

RETRACTION

Directional Gene Movement from Human-Pathogenic to Commensal-Like Streptococci

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Volume 69, no. 8, p. 4858–4869, 2001: We retract the article.

We have uncertainties as to the overall strength of the main conclusion on interspecies gene transfer of highly divergent housekeeping gene alleles from group A streptococci (GAS) to group C and G streptococci (GCS/GGS), due to an inability to replicate some of the original GCS/GGS-derived sequence data. The reasons may be that (i) the GCS/GGS DNA template used for PCR amplification was contaminated with trace amounts of GAS DNA and/or (ii) there are subtleties with the PCR amplification conditions that could not be replicated due to changes in commercial reagents, thermal cyclers, etc. A clear-cut resolution of this matter may require whole-genome sequencing and assembly for at least a few GCS/GGS strains.