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Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Source

National Cancer Institute (NCI). *Polymerase chain reaction.*

A procedure that produces millions of copies of a short segment of DNA through repeated cycles of: (1) denaturation, (2) annealing, and (3) elongation. Polymerase chain reaction is a very common procedure in molecular genetic testing and may be used to generate a sufficient quantity of DNA to perform a test (e.g., allele-specific amplification, trinucleotide repeat quantification). Also called PCR.