

## Circulating Cell-Free DNA Pre-analytics: Importance of ccfDNA Stabilization and Extraction for Liquid Biopsy Applications

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- Diagnostic errors cause about 10% of all patient deaths and about 17% of adverse events

*Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report Sept. 2015*

- The pre-analytical phase accounts for 46% to 68% of such errors observed during the total testing process

*Medical Laboratory Observer, May 2014*

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## **SPIDIA & SPIDIA4P: Standardization and Improvement of Pre-analytical Procedures for *in vitro* Diagnostics** *EU FP7-HEALTH (GA. no. 222916) & EU HORIZON 2020 (GA. no. 733112)*



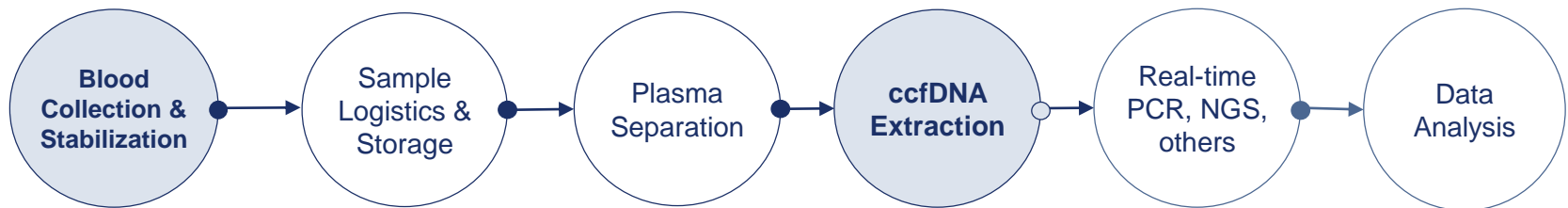
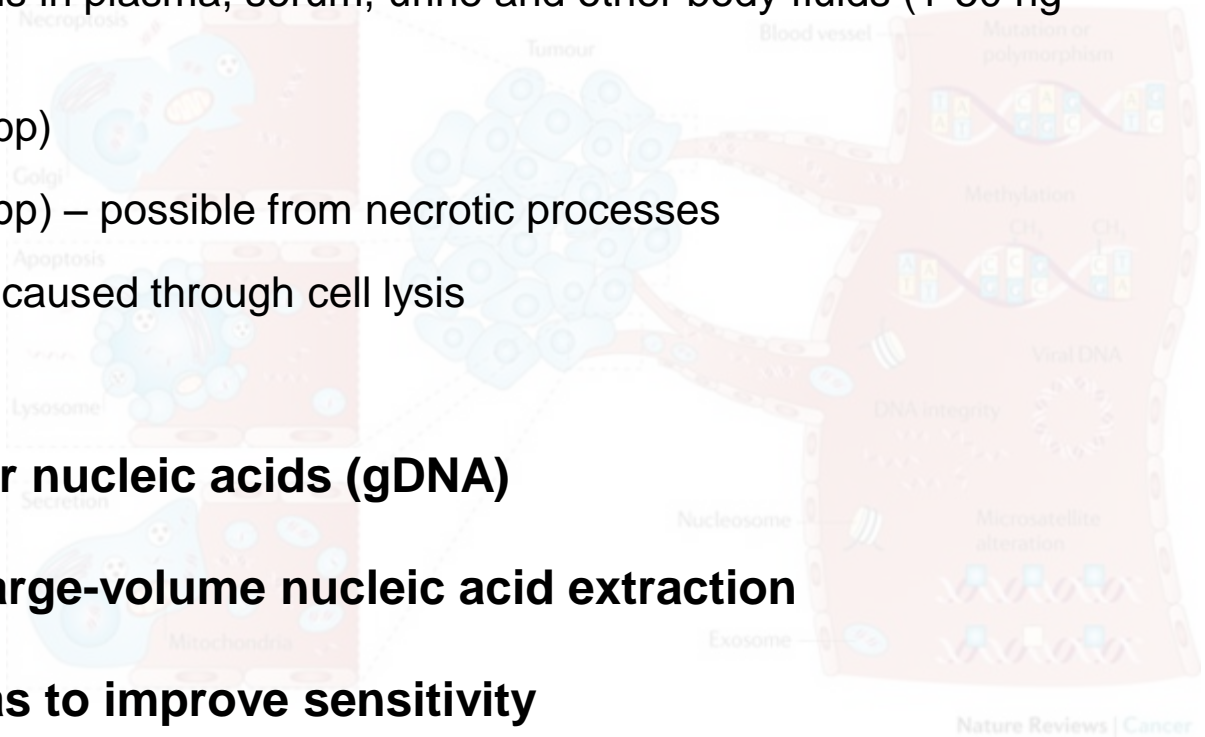
- QIAGEN coordinating both initiatives (16 & 19 Partners)

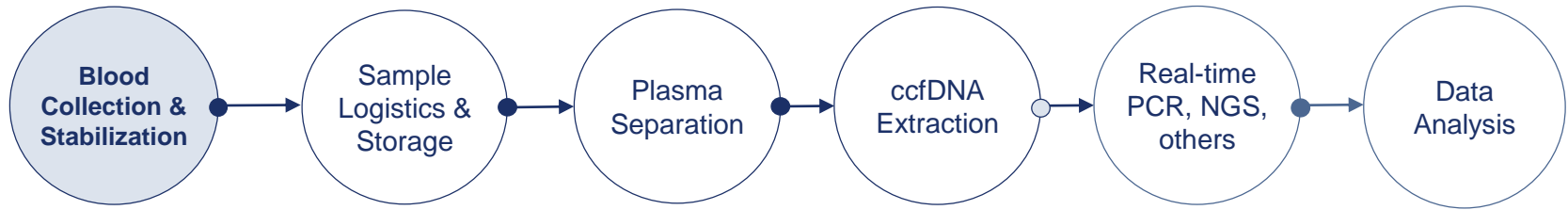


- 22 CEN Technical Specifications and ISO Standards planned or developed (highly consensus-driven international and European processes)
- E.g., Specifications for pre-examination processes for venous whole blood in Molecular *in vitro* diagnostic examinations
  - Part 3: Isolated circulating cell-free DNA from plasma CEN/TS 16835-3: 2015

- Usually low concentrations in plasma, serum, urine and other body fluids (1-50 ng DNA/ ml plasma)
- Highly fragmented (<500bp)
- Longer fragments ( $\geq 500$ bp) – possible from necrotic processes
- Background DNA can be caused through cell lysis

- **Avoid release of cellular nucleic acids (gDNA)**
- **Enable highly efficient large-volume nucleic acid extraction**
- **Avoid fragment size bias to improve sensitivity**





## Unique stabilization of extracellular levels of ccfDNA

- Effective stabilization at RT minimizes background gDNA and maximizes ccfDNA yield from plasma
  - White blood cells – helps prevent release of gDNA
  - Red blood cells – helps minimize hemolysis
- Non-crosslinking NA preservation – no DNA modification

