

Simultaneous Detection of Dual Nucleic Acids Using a SERS-based Lateral Flow Biosensor

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Anal. Chem., **Just Accepted Manuscript** • Publication Date (Web): 22 Nov 2016

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2 **Simultaneous detection of dual nucleic acids using a SERS-based lateral flow biosensor**

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ABSTRACT:

A new class of surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS)-based lateral flow assay (LFA) biosensor has been developed for the simultaneous detection of dual DNA markers. The LFA strip in this sensor was composed of two test lines and one control line. SERS nano tags labeled with detection DNA probes were used for quantitative evaluation of dual DNA markers with high sensitivity. Target DNA, associated with Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) and bacillary angiomatosis (BA), were tested to validate the detection capability of this SERS-based LFA strip. Characteristic peak intensities of SERS nano tags on two test lines were used for quantitative evaluations of KSHV and BA. The limits of detection for KSHV and BA, determined from our SERS-based LFA sensing platform, were estimated to be 0.043 pM and 0.074 pM, respectively. These values indicate approximately 10,000 times higher sensitivity than previously reported values using the aggregation-based colorimetric method. We believe that this is the first report of simultaneous detection of two different DNA mixtures using a SERS-based LFA platform. This novel detection technique is also a promising multiplex DNA sensing platform for early disease diagnosis.

KEYWORDS: Surface-enhanced Raman scattering, Lateral flow assay strip, Multiplex detection, Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus nucleic acid, Bartonella angiomatosis nucleic acid

INTRODUCTION

Lateral flow assay (LFA) strips have been considered to be attractive bio-sensing tools due to their low cost and user-friendly format.¹⁻⁵ These strips have been extensively used in numerous diagnostic applications but they have major limitations in terms of detection sensitivity and limited quantification capability.⁶⁻⁸ To resolve these problems, we recently developed a conceptually new surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS)-based LFA sensor for highly sensitive and rapid detection of target biomarkers.⁹⁻¹¹ The detection principle, involving lateral flow chromatographic diffusion and colorimetric detection of gold nanoparticles, is identical to that of conventional naked eye detection-based LFA sensors. The only difference in the SERS-based LFA sensor is the employment of Raman reporter-labeled gold nanoparticles as detection probes. Use of a Raman spectroscopic reader combined with SERS LFA strips enables quantitative evaluation of a specific biomarker with high sensitivity. We recently reported the results of an ultra-sensitive assay for *Staphylococcal enterotoxin B*¹⁰ and human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) DNA¹¹ using this SERS-based LFA sensing platform.

Compared with single biomarker detection, a multiplex biomarker assay enables the simultaneous recognition of multiple target biomarkers in a single assay. Simultaneous multiple biomarker assays provide remarkable advantages including low sample consumption, high sample throughput, and reduced cost per assay.¹²⁻¹⁶ The SERS-based assay platform has been considered a good candidate for multiplex assays due to its narrow band width and non-photobleaching effect compared with a fluorescence-based detection technique.¹⁷⁻²⁰ In the present work, we extensively utilized our SERS-based LFA platform for the simultaneous detection of dual DNA markers. In this SERS-based LFA sensor, the presence of two DNA markers can be identified through color changes of two test lines on nitrocellulose (NC) membrane. Additionally, the amounts of both DNA markers can be simultaneously estimated by measuring the corresponding SERS signal intensities.

In the present study, two target DNAs, associated with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) and bacillary angiomatosis (BA), were used to validate a dual detection capability of our SERS-based LFA strip. The corresponding genetic targets are Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) DNA and bacillary angiomatosis (BA) DNA. KS is known as the most prevalent cancer in patients who are infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).^{21,22} It is particularly important to develop a direct and facile diagnostic method because KS is one of the leading cancers in the under-developed countries of Africa.^{23,24} Accordingly, a suitable diagnostic implementation for low-resource settings is critically needed. However, BA has very similar clinical presentation and histopathological features to KS, and it is often difficult to distinguish KS from BA.²⁵ BA is caused by a rickettsial organism and can be fatal if not treated with appropriate antibiotic therapy.^{26,27} Therefore, the development of a proper diagnostic technique to differentiate KS from BA is essential for the clinical diagnosis of these two diseases.

Recently, Mancuso et al. reported a colorimetric method for the differential diagnosis of KS and BA.²⁸ In this approach, gold and silver nanoparticles aggregations were tuned for each target DNA and a multi-color changing system was developed for the detection of both targets with sensitivity of 1 nM. This aggregation-based colorimetric detection has some merits including its speed and simplicity but further improvements in sensitivity and the capability for quantitative analysis are still needed for the early diagnosis of KS and BA. To resolve these problems, we utilized a SERS-based LFA platform for highly accurate and reproducible analysis of these two different types of DNA. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of simultaneous detection of two different target DNAs using a SERS-based LFA strip platform.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

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Materials and chemicals. Gold (III) chloride trihydrate (HAuCl₄), trisodium citrate (Na₃-citrate), tris (2-carboxyethyl) phosphine hydrochloride (TCEP), sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), Na₃PO₄·12H₂O, sucrose, Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.0), saline-sodium citrate (SSC) buffer (pH 7.0), hydroxyethyl piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (1.0 M), 4-morpholineethanesulfonic acid (MES) buffer, streptavidin and bovine serum albumin (BSA) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, pH 7.4, 0.01 M), malachite green isothiocyanate (MGITC) and Quant-iT™ PicoGreen® dsDNA Assay Kit were purchased from Life Technologies (Eugene, OR, USA). TRITON® X-100 was purchased from Amresco (Cleveland, OH, USA). The nitrocellulose (NC) membrane attached to a backing card (Hi-flow plus HF90, HF120, HF180) was purchased from Millipore Corporation (Billerica. MA, USA). Absorbent pads (CF4) were purchased from Whatman-GE Healthcare (Pittsburgh, PA, USA). The probe and target DNA oligonucleotide probes used in this study were purchased from Integrated DNA technologies, Inc. (Coralville, IA, USA) and had the following sequences:²⁹

