Spacer 18

Spacer 18 is a hexaethylene glycol chain that is 18 atoms long (12 carbons + 6 oxygens), and is used to incorporate a long spacer arm into an oligonucleotide. Spacer 18 can be incorporated in consecutive additions whenever a longer spacer is required. Spacer 18 had been used to form bold folds and hairpin loops in oligonucleotides (1,2), and for solid-phase immobilization of hybridization probes (3). Spacer 18 has also been used to modify random primers used in whole genome amplification (WGA)-based applications, as a way to eliminate self-priming events that form spurious DNA products (that is, false-positive amplification) in the PCR reactions (4).

References