

UTILITY OF STR GENOTYPING SOFTWARE IN FORENSIC CASEWORK AND DATABANKS

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DNA Profiling via STR analysis can be accomplished by using an integrated system that includes optimized AmpF/STR® kit reagents, multicolor fluorescent detection instruments, and specialized software for sizing and genotyping. Custom templates are available for Genotyper® software, which designate sample alleles by comparison to alleles in the corresponding allelic ladder. The role of the genotyping software as a tool in casework and convicted offender databanks will be discussed. Updated template features will be explained, including stutter filtering, off-ladder allele designations for CODIS, and automatic comparison of overlap loci when using AmpF/STR® Profiler Plus™ and AmpF/STR® Cofiler™ kits. Limitations of genotyping software and the role of the analyst in the process will also be discussed.