Target DNA (KHSV):
5'-ATCCTGCGGAATGACGTTGGCAGGAACCAACAGCGCACAGCCT-3'

Detection DNA (KHSV):
5'-SH-(CH₂)₆-TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTAGGCTGTGCGCTGTTGG-3'

Capture DNA (KHSV): 5'-ACGTCATTCCGCAGGAT-biotin-3'

Target DNA (BA): 5'-CCGTCTCCACCGATTGGTCCTGCTCTTGGTCAGCG-3'

Detection DNA (BA):
5'-SH-(CH₂)₆-TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTCGCTGACCAAGAGCA-3'

Capture DNA (BA): 5'-AATCGGTGGAGACGG-biotin-3'

Control DNA: 5'- biotin-AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA-3'

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130 The ultrapure water ($18 \text{ M}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$) used in this work was obtained from a Milli-Q water
131 purification system (Millipore Corporation, MA, USA). All chemicals used in this study were
132 analytical reagent grade.

133 **Instrumentation.** UV/visible absorption spectra were obtained with Cary 100
134 spectrophotometer (Varian, Salt Lake City, UT, USA). High-magnification transmission
135 electron microscopy (TEM) images were acquired using a JEOL JEM 2100F instrument
136 (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) at an accelerating voltage of 200 kV. Scanning electron microscopy
137 (SEM) images were obtained with a MIRA3 instrument (TESCAN, Brno, Czech Republic) at
138 an accelerating voltage of 15.0 kV. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) data were obtained with a
139 Nano-ZS90 apparatus (Malvern Instruments, Malvern, UK). Raman spectra for the test and
140 control lines of the SERS-based LFNAB strip were acquired using an inVia Renishaw Raman
141 microscope system (Renishaw, New Mills, UK). Fluorescence assay was performed using a
142 microplate reader (Power Wave X340, Bio-Tek, Winooski, VT, USA) equipped with a 96-well
143 plate. Capture and control DNA was immobilized using the DCI 302 dispenser (ZETA
144 Corporation, Seoul, South Korea). All strips were prepared using a programmable cutter
145 (GCI-800, ZETA Corporation, Seoul, South Korea).

146 **Preparation of Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs).** Gold NPs were prepared according to the
147 kinetically controlled seed growth method with slight modifications.³⁰ Briefly, for the
148 synthesis of Au seeds, a solution of 2.2 mM sodium citrate in a three-necked round-bottomed
149 flask was heated under vigorous stirring. A condenser and thermometer were used to prevent
150 evaporation of the solvent and to control the temperature, respectively. After boiling had
151 commenced, 0.5 mL HAuCl_4 (25 mM) was added. The color of the solution changed from
152 yellow to bluish gray and then to soft pink over 10 min. The reaction was cooled in the same
153 vessel until the temperature of the solution reached 90 °C, and then 0.5 mL sodium citrate (60

154 mM) and 0.5 mL HAuCl₄ (25 mM) were sequentially added (time delay ~ 2min). This process
155 was repeated 12 times. The resultant solution was stirred at 90 °C for 30 min. The final
156 concentration of Au NPs was estimated to be ~ 5 nM. TEM, UV-Vis spectrophotometry, and
157 DLS were used to characterize the morphology and size distribution of the produced Au NPs
158 (**Figures S1a-S1c**). A sequential procedure for the immobilization of Raman reporter
159 molecules on the surface of Au NPs was reported elsewhere.¹⁹ Briefly, 0.6 µL of 10⁻⁴ M
160 MGITC was added to 1 mL of 0.1 nM Au NPs. The MGITC-Au NPs mixture was reacted for
161 30 min under gently stirring. Immobilization of MGITC on the surface of Au NPs was
162 identified using the SERS measurements (**Figure S1d**)

163 **Preparation and Characterization of DNA-conjugated SERS Nano Tags.**

164 Immobilization of thiol-modified DNA onto Au NPs occurs through covalent bonding
165 between Au and the terminal thiol group.³¹ Prior to use, the disulfide groups on the DNA were
166 cleaved by the addition of TCEP and incubation at room temperature for 1 h. The solution of
167 DNA with free thiol groups was added to 1 mL of 0.1 nM MGITC-Au NPs solution, and the
168 concentrations of Tris-HCl and SDS were adjusted to 0.01M and 0.01%, respectively. The
169 mixture was maintained at room temperature for 30 min. Subsequently, the concentration of
170 NaCl was increased to 0.2 M using 0.01 M Tris-HCl containing 2 M NaCl and 0.01 % SDS,
171 and the solution was incubated for 24 h at room temperature. Unbound DNAs and chemicals
172 were removed by centrifugation at 7000 rpm for 10 min, and the supernatant was discarded.
173 The remaining red pellet was washed three times, and re-dispersed in 100 µL of buffer
174 containing 20 mM Na₃PO₄, 5% BSA, 0.25 % Tween 20 and 10 % sucrose.