## BD Vacutainer® plastic tube with BD Hemogard™ safety closure

- Helps minimize risk of tube breakage
- Enhanced safety for healthcare and lab personnel
- Helps minimize contamination between samples
- Provides consistent blood draw volume

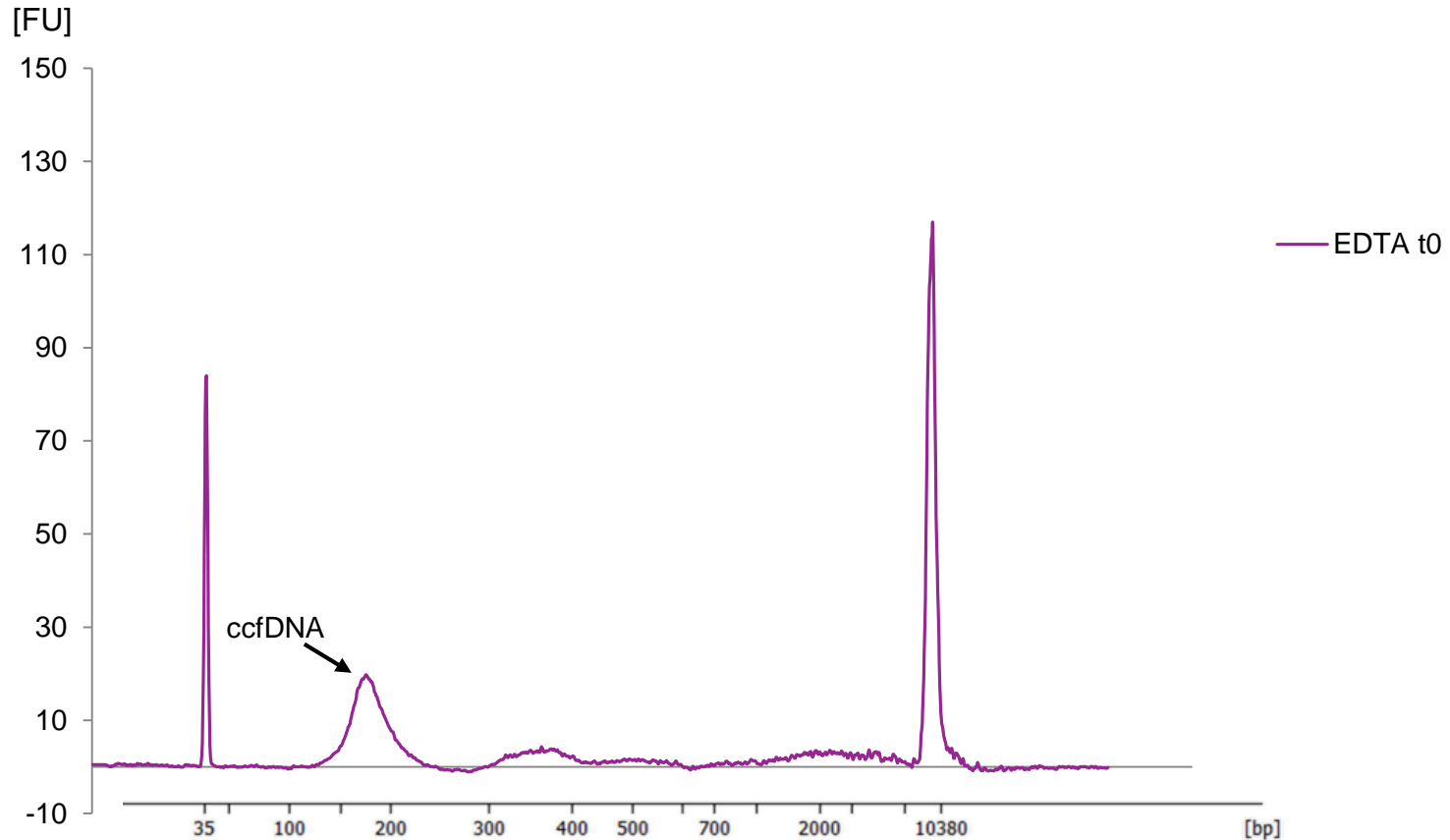


## Integrated pre-analytical workflow

- Seamless integration into manual or automated prep with QIAamp® and QIASymphony® circulating DNA extraction technology

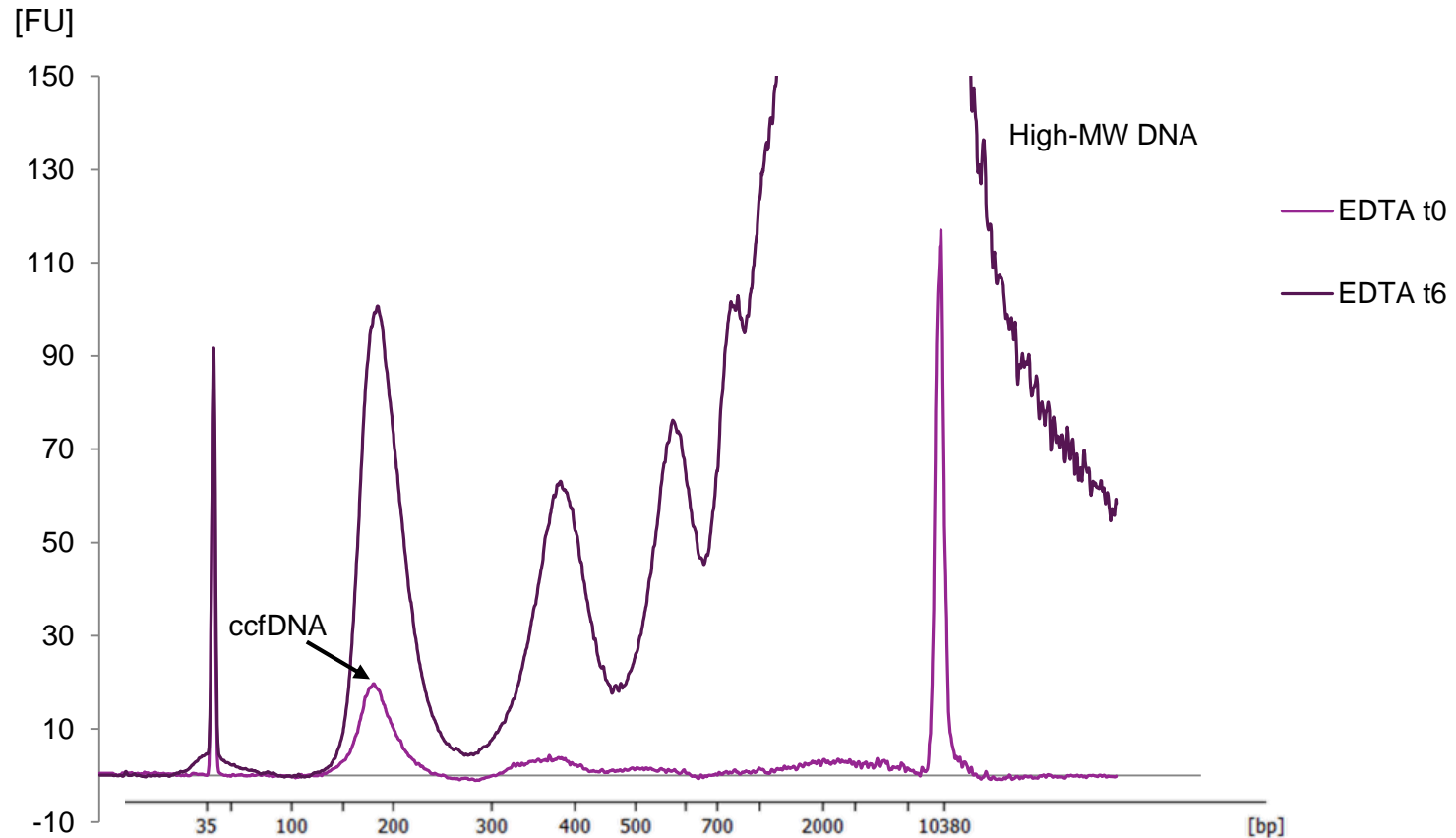
\* For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

