



Supplementary Figure S2. Comparison of methods for the isolation of mtDNA from whole blood and plasma. Comparison of mtDNA copy number present in whole blood samples of healthy subjects isolated with the Maxwell and Qiagen kit stored in (A) EDTA tubes at RT for 3h prior to processing, (B) PAXgene tubes at RT for 3h prior to processing, (C) EDTA tubes at -20 °C prior to processing, (D) PAXgene tubes at -20 °C prior to processing. Comparison of mtDNA copy number present in plasma samples of healthy subjects isolated with the Maxwell and Qiagen kit stored in (E) EDTA tubes at -20 °C prior to processing, (F) PAXgene tubes at -20 °C prior to processing. Comparison of mtDNA copy number present in whole blood samples of pancreatic cancer patients isolated with the Maxwell and Qiaprep kits stored in (G) EDTA tubes at RT for 3h prior to processing, (H) PAXgene tubes at RT for 3h prior to processing, (I) EDTA tubes at -20 °C prior to processing, (J) PAXgene tubes at -20 °C prior to processing. Comparison of mtDNA copy number present in plasma samples of pancreatic cancer patients isolated with the Maxwell and Qiagen kit stored in (K) EDTA tubes at -20 °C prior to processing, (L) PAXgene tubes at -20 °C prior to processing. Ten subjects were recruited in each cohort. Significant outliers were identified and omitted using Grubb's test (Alpha = 0.05). P-values < 0.05 indicate a statistically significant difference. Kit comparisons in terms of the yield of nuclear DNA in whole blood (as measured by a β -globin qPCR assay) is shown in Supplementary Figure S1, while the ratio of MTTL1 to β -globin recovered by the different kits in the different conditions is shown in Supplementary Figure S2.