175 **Preparation of the SERS-based DNA Probe-Immobilized Lateral Flow Strip.** A
176 schematic diagram of the SERS-based LFA sensor prepared in this work is shown in **Figure**
177 **1a**. The SERS-based LFA sensor consisted of four sections: sample pad, conjugate pad, NC
178 membrane, and absorption pad. The sample pad was blocked with 20 mM Tris-HCl

containing 0.25 % TRITON[®] X-100 and 150 mM NaCl followed by overnight drying at 37 °C to ensure optimal conditions for the analytes throughout the flux. The conjugated pad was prepared by addition of 6 μL of SERS nano tag and dried at room temperature. The NC membrane was used to dispense the streptavidin-biotinylated KSHV capture probe, streptavidin-biotinylated BA capture probe and streptavidin-biotinylated complementary capture probe to form two test lines and one control line, and then cut into 3.8-mm strips by a programmable cutter. The streptavidin-biotinylated capture probes were prepared by the reaction of 100 μL of biotinylated DNA and 100 μL of 2 mg/mL streptavidin at room temperature for 1h. The resulting conjugates were purified by centrifugation for 30 min with a centrifugal filter at 6000 rpm and then dissolved in PBS solutions. Finally, all of the components were assembled on a plastic adhesive backing layer. Each part overlapped 2 mm to ensure solution migration.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Principle of SERS-based Lateral Flow Assay for the Simultaneous Detection of Dual DNA Markers. Figure 1 illustrates the operating principle of the LFA biosensor for the simultaneous detection of two nucleic acid biomarkers, KSHV and BA. This strip was composed of two test lines and one control line as shown in Figure 1a. Biotinylated KSHV capture DNAs were immobilized on the first test line through the streptavidin-biotin reaction. BA capture DNAs were immobilized on the second test line in the same manner. On the control line in the third position, A₂₀-biotinylated capture DNAs were immobilized for direct hybridization with T₂₀-detection DNAs attached to Au NPs. All capture DNAs and control DNAs were pre-immobilized on the NC membrane using the DCI 302 dispenser. At the same time, a 1:1 molar mixture of KSHV and BA detection DNA-immobilized SERS nano tags was stored in the conjugate pad. Detection DNAs were attached on the surface of Au NPs through

the covalent bond between thiol and Au. Here, T_{20} DNA spacers were used for both KSHV and BA detection DNAs for simultaneous hybridizations with pre-immobilized A_{20} capture DNAs on the control line. After introduction of the sample solution containing the target DNAs (KSHA and BA) onto the sample pad, the solution migrated toward the absorption pad by capillary action. When the sample solution passed through the conjugation pad, the target DNAs hybridized with corresponding detection DNAs (KSHA and BA) attached to the surface of Au NPs to form two different types of DNA hybridization complexes, which continued to flow along the strip.

When these complexes reached the first test line, KSHV DNA-Au NPs complexes were captured by the probe KSHV DNAs that were pre-immobilized on the test line (**Figure 1b(i)** and **Figure 1c(i)**). Consequently, sandwich KSHV DNA hybridization complexes were formed on the first test line. The remaining solution continued to migrate, and BA DNA-Au NPs complexes were captured by the probe BA DNAs attached to the second test line (**Figure 1b(ii)** and **Figure 1c(ii)**). Finally, excess KSHV and BA detection DNAs attached to Au NPs continued to migrate, and then they were captured by the control DNAs through T_{20} - A_{20} hybridization on the third control line (**Figure 1b(iii)** and **Figure 1c(iii)**).

“On-off” Test of KSHA and BA DNA Markers Using SERS-based Lateral Flow Assay.

Figure 2a shows digital photographic images of the LFA biosensor for the simultaneous detection of dual DNA markers, and their corresponding color changes for different concentrations of KSHA and BA DNA markers. SERS spectra of two test lines for corresponding four lateral flow strips were displayed in **Figure 2b**. An “on-off” qualitative test could be performed by observing color changes of two test lines: one for KSHV and the other for BA. It is worth noting that the color of the third control line always changes to red regardless of the concentration of DNA marker, indicating that the control line is working properly by capturing DNA-conjugated SERS nano tags through T_{20} - A_{20} hybridization. If the

red band is not observed on the control line, the lateral flow strip is not functioning properly. The colors of the first and second test lines did not change when the sample did not include any DNA markers (**Figure 2a(i)**). Moreover, the color change of the test lines depended on the concentration of each DNA marker. When the sample contained 100 pM KSHA DNA and 0 pM BA DNA, the color of the first test line changed to red (**Figure 2a(ii)**); when the sample contained 0 pM KSHA and 100 pM BA, the color of the second test line changed to red (**Figure 2a(iii)**). When the sample included 100 pM KSHA DNA and 100 pM BA DNA, the color of both lines changed to red (**Figure 2a(iv)**). SERS spectral changes in **Figure 2b** demonstrate the same “on-off” pattern according to the concentration of each DNA. SEM images for the corresponding “on-off” conditions of KSHA and BA are displayed in **Figure S2**. Therefore, it can be concluded that a qualitative “on-off” identification of two different DNA markers is possible using this SERS-based lateral flow strip.

To evaluate the cross-reactivity between the two DNA markers, 100 pM BA was mixed with different concentrations of KSHV in the 0~20 pM range. Photographic images of the detection results are displayed in **Figure 3a**. As expected, the color of the second test line changed to the same intensity of red color for 100 pM BA in all samples. The results demonstrate that the intensity variation for 100 pM BA showed consistent values regardless of KSHV concentration. In contrast, the color of the first test line changed to a light brown color for 20 pM KSHV (**Figure 3a(v)**) but no obvious color change was observed when the concentration of KSHV was lower than 20 pM. However, the corresponding Raman intensity at 1617 cm^{-1} exactly correlated with the concentration of KSHV below 20 pM, as shown in **Figure 3b**. Therefore, quantitative analysis in the lower concentration range of KSHV is possible using this SERS-based assay strip.

Optimization of SERS-based Lateral Flow DNA Assay Parameters. To achieve optimized conditions for the sandwich-type DNA hybridization reactions and SERS detection of KSHV

and BA DNA markers, various experimental parameters, including the NC membrane type, the type and concentration of running buffer and the amount of BSA in the running buffer, were investigated. Optimization was carried out by varying one parameter while keeping the other parameters constant.

