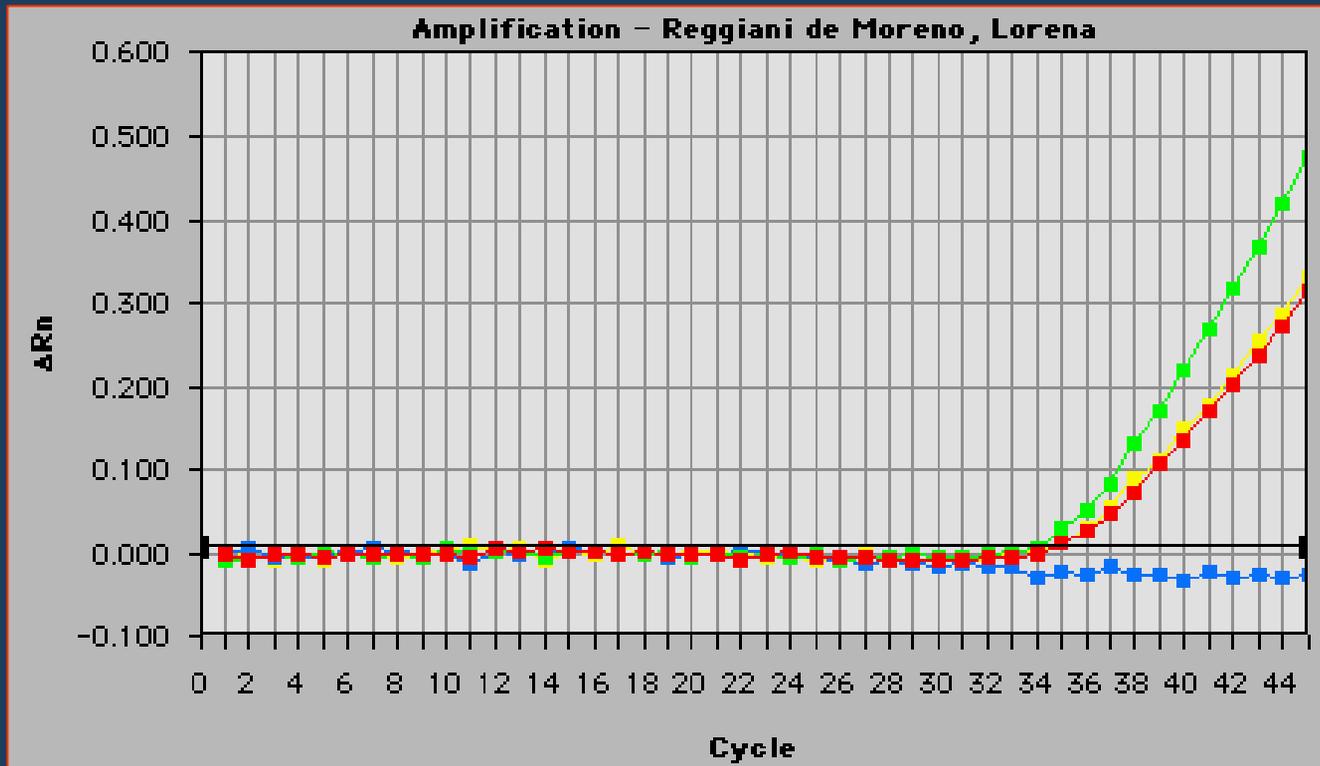


- For searching and confirming unfrequent phenotypes.

Ocasionalmente, it is applied to blood group typing of patients that have received multiple transfusions:

It is also used in the context of pregnancy, to determine feto-maternal incompatibility in sensitized pregnant women:

- Fetal blood group typing from amniotic fluid samples is available for RHD, RHCE, KEL, JK and FY.
- More recently, fetal RhD status can be determined from the cell-free DNA circulating in the maternal plasma.



RHD positive fetus

# What results have we got from the application of blood group genotyping methods?

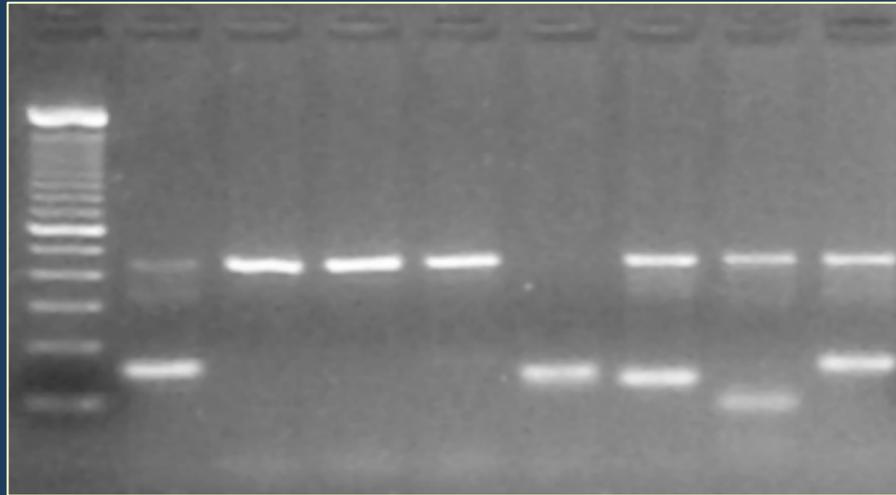
- 1) It has contributed to improve the quality and the accuracy of the typing results.
- 2) Molecular analysis of blood group alleles has allowed us to describe novel allelic variants, not reported in other populations.