- ccfDNA fragment size profile from healthy donor



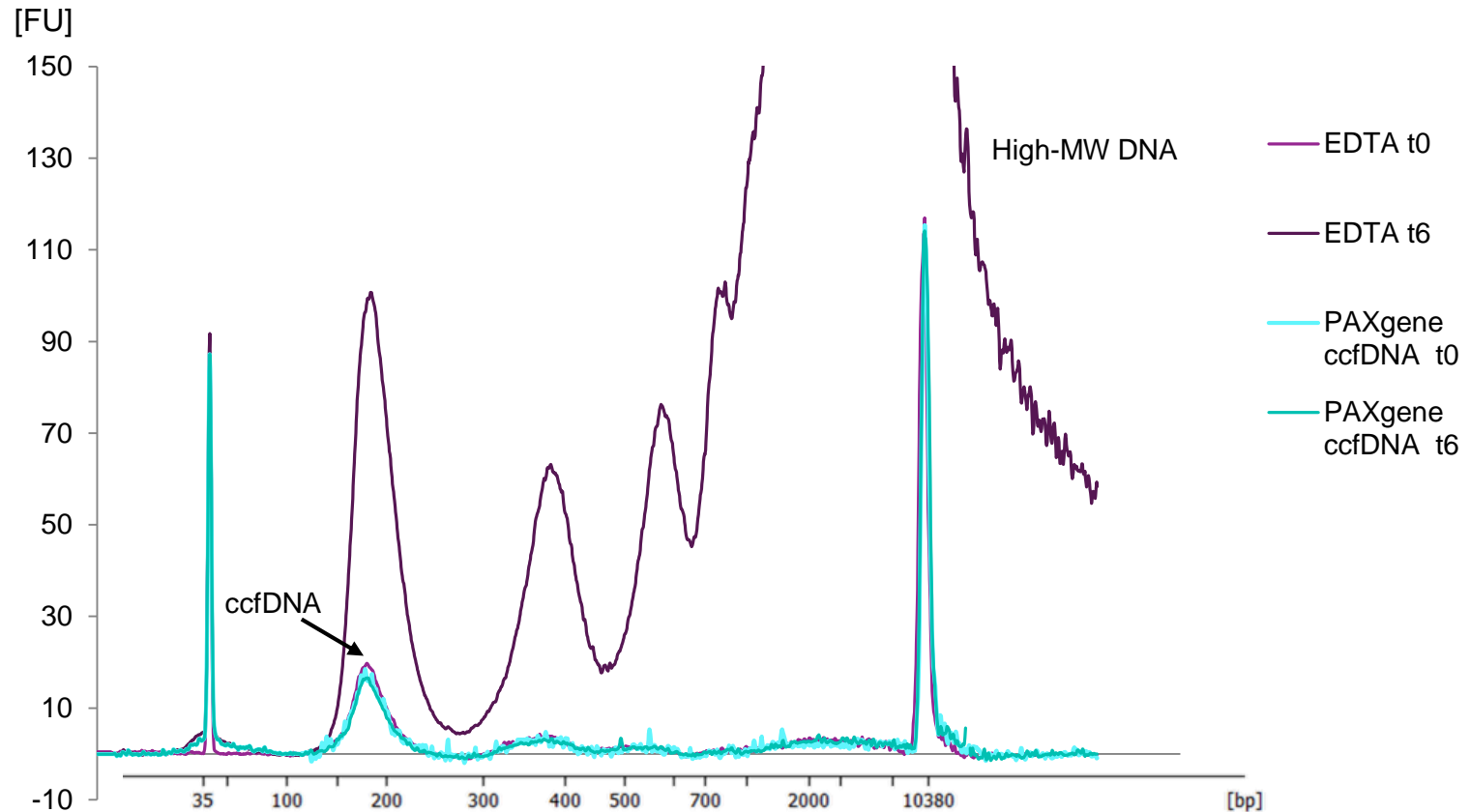
ccfDNA was extracted from EDTA plasma of 1 subject directly after blood draw (t0). 1  $\mu$ l eluate was analyzed using the Agilent® High Sensitivity DNA Kit.

## Apoptosis of white blood cells leads to dilution of naturally occurring ccfDNA



ccfDNA was extracted from EDTA plasma of 1 subject directly after blood draw (t0) and after 6 days at room temperature (t6). 1  $\mu$ l eluate was analyzed using the Agilent® High Sensitivity DNA Kit.