Effect of Different Types of Nitrocellulose Membrane

Three different types of NC membranes, HF090MC 100, HF120MC 100 and HF180MC 100, were tested to determine which gave the best SERS response. **Figure S3a** displays corresponding Raman intensities of KSHV and BA test lines at 1617 cm^{-1} for three NC membranes. As shown in this figure, the Raman intensity for HF180MC 100 was significantly stronger than those measured for other membranes. According to the manufacturer's instruction, the migration times of the buffer in HF090MC100, HF120MC 100, and HF180MC 100 were estimated to be 10, 15, and 20 min, respectively. Our results indicate that the NC membrane with a longer migration time is most favorable for DNA assays because the running buffer has a longer duration time on each test line for the formation of sandwich DNA complexes. Therefore, HF180MC 100 was selected for subsequent assay experiments.

Effect of Running Buffer

The running buffer solution strongly affects the migration of SERS nano tags. In addition, the choice of appropriate buffer solution would increase the hybridization efficiency of detection DNA, target DNA and capture DNA. Therefore, we evaluated the performance of the lateral diffusion and SERS detection capability with five different types of running buffer solution: MES, HEPES, Tris-HCl, PBS and SSC. As shown in **Figure S3b**, the Raman intensity for SSC buffer was significantly stronger than those for other buffer solutions. On the basis of this result, a SSC buffer solution was used in subsequent assays. As the concentration of SSC buffer solution is another important factor, SERS signal intensities for several different SSC concentrations were tested. As shown in **Figure S3c**, $4\times$ SSC was estimated to be the

optimum concentration for the SERS-based assay. Finally, the amount of BSA in the running buffer also plays an important role in reducing the nonspecific absorption of SERS nano tags on the NC membrane. During the optimization process, the flow velocity decreased with an increase in BSA concentration. It was also found that the Raman intensity decreased with increasing BSA concentration as shown in **Figure S3d**. We believe that the decrease of Raman intensity is caused by the edge effect, which is caused by preferential evaporation at the edges of the membrane sheet. With the viscosity increase of the buffer solution, more SERS nano tags move to edge areas from interior sections. When the lateral flow strip was completely dried, the edges were noticeably more tinted than the center section. To minimize this edge effect, SSC buffer containing 1% BSA was determined to be the final buffer solution for subsequent experiments.

Analytical Performance of SERS-based Lateral Flow Assay Biosensor. To evaluate the quantitative detection capability of our SERS-based LFA strip, its analytical performance for KSHV was compared with that of the commercially available KSHV fluorescence kit (Quant-iT™ PicoGreen® dsDNA Assay Kit) as shown in **Figure 4**. PicoGreen is a sensitive fluorescence nucleic acid stain for quantitating double-stranded DNA in solution. The DNA samples were excited at 480 nm and the fluorescence emission intensity was measured at 520 nm using a fluorescence spectrophotometer. The assay results for KSHV were compared in the 0 ~ 100 pM range. The results indicate that the SERS-based assay technique (**Figure 4a**) provides more sensitive quantification of KSHV than the PicoGreen fluorescence kit (**Figure 4b**) especially at concentrations lower than 10 pM.

Under optimized detection conditions, quantitative evaluations of KSHV and BA DNA markers in the sample was performed using the SERS-based LFA strip. As shown in the digital photographs in **Figure 5a**, it is difficult to identify colorimetric changes of test lines for

both KSHV and BA at concentrations lower than 10 pM. Furthermore, quantitative evaluation of colorimetric changes is impossible. Using the SERS-based LFA strip, it is possible to achieve a quantitative result by monitoring the characteristic Raman signal intensity of SERS nano tags. Quantitative analysis of KSHV and BA DNAs was performed by monitoring the Raman peak intensities of the corresponding test lines. **Figure 5b** illustrates the SERS spectra for different concentrations of target KSHV and BA DNAs. As shown in this figure, overall SERS intensities concomitantly increased with increasing concentrations of KSHV and BA.

The corresponding calibration curves are displayed in **Figure 5c** and **5d**. The SERS peak intensities centered at 1617 cm^{-1} were used for quantitative evaluation of KSHV and BA. The inset displays the four-parameter sigmoid function for the fitting line. Error bars indicate the standard deviations of five measurements. The limit of detection (LOD) value of each target was estimated by the IUPAC standard method ($\text{LOD} = \bar{y}_{\text{blank}} + 3 \times \text{SD}_{\text{blank}}$, where $\bar{y}_{\text{blank}}$ is the average signal intensity at zero and SD_{blank} is the standard deviation of the blank measurements).³² Using this equation, the LODs of KSHV and BA DNAs were estimated to be 0.043 pM and 0.074 pM, respectively. These LOD values are at least 10,000 times more sensitive than those obtained from the nanoparticle aggregation-based colorimetric method.^[28] Importantly, our SERS-based LFA strip can be used for simultaneous detection of dual DNA markers, KSHV and BA, with high sensitivity.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, we developed a novel SERS-based LFA biosensor for the simultaneous detection of two DNA markers, KSHV and BA. This SERS-based LFA strip contained two test lines and one control line, and a 1:1 molar mixture of KSHV and BA detection DNA-immobilized SERS nano tags was stored in the conjugate pad. KSHV and BA detection DNAs attached to Au NPs were captured by corresponding probe DNAs on the first and

second test lines, and excess Au NPs were captured by control DNAs on the third control line through T₂₀-A₂₀ hybridization.

