Overcoming Limitations in the Availability of Swabs Systems Used for SARS-CoV-2 Laboratory Diagnostics

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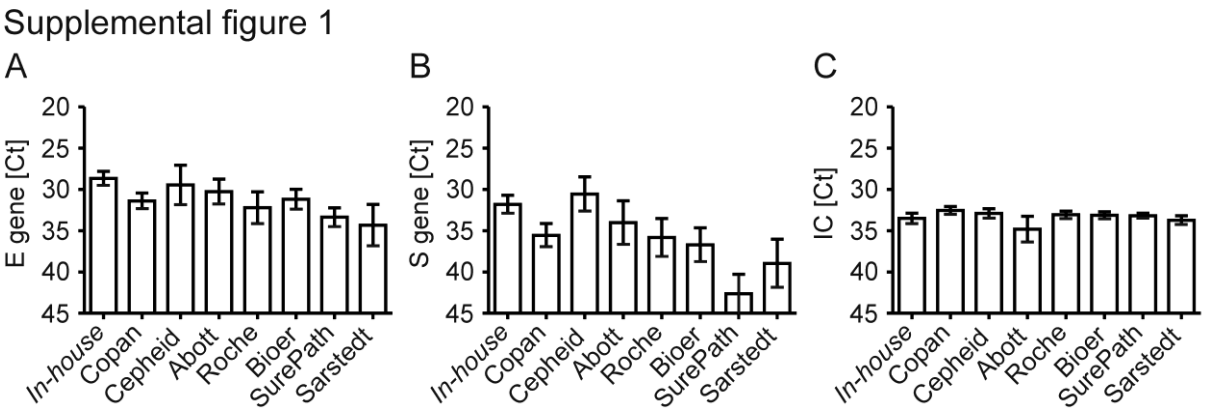
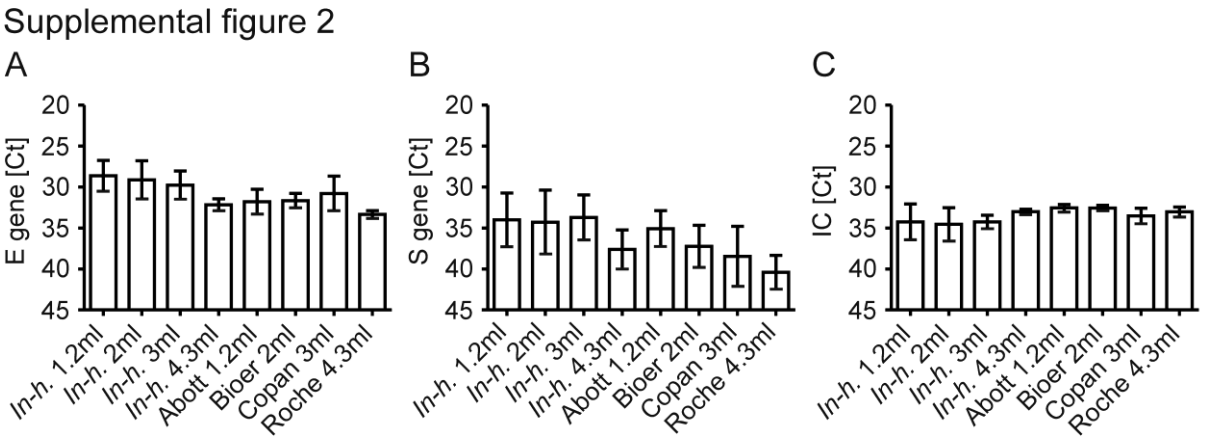
Supplemental Figures and Supplemental Figure Legends.



Supplemental Figure 1.

Ct values of all positive RT-PCR results taken with either of eight swabs variants are depicted as mean ± SEM separately for the viral E gene (A), the viral S gene (B) and the internal control (C). n=26 for the *in-house* system, n=14 for the Copan® system, n=10 for the Cepheid® system, n=8 for the Abott® system, n=11 for the Roche® system, n=11 for the

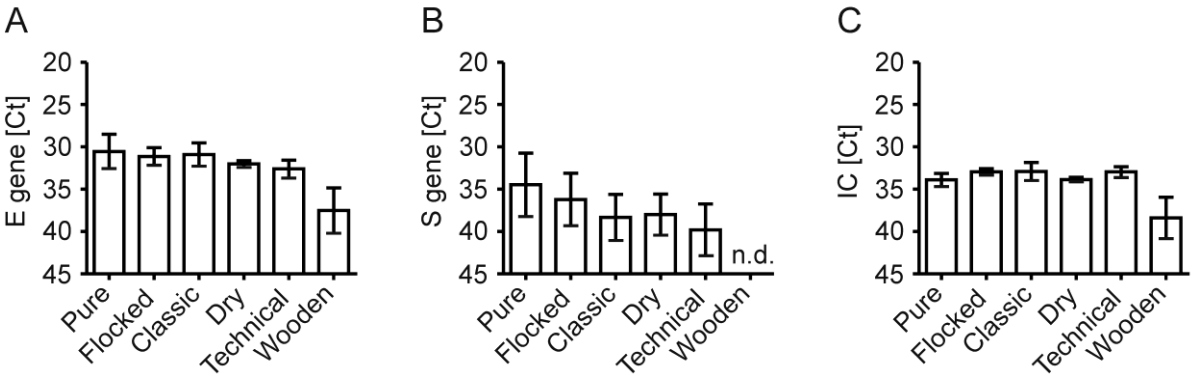
Bioer® system, n=6 for the BD SurePath® system n=10 for the Sarstedt® swab. No significant difference due to the used swab type was found.



Supplemental Figure 2.

To look into the effects that the volume of transport medium or preservation fluid as provided by the manufacturer may have on the RT-PCR result, we sampled in 1.2ml, 2ml, 3ml or 4.3ml of *in-house* (*In-h.*) VTM. For comparison, we chose the Abott® system with 1.2ml, the Bioer® system with 2ml, the Copan® system with 3ml and the Roche® system with 4.3ml of liquid. Ct values for the viral E gene (A), the viral S gene (B) and the internal control (IC) are depicted. n=6 independent samples. No statistically significant differences were found.

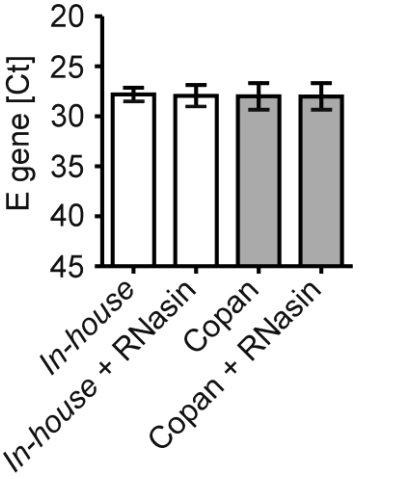
Supplemental figure 3



Supplemental Figure 3.

To assess whether the use of different swabs in combination with the *in-house* VTM tube may affect the RT-PCR result, we sampled with either of six different swabs. Ct values for the viral E gene (A), the viral S gene (B) and the internal control (IC) are depicted. n=4 independent samples. No statistically significant differences were found. n.d. for not detected.

Supplemental figure 4



Supplemental Figure 4.

To see whether an RNAse inhibitor may affect the results of RT-PCR, four samples collected with either the *in-house* VTM (white bars) or the Copan UTM (grey bars) were incubated

with or without 4,000 U/ml of RNasin in the refrigerator at 2-8°C for 72 hours. No statistically significant differences in the Ct values of the viral E gene were found.