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## Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats-Mediated Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering Assay for Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria

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### Abstract

Antimicrobial resistance and multidrug resistance are slower-moving pandemics than the fast-spreading coronavirus disease 2019; however, they have potential to cause a much greater threat to global health. Here, we report a clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)-mediated surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) assay for multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria. This assay was developed via a synergistic combination of the specific gene-recognition ability of the CRISPR system, superb sensitivity of SERS, and simple separation property of magnetic nanoparticles. This assay detects three multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria, species *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, without purification or gene amplification steps. Furthermore, MDR *A. baumannii*-infected mice were successfully diagnosed using the assay. Finally, we demonstrate the on-site capture and detection of MDR bacteria through a combination of the three-dimensional nanopillar array swab and CRISPR-mediated SERS assay. This method may prove effective for the accurate diagnosis of MDR bacterial pathogens, thus preventing severe infection by ensuring appropriate antibiotic treatment.

KEYWORDS: CRISPR/dCas9, surface-enhanced Raman scattering, antimicrobial-resistance, bacteria, nanoparticle

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