Raman peak intensity centered at 1617 cm⁻¹ was monitored, and its variation was used for the quantitative evaluation of KSHV and BA. The LODs of KSHV and BA determined from our SERS-based LFA sensing platform were estimated to be 0.043 pM and 0.074 pM, respectively; these values indicate approximately 10,000 times greater sensitivity than the previously reported aggregation-based colorimetric method. We believe that this novel SERS-based LFA biosensor is an excellent diagnostic platform for low-resource settings.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information. The Characterization of SERS nano tags, the SEM images of the SERS-based LFA biosensor and the optimization of SERS-based Lateral Flow DNA Assay Parameters are reported in the supporting information. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Research Foundation of Korea supported this work through grant numbers 2008-0061891 and 2009-00426. The Nano Material Technology Development Program also supported this work, through the National Research Foundation of Korea, funded by the Ministry of Science, ICT & Future Planning (2012M3A7B4035288). This work was partially

1
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3 358 supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant numbers 21575159 and
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5 359 21275158).
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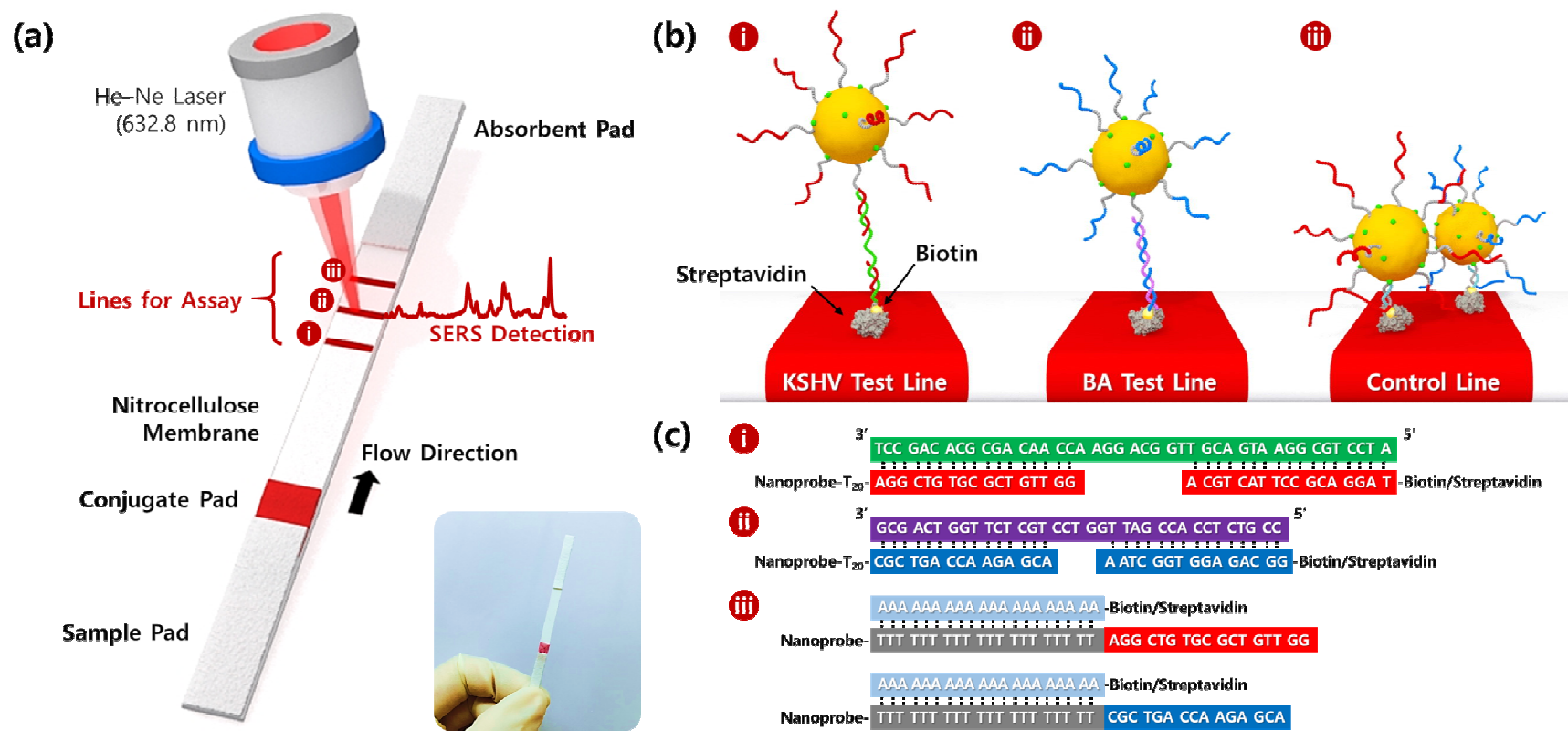


Figure 1. (a) Schematic illustration of the LFA biosensor for the simultaneous detection of two nucleic acids. The strip is composed of two test lines and one control line. (b) (i) KSHV DNA-Au NPs complexes were captured by the probe KSHV DNAs on the first test line, (ii) BA DNA-Au NPs complexes were captured by the probe BA DNAs on the second test line, and (iii) excess KSHV and BA detection DNAs attached to Au NPs were captured by control DNAs through T₂₀-A₂₀ hybridization on the third control line. (c) Corresponding DNA hybridizations for two test lines (i and ii) and one control line (iii).

