SUMMARY

1. Individual cells can be arrayed on glass slides inside specially designed micro-channels,
2. cells can be treated physico-chemically to release chromatin,
3. the entire chromatin can be stretched in a linear fashion,
4. the extent of stretching (from a few microns to 10-12 mm) can be adjusted by controlling the stretching force and environmental parameters,
5. stretched chromatin can be analyzed by FISH providing a resolution of up to 5-15 kb,
6. the method is suitable to address tumor heterogeneity by preparing chromatin arrays of 12-32 single cell spreads per slide, and
7. the method works well with fresh, frozen or fixed cells as starting material.

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