D category VI type 4

# DVI type 4

RHD Exons 2 3 4 5 6 7 9 10



*RHD-CE(3-5)-D*

# Comparison with other DVI types:



RHD



RHD<sup>VI</sup> type 1



*RHD<sup>VI</sup> type 2*



RHD<sup>VI</sup> type 3



RHD<sup>VI</sup> type 4



RHCE

➤ DVI type 4 is the prevalent DVI type in the Spanish population

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DVI Type 1	DVI Type 2	DVI Type 4
4	2	11
23.5%	11.8%	<b>64.7%</b>

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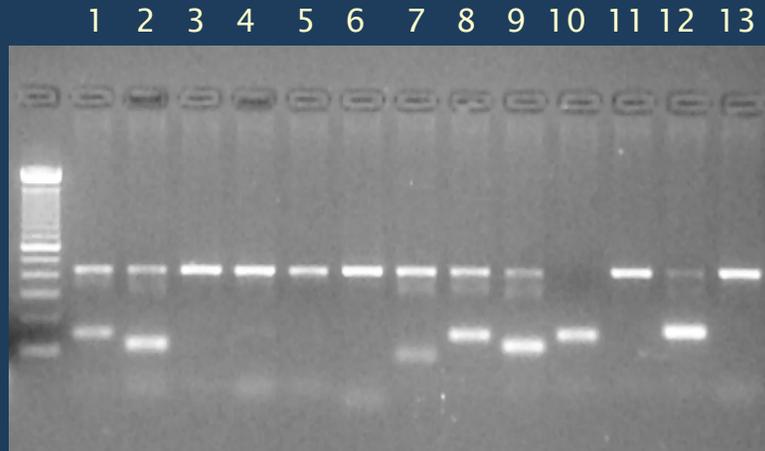
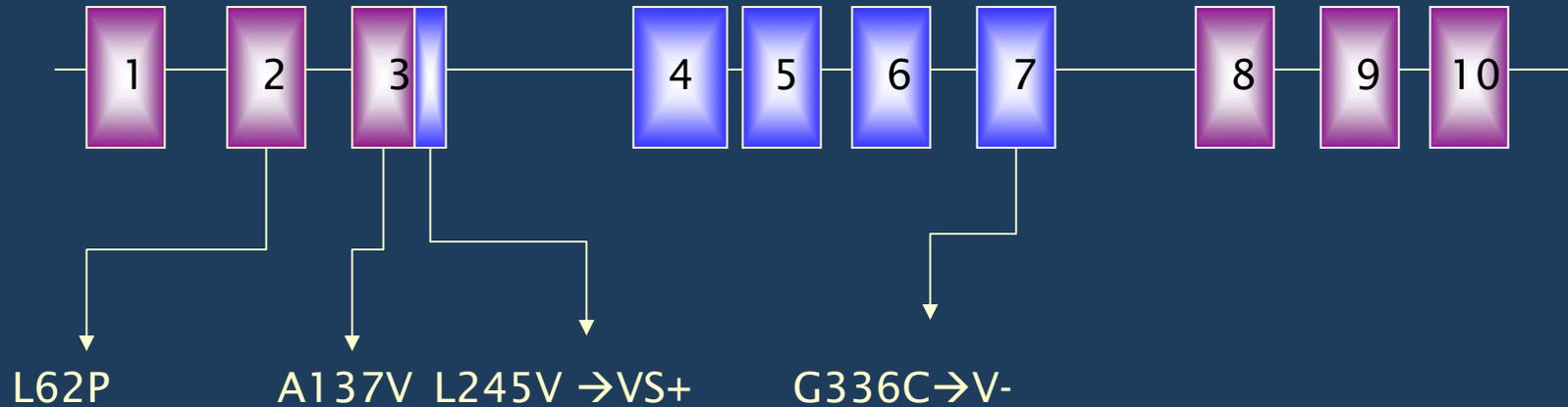
- In all cases, DVI type 4 is linked to the CDe haplotype.
- Serologically, this hybrid protein has a D-epitope expression pattern identical to the previously described DVI phenotypes.

# What results have we got from the application of blood group genotyping methods?

**3)** Molecular analysis of blood group alleles has led to the identification of allelic variants of african origin in our autochthonous population:

- The GATA-mutated FY allele  
→ carried by 4% of Spanish population.
- The hybrid RHD-CE-D<sup>S</sup> (r'<sup>S</sup> haplotype)

# *RHD-CE(3-7)-D. (C)de<sup>s</sup> allele*



Weak C expression

C-specific intron 2 PCR  
negative

We have studied:

225 D-negative samples (C or E positives)



22 carried positive RHD haplotypes



12 normal RHD gene by exon scanning

10 recombined RHD gene

→ Half of the recombined RHD genes corresponded to the hybrid RHD-CE-D<sup>S</sup>.

→ In contrast, the RHD pseudogene is absent in the Spanish population.

**These observations are in agreement with the geographical proximity of Spain to the North of Africa and their historical background:**



- ▶ Several studies on HLA haplotypes and autosomal STRs support the hypothesis of a certain gene flow from the North of Africa to the Iberian peninsula.



⇒ Blood group genotyping is a helpful tool with a gradually increasing number of applications.

⇒ Genotyping studies are allowing us to have a better knowledge of the blood group distribution and molecular bases in our population.

⇒ This information will ultimately help us to improve blood group typing in our laboratories and blood banks.

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