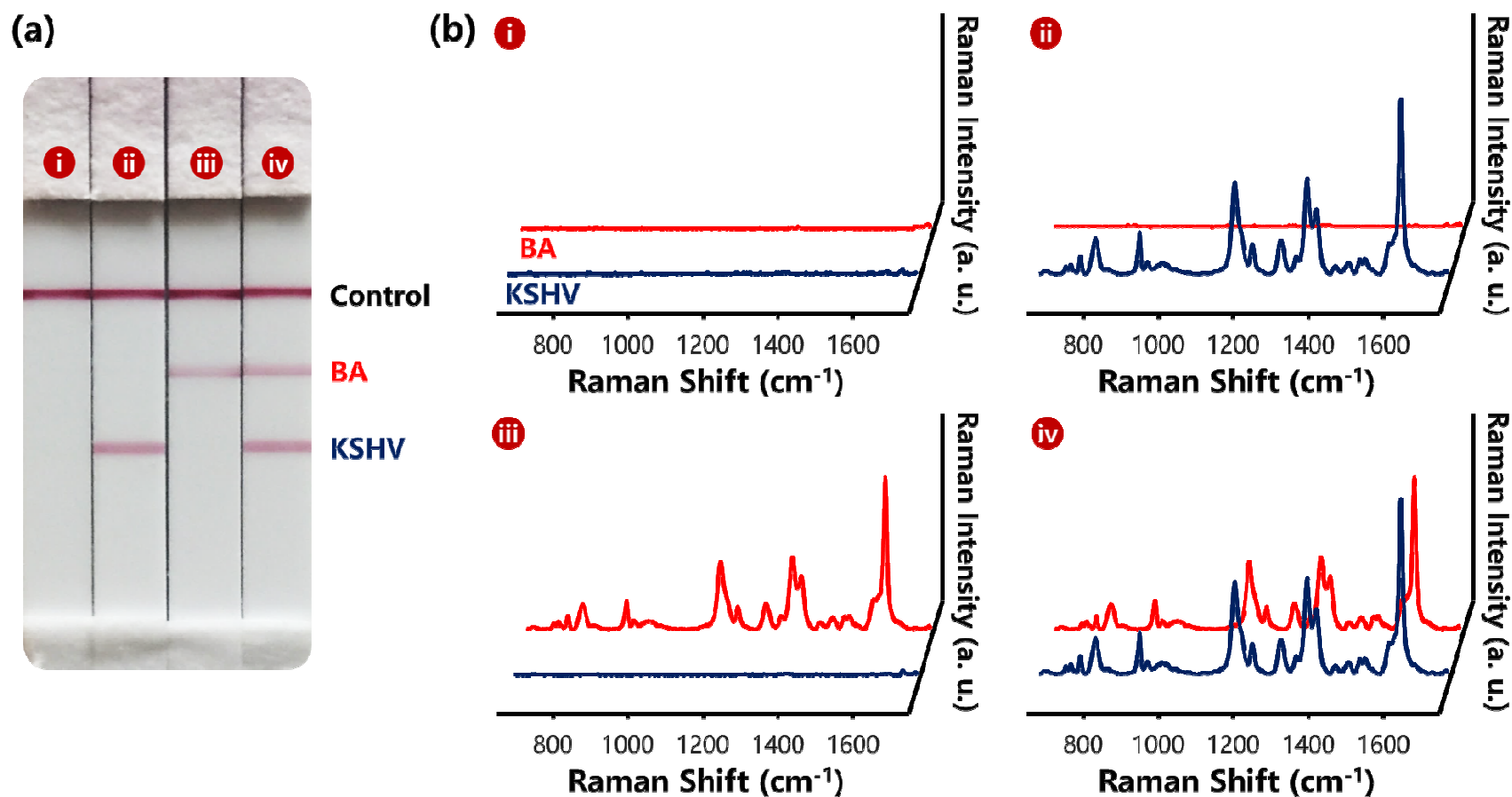


Figure 2. (a) Digital photographic images and (b) corresponding SERS spectra of the SERS-based LFA biosensor in the presence of (i) KSHV: 0 pM, BA: 0 pM; (ii) KSHV: 100pM, BA: 0 pM; (iii) KSHV: 0 pM, BA: 100 pM; (iv) KSHV: 100 pM, BA: 100 pM. Assay time: 20 min.