- PAXgene® Blood ccfDNA Tubes (RUO)\* help prevent release of gDNA into plasma

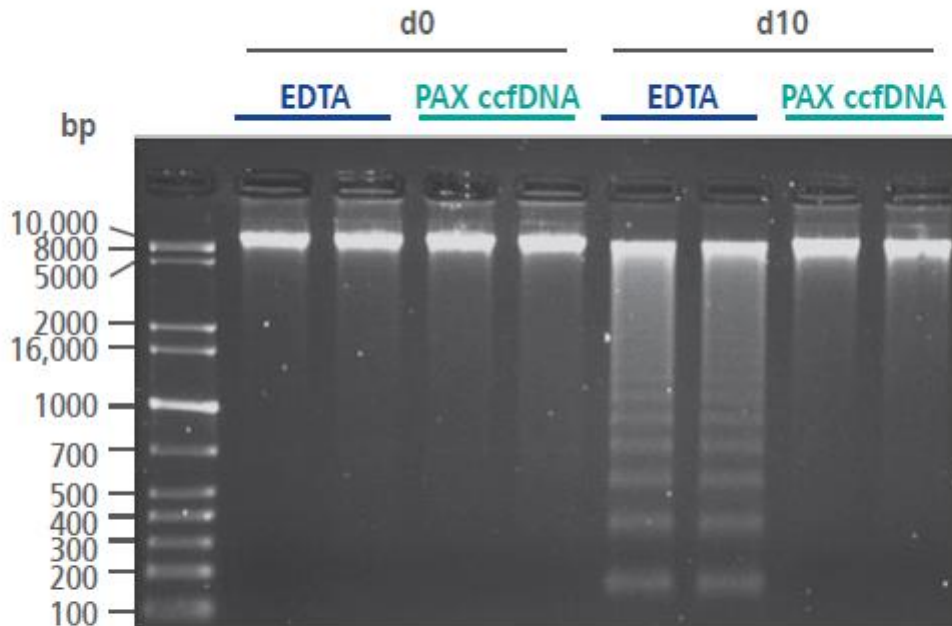


ccfDNA was extracted from EDTA and PAXgene plasma of 1 subject directly after blood draw (t0) and after 6 days at room temperature (t6). 1  $\mu$ l eluate was analyzed using the Agilent® High Sensitivity DNA Kit.

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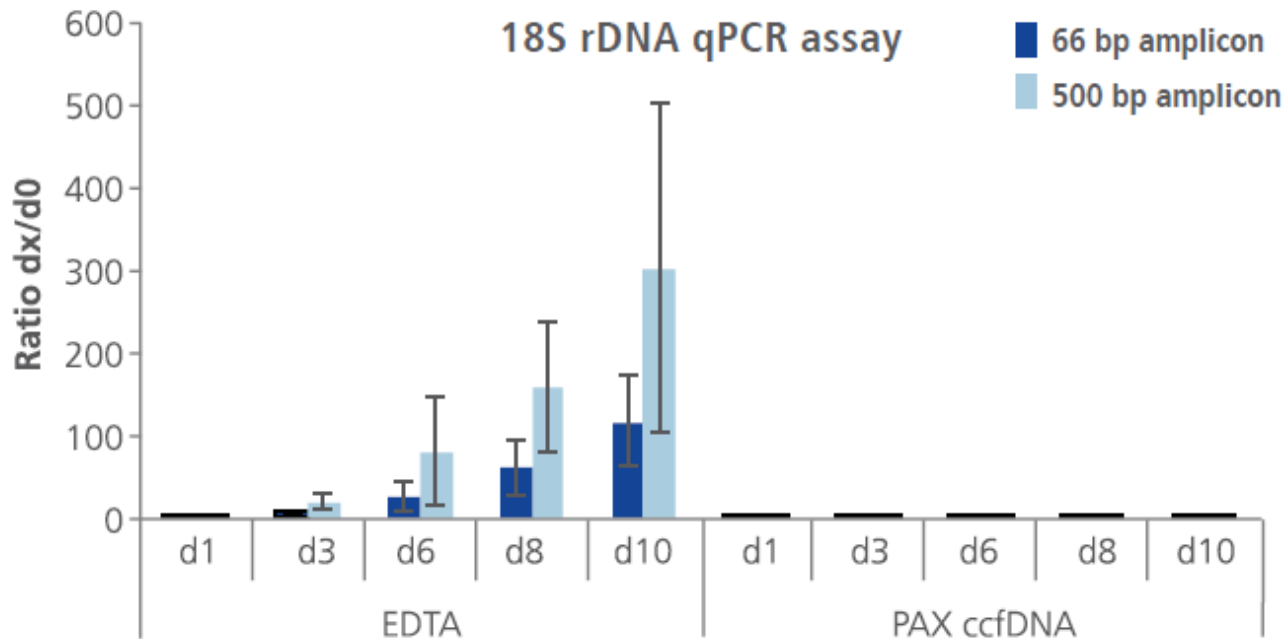


## Stabilization of Blood Cells and Prevention of Apoptosis



**PAXgene Blood ccfDNA stabilization helps prevent apoptosis of blood cells and fragmentation of genomic DNA.** Genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood of 2 subjects using the QIAamp Blood Mini Kit. 400 ng DNA were separated by agarose gel electrophoresis.

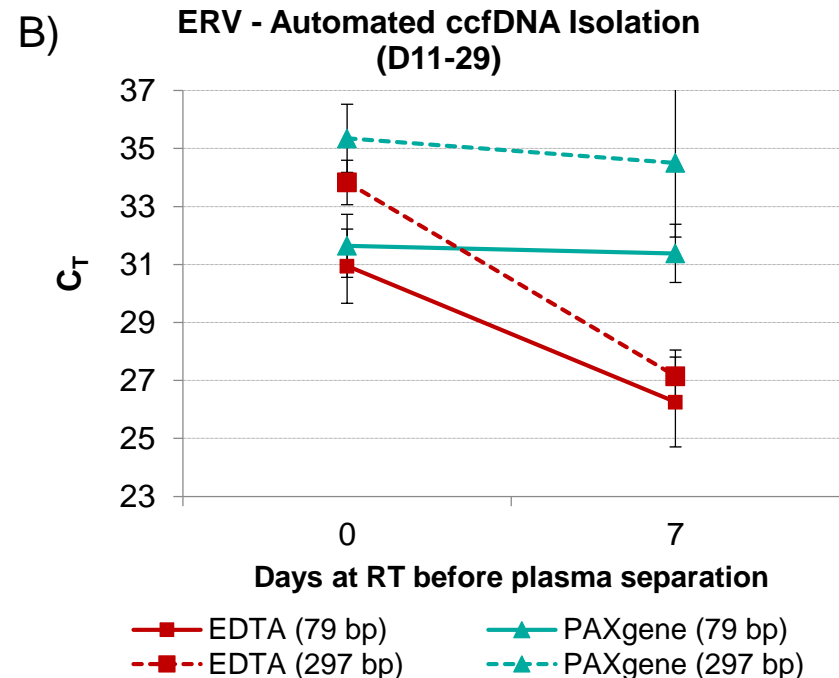
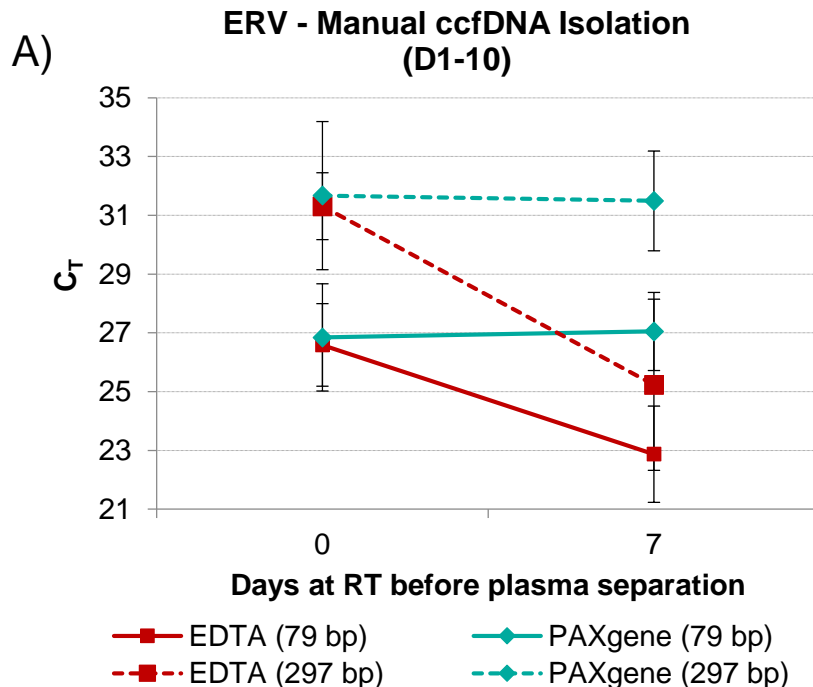
## Stabilization of Whole Blood at Room Temperature with No Increase in ccfDNA Levels



