

*Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) involves two main stages: cluster formation and sequencing by synthesis.

1. Cluster Formation:

This stage prepares the DNA for sequencing by creating clusters of identical DNA fragments.

DNA Fragmentation: The cellular DNA is first fragmented into small pieces.

Adapter Addition: Short DNA adapters are added to the ends of each DNA fragment. These adapters are essential for the next steps (e.g., attaching to the sequencing surface).

Denaturation: The double-stranded DNA fragments are then denatured (separated into single strands).

Attachment to Solid Surface: The single-stranded fragments are attached to a solid surface (e.g., a flow cell). This surface contains complementary sequences (adaptors) that bind to the DNA fragments, ensuring each fragment is anchored at a specific location.

PCR Amplification: Using PCR-like amplification, each DNA fragment is copied many times, creating a cluster of identical DNA fragments at each position on the surface. Each cluster comes from a single original DNA fragment.

Barcoding: The adapters can also contain barcode sequences, which can label samples from different individuals or conditions, allowing for multiple samples to be processed together.

[بتعرف تسلسل أكثر من Sample بنفس التجربة
أي بعد كل التجربة]

2. Sequencing by Synthesis:

This is where the actual sequencing takes place, and it involves determining the nucleotide sequence of the DNA.

Primer Binding: A primer is added that binds to the adapter sequence on the DNA fragment.

Addition of Special Nucleotides: Four types of special fluorescently labeled nucleotides (A, T, C, and G) are added, but these are different from regular nucleotides (they are not dideoxynucleotides or normal deoxynucleotides).

DNA Polymerase Action: DNA polymerase adds a nucleotide to the growing strand, based on the template DNA. Only one nucleotide is added per cycle.

Fluorescent Detection: After each nucleotide is incorporated, the fluorescent signal (color) corresponding to that nucleotide is detected by a special camera. Each color represents a specific nucleotide (A, T, C, or G).

Clearing and Repeating: After detecting the fluorescence, the chemical modifications on the nucleotides are removed (The fluorophore and chain-terminating modifications are then removed), allowing the addition of the next nucleotide in the sequence. This process repeats in cycles.

Cycle Repetition: The cycle is repeated multiple times to build up the entire sequence of the DNA fragment. Each cycle adds one nucleotide, and the sequence is read from the emitted fluorescent signals.

Cluster Sequencing: Since each cluster represents many identical DNA fragments, the sequence of each cluster can be determined independently. These sequences range from 50 to 300 nucleotides in length.

Final Steps:

Sequence Assembly: After sequencing millions of fragments, the sequences are assembled by identifying overlapping regions. This allows the fragments to be pieced together into a complete contiguous sequence (the full genome or target region).

Massive Parallel Sequencing: The key advantage of NGS is that it can sequence millions of DNA fragments simultaneously, making it much faster