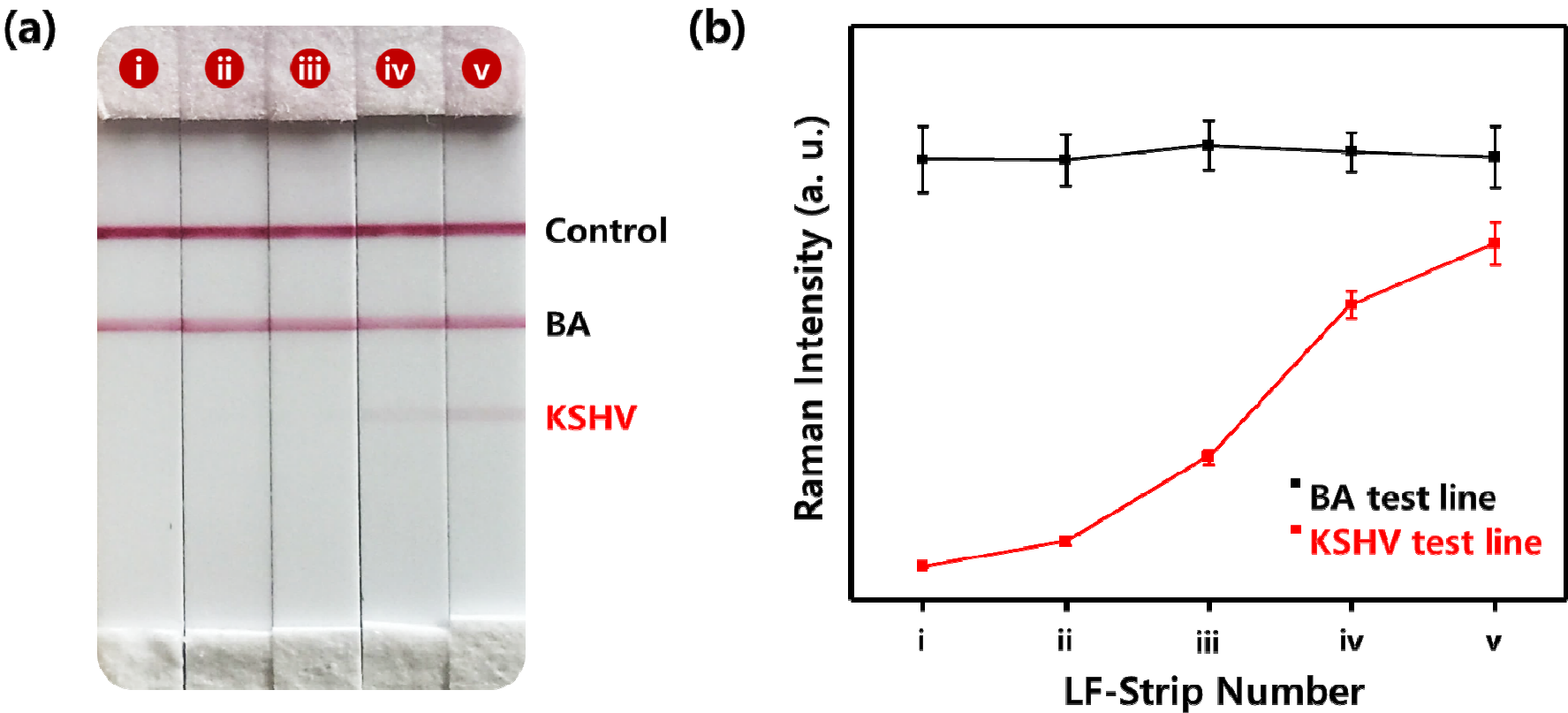


Figure 3. (a) Digital photographic images and (b) corresponding Raman intensity variations at 1617 cm^{-1} of two test lines (BA and KSHV) in the presence of (i) KSHV: 0 pM, BA: 100 pM; (ii) KSHV: 0.5 pM, BA: 100 pM; (iii) KSHV: 2 pM, BA: 100 pM; (iv) KSHV: 10 pM, BA: 100 pM; (v) KSHV: 20 pM, BA: 100 pM. Assay time: 20 min. The error bars indicate the standard deviations calculated from five measurements.

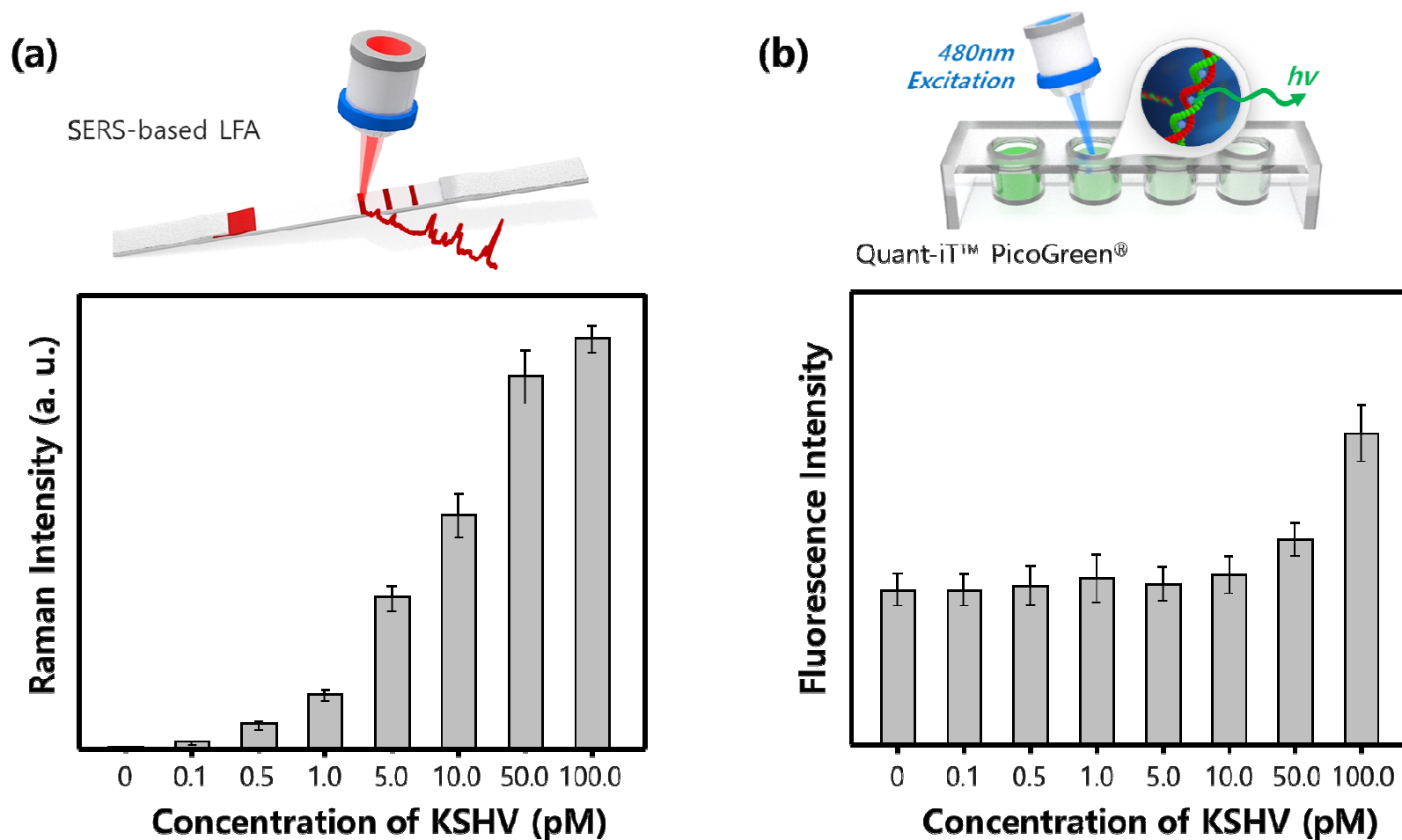


Figure 4. Comparison of the assay results obtained for eight different concentrations of KSHV DNA using (a) the SERS-based lateral flow biosensor and (b) commercially available Quant-iT™ PicoGreen® double strand DNA Assay Kit. The error bars indicate the standard deviations calculated from five measurements.