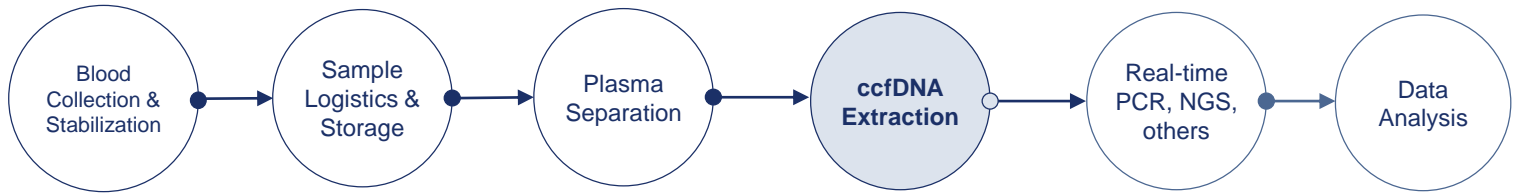
**PAXgene Blood ccfDNA stabilization helps prevent release of genomic DNA from white blood cells.** Plasma was extracted from whole blood of 6 subjects; ccfDNA was isolated and yield was quantified by real-time PCR (18S rDNA gene, 66 bp/500 bp amplicon).

## mSHOX2 lung cancer: methylation specific therapy monitoring marker

- Blood from 29 consented lung cancer patients under treatment
- Collected in EDTA and PAXgene Blood ccfDNA Tubes
- Plasma processing immediately or after 7 days storage at RT
- ccfDNA quantified by real-time PCR with ERV (endogenous retrovirus) sequence



**Change of target  $C_T$  over storage time for ccfDNA from plasma generated from EDTA and PAXgene Blood ccfDNA Tubes.** Real-time PCR assays amplifying 2 fragments of the single copy ERV sequence were used to measure DNA content of original eluates after manual (A) and automated (B) ccfDNA isolation. **Data courtesy of Dr. Fleischhacker, UKH Halle/Saale**



Manual

Automated

PAXgene Blood ccfDNA Tubes (RUO)*	1–10 ml Plasma Input	QIAamp MinElute ccfDNA Mini & Midi Kit (MBA)† <b>NEW</b>
PAXgene Blood ccfDNA Tubes (RUO)	1–10 ml Plasma	EZ1® ccfDNA Mini & Midi Kit (MBA) † <b>NEW</b>
PAXgene Blood ccfDNA Tubes (RUO)	2.4 or 4.8 ml Plasma	QIASymphony PAXgene Blood ccfDNA (RUO)*

**Integrated Workflow**  
No protocol modifications or pretreatments.  
Optimized results.

● Complete preanalytical workflow solutions from



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 ‡ Intended for in vitro diagnostic use.



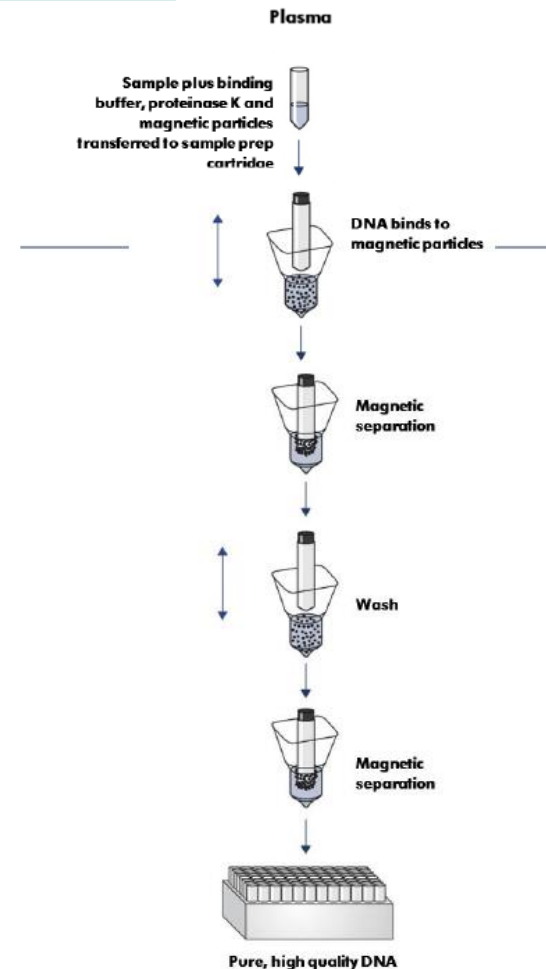
PAXgene Blood ccfDNA Tubes (RUO)	2.4 or 4.8 ml Plasma	QIAasymphony PAXgene Blood ccfDNA (RUO)
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## Dedicated isolation technology works to streamline and maximize ccfDNA recovery

- **Optimized binding chemistry** for use with PAXgene ccfDNA Tube reagent
- **Optimized input volumes** to accommodate higher volume plasma
- Optional custom protocols for **primary tube handling**

## Two protocol lines

- Standard protocol **for small fragment isolation** ( $\leq 500$  bp)
- Large fragment protocols enable **co-isolation of large fragments** ( $> 500$  bp) with flexible elution volume (60, 100, 150  $\mu$ L)

