



Cross-functional collaboration supporting developments in diagnostics



Milla Mikkola

Medical Scientific Liaison Manager

Roche Diagnostics Oy

Roche at a glance



127 years

founded in Basel in
1896



**3 Nobel prizes and
44 Prix Galien,**
since 1974



CHF 58.7 billion*
in Roche Group sales in
2023



**A leader in
healthcare R&D**
with CHF 13.2 billion
invested in 2023



**>22 million
people** treated with
our medicines in 2023



**Multiple Roche
medicines &
diagnostics**
on the WHO List of
Essential Medicines & Tests



103,000+ dedicated
employees worldwide



29 billion tests
conducted with our
Diagnostics products in
2023



Study 1: SARS-CoV2 Duo assay and saliva as a sample

Aim of the study



Evaluate the performance of the cobas SARS-CoV-2 Duo assay for quantification of SARS-CoV-2 **in saliva**

Compare qualitative results between nasopharyngeal and saliva samples

The use of saliva as a diagnostic sample

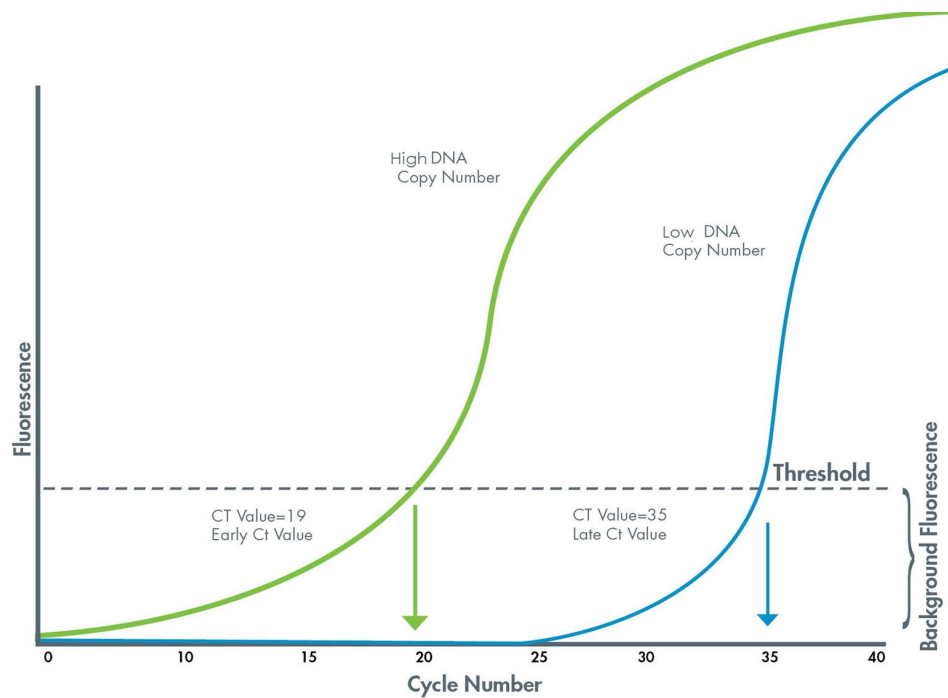


- The current **golden standard** in COVID-19 diagnostics is RT-PCR assay for detecting coronavirus 2 RNA in **nasopharyngeal swab** (NPS) samples
- Several studies have indicated a lower sensitivity of saliva compared with other respiratory samples in RT-PCR analysis

Reverse transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction(RT-PCR)



Detect extremely small amounts of pathogen RNA



- **Cycle threshold (Ct)** represents the number of amplification cycles needed for a fluorescence signal to surpass a set threshold, indicating the detection of the target nucleic acid.
- **Low Ct values** indicate high viral load
- **High Ct values** indicate low viral load

Cobas® SARS-CoV-2 assays



SARS-CoV2 assay

Dual target, SARS-CoV-2 (Orf1a/b) and pan-Sarbeco (E gene). Mutation impacting SARS-CoV-2 target leads to 'presumptive positive' result.

Qualitative result with optional Ct value

Traceability to WHO standard, no correction for lot to lot variation in Ct value

Claim limited to Qualitative call

DESIGN

Robust design specific for SARS-CoV-2

RESULT

Viral load result

STANDARD

Standardized result

CLAIM

Dual claim for Quant/Qual call

SARS-CoV2 Duo assay

Dual target specific for SARS-CoV-2 (ORF 1a & ORF 1a/b non-structural regions). Mutation impacting SARS-CoV-2 target backed up with second target.

Quantitative result in IU (WHO standard), Qualitative result with optional Ct value

Traceability to WHO standard, lot specific calibration

Claim combines Quantitative (in IU) AND Qualitative call



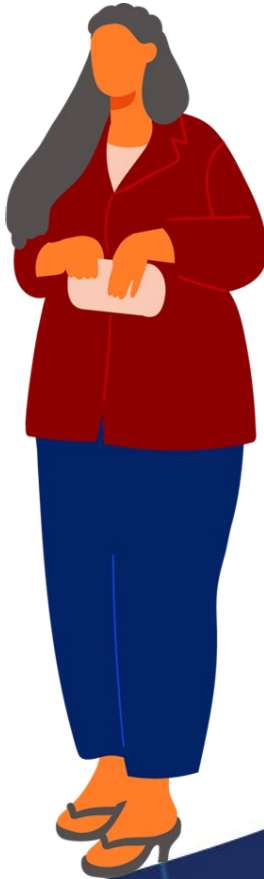


Qualitative result of COVID-19 samples meet the needs of clinical screening and diagnosis, while **quantitative result** provides more information to the research community.



Material

- 150 adults who have been referred to the HUSLAB Meilahti Corona Testing Point due to COVID-19 suspicion (Omaolo)
- Voluntary consent to biobank sampling
- Non-stimulated saliva sample
- Saliva samples were stored frozen



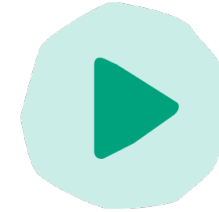
Results



This study supports the conclusion that saliva can be used as an alternative sample material for RT-PCR testing



Results will be published soon



The results will be utilized in the development of respiratory virus assays.

Study 2: Daycare study and cobas[®] Respiratory flex assay



Aim of the study

Which pathogens were circulating among the kids and their families (nasal swabs)?

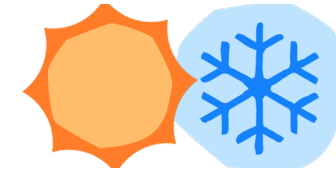
Study whether pathogens in public spaces can be monitored using settle dust collection



Virus panel

15 common respiratory virus targets

Cobas Respiratory flex assay launched Oct 2024



Address seasonality

Nasal swabs will be tested for respiratory virus panel and results will be compared to the diary-data, absence data and data from dust samples.

Study is not ready yet!



Conclusions

- RWD
- Publications
- Collaborations



Acknowledgements

Enni Sanmark
Anne Pitkäranta
Anu Jääskeläinen
Ville Vartiainen

HUS Diagnostic Center
Helsinki Biobank





Thank you

Roche Diagnostics Oy
Revontulenpuisto 2c
02100 Espoo
Finland

MC-FI-02454