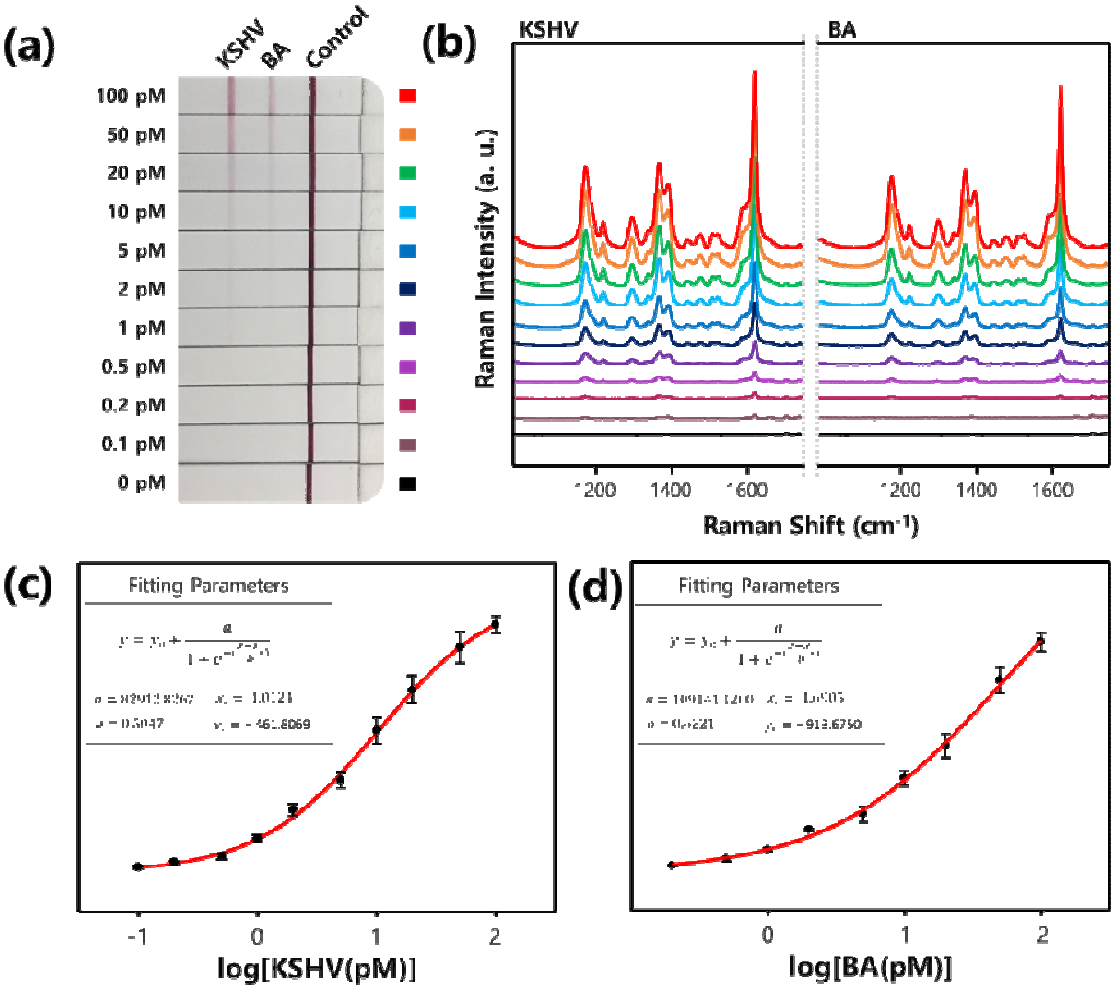
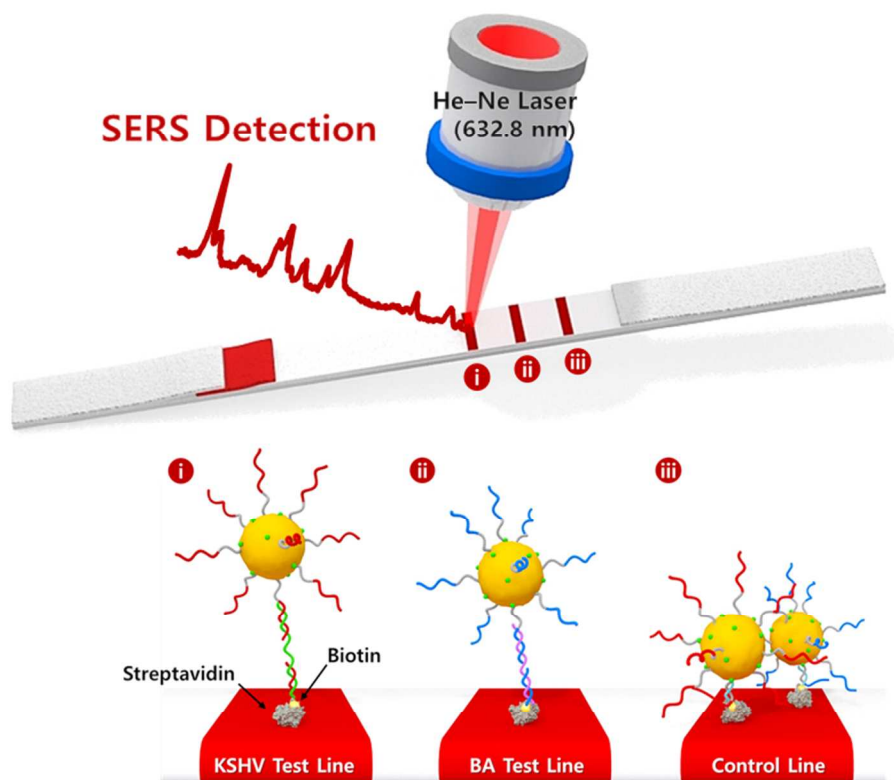


Figure 5. (a) Digital photographic images and (b) corresponding Raman spectra of two test lines for different concentrations of KSHV and BA DNAs (from 0 to 100 pM). Corresponding calibration lines as a function of the sigmoidal of the concentration of (c) KSHV DNA (from 0.1 to 100 pM) and (d) BA DNA (from 0.2 to 100 pM). Inset denotes the four-parameter sigmoid function for the fitting lines. The error bars indicate the standard deviations calculated from five measurements.



213x184mm (150 x 150 DPI)