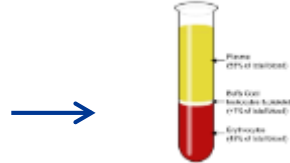


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## Procedure



10 ml blood drawn into PAXgene ccfDNA tube



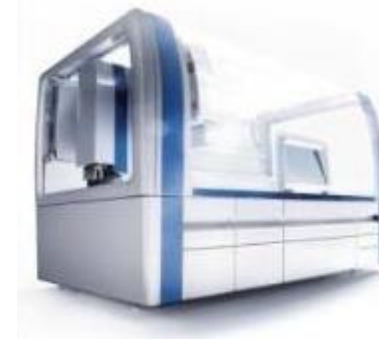
Centrifugation to isolate plasma

**Option A**



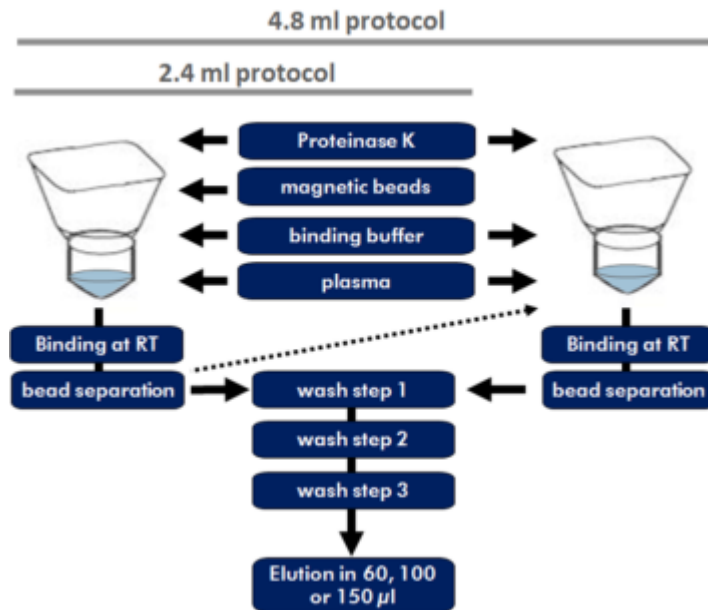
Transfer plasma to new tube  
(Optional: repeat centrifugation & plasma transfer to new tube)

**Option B**  
(Primary Tube Processing)

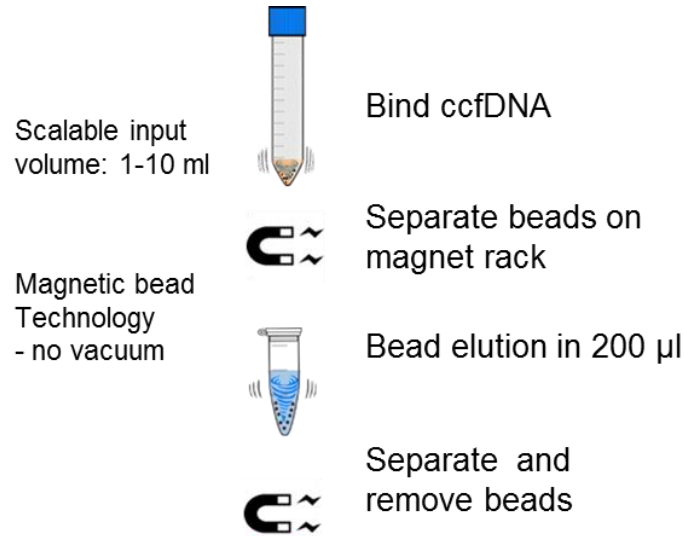


Plasma loaded onto QIASymphony SP to begin automated ccfDNA isolation

ccfDNA for use in NGS, PCR, or other



Pre-enrichment

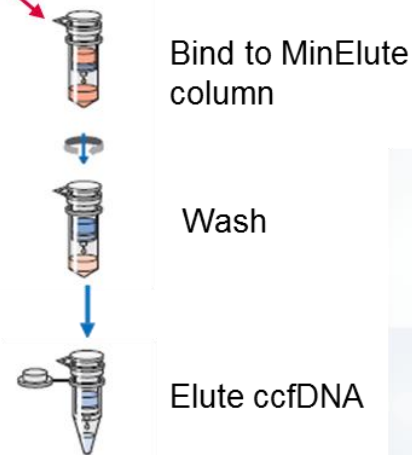
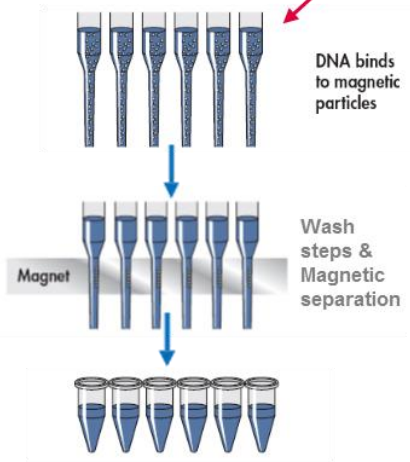


EZ1 ccfDNA Kits on EZ1 Advanced XL

or

QIAamp MinElute ccfDNA Kits manual/QIAcube

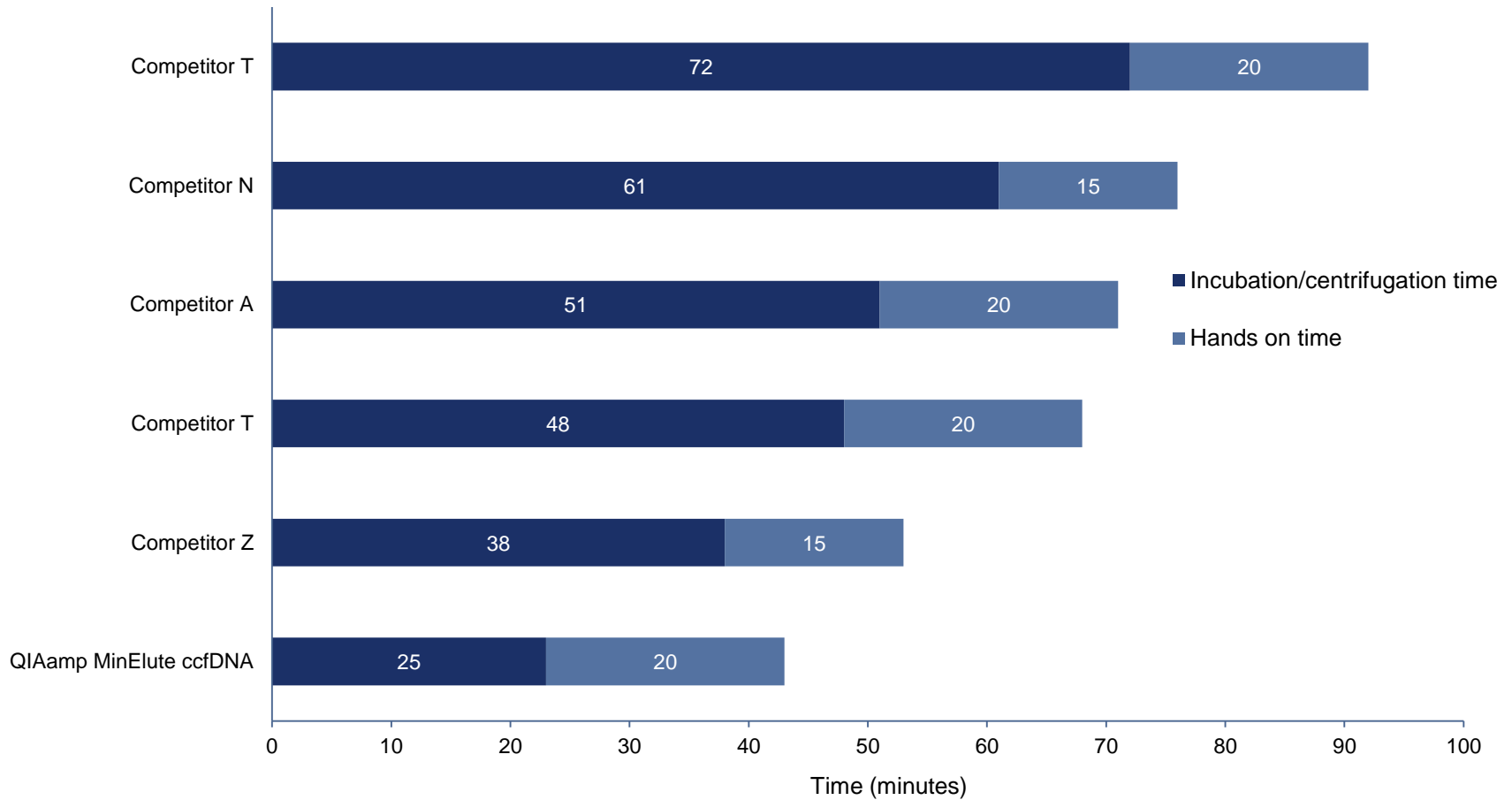
Clean-up



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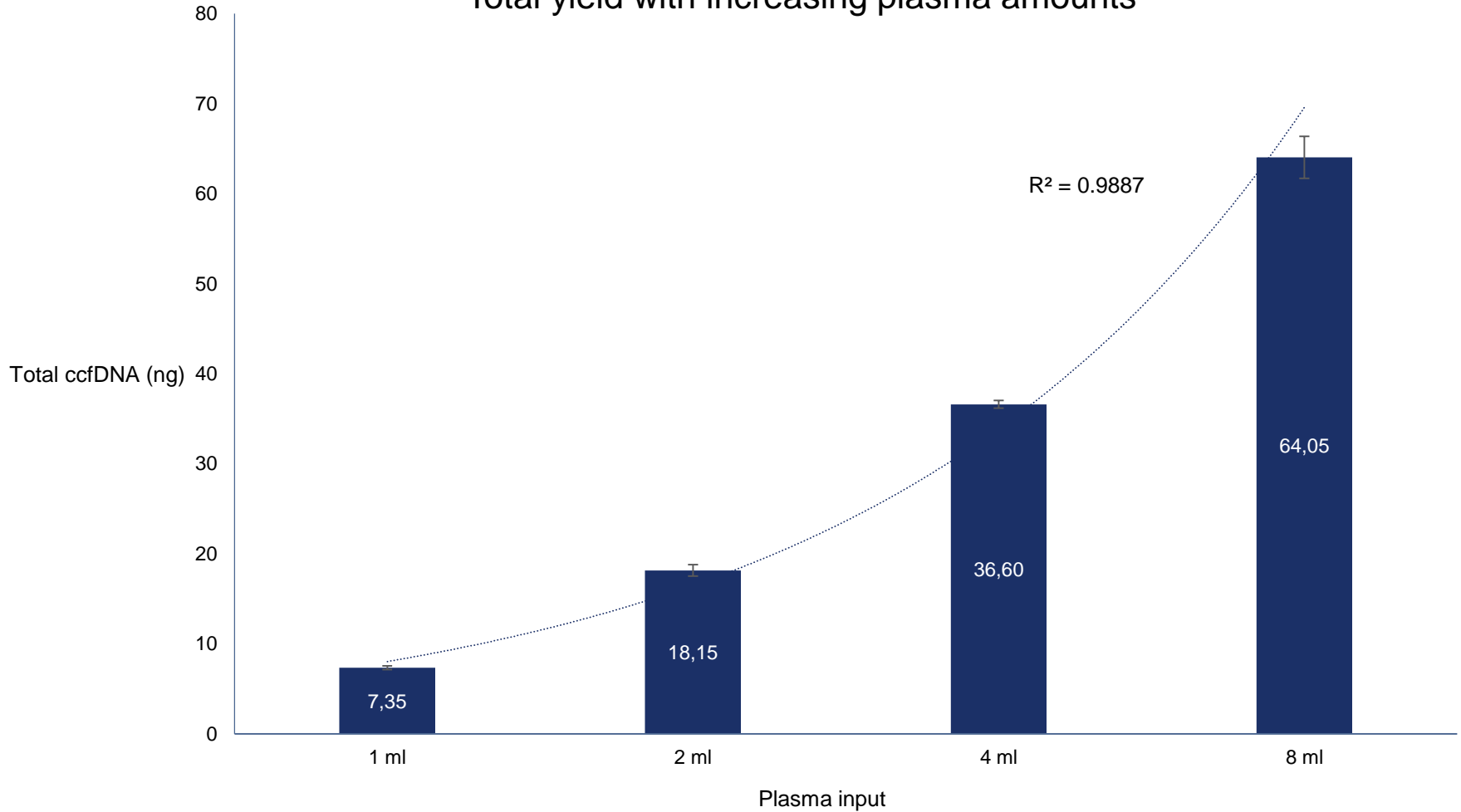
## Sample processing time – 4 samples (4 ml plasma)



**QIAamp MinElute ccfDNA Kit accelerates your ccfDNA extraction.**

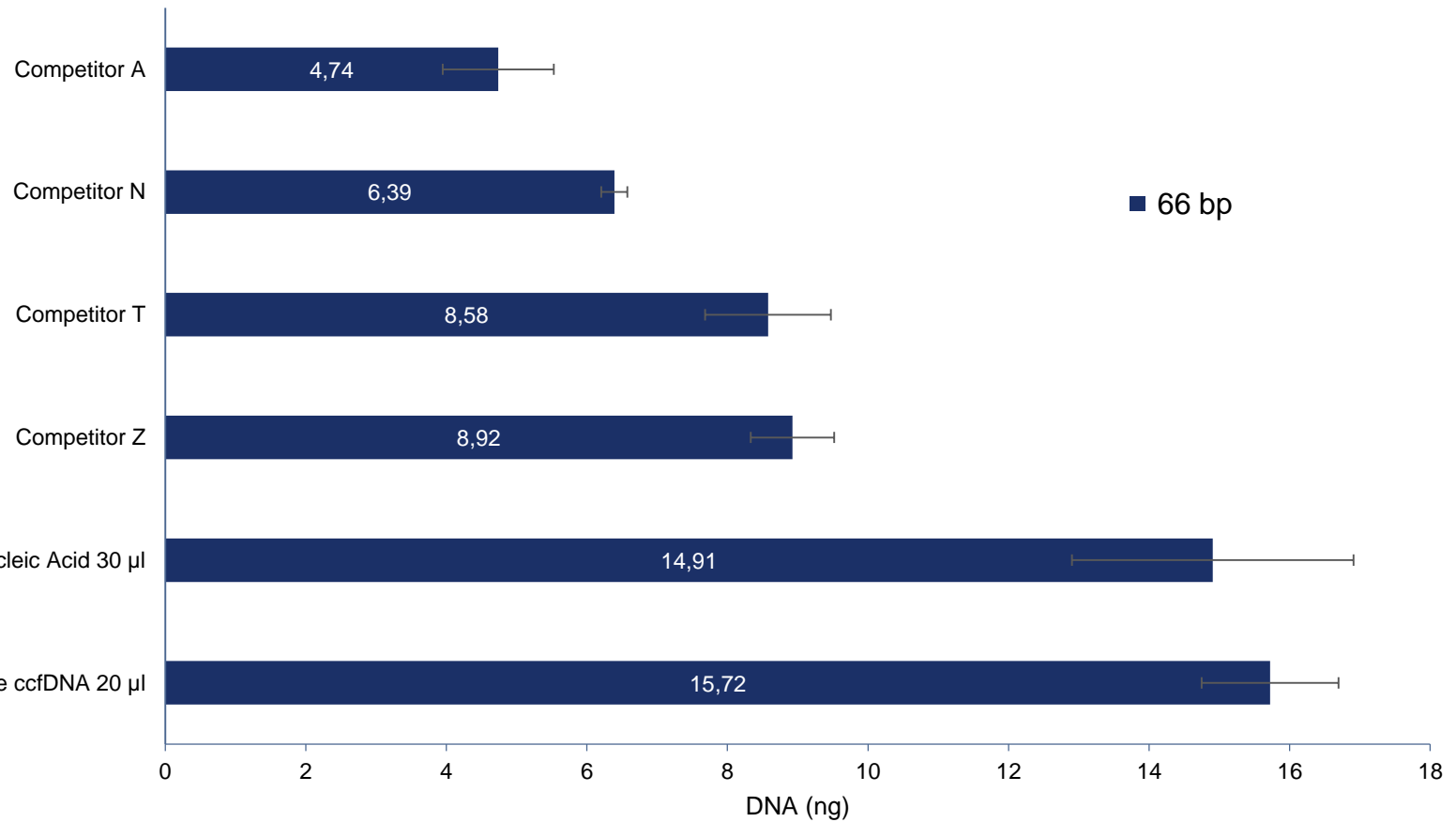


Total yield with increasing plasma amounts



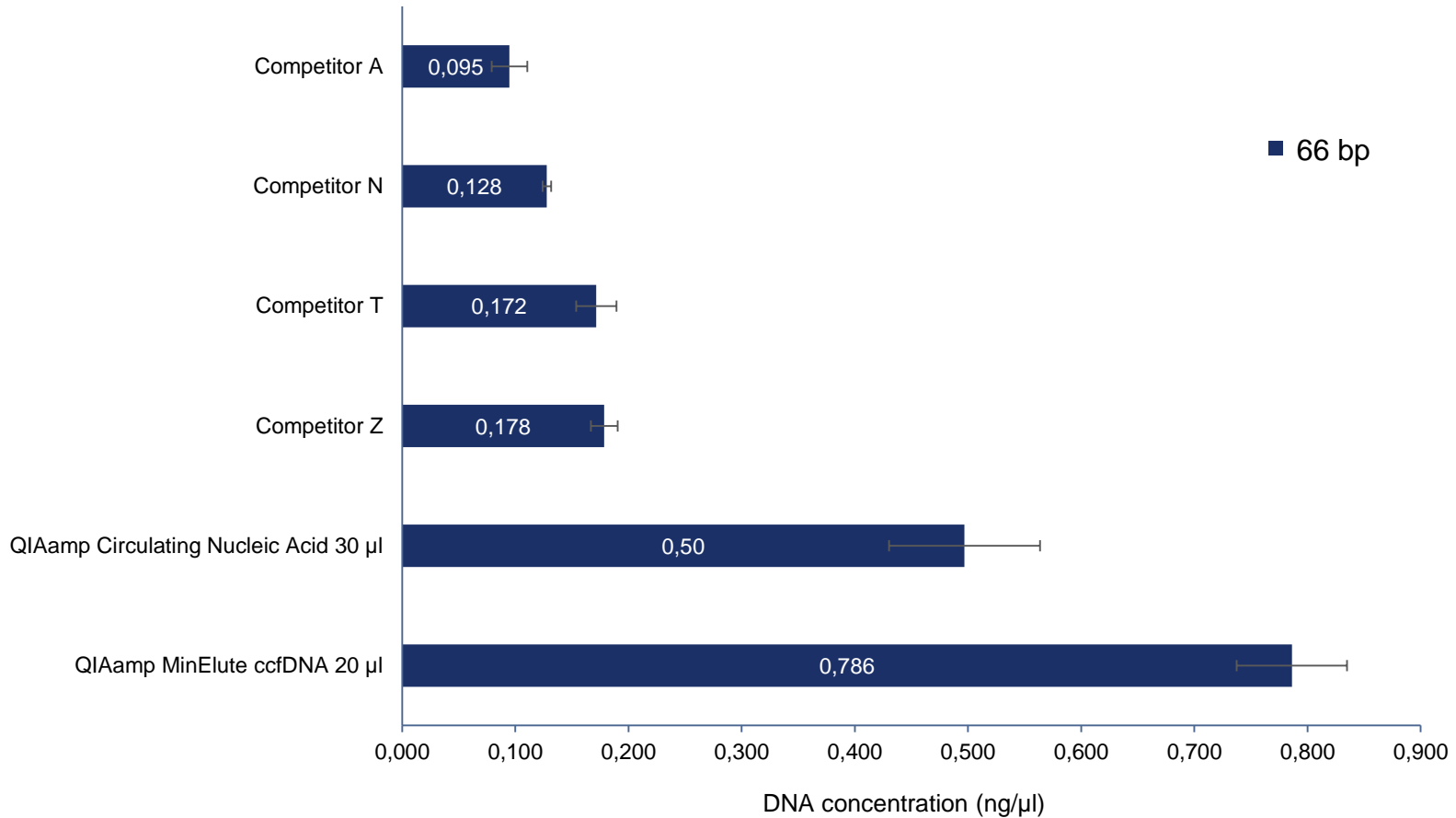
● 10 ml or higher plasma input is possible.

## ccfDNA yield in eluate



● Highest DNA yield ensuring detection of low frequency biomarkers.

## DNA concentration



● Highest DNA concentration ensuring best performance in NGS analysis.

## Circulating cell-free DNA NGS workflow

