

# A SEVEN YEAR EXPERIENCE OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR RHD FETAL GENOTYPING

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Today, non-invasive fetal RHD genotype helps the practitioners to greatly improve patient monitoring in RH1 negative women. A positive RHD fetal genotyping diagnoses a RH1 feto-maternal incompatibility for the anti-RH1 allo-immunized pregnant women. For the non-immunized ones, a negative test will avoid injection of IgRH. Since the RHD fetal genotyping became a key to the monitoring of RH1 negative pregnant women, an increasing number of laboratories performed such test. In 2010, it appeared essential for the CNRHP, and part of its missions, to propose to laboratories an external quality assessment. The CNRHP can rely on more than twenty years experience in the fetal RHD genotyping to establish such control. In 2015, we transferred EQC program conducted by the CNRHP to ASQUALAB. The aim of this presentation is to review the EQC program seven years after its launch.

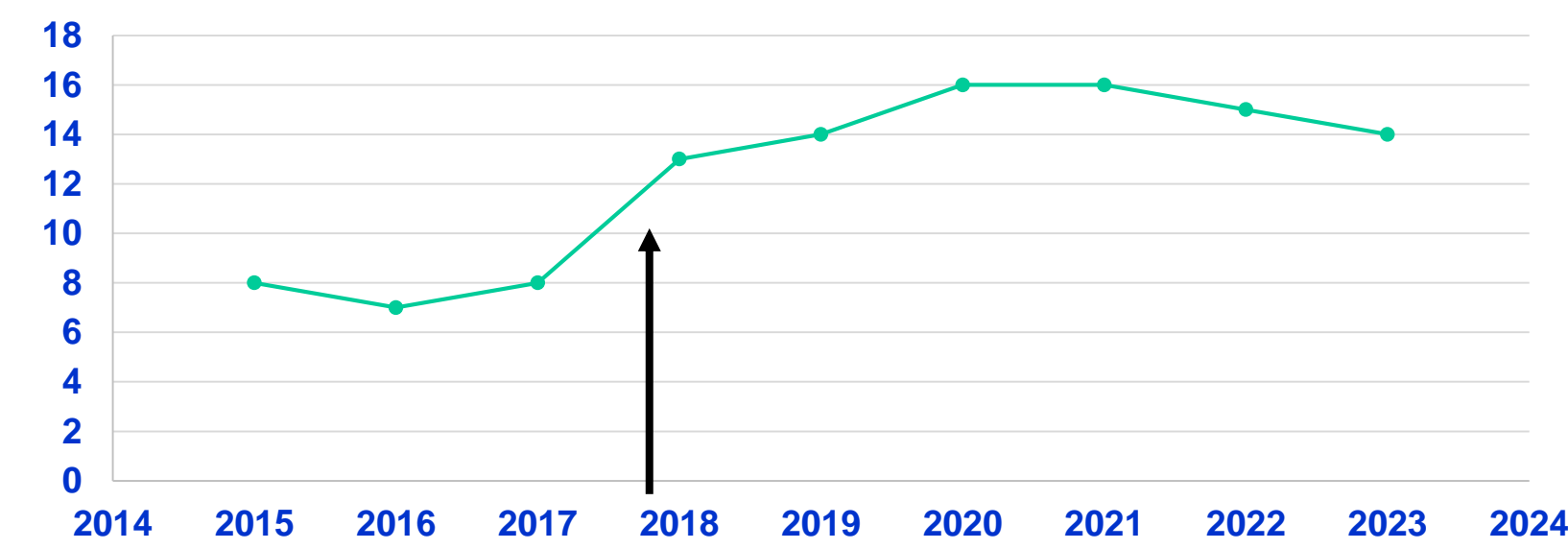
## METHODS

Positive control specimen were prepared from RH1 negative plasma donors spiked with various concentration of RH1 positive plasma in order to reflect RH1 positive fetuses at different gestational ages. Negative control specimen, made also from RH1 negative plasma donors. After the initial CNRHP analysis, the samples were conveyed to the participating laboratories with a feedback form where they had to state 1) the material and methods used and 2) the results and the clinical biological interpretation in the context of a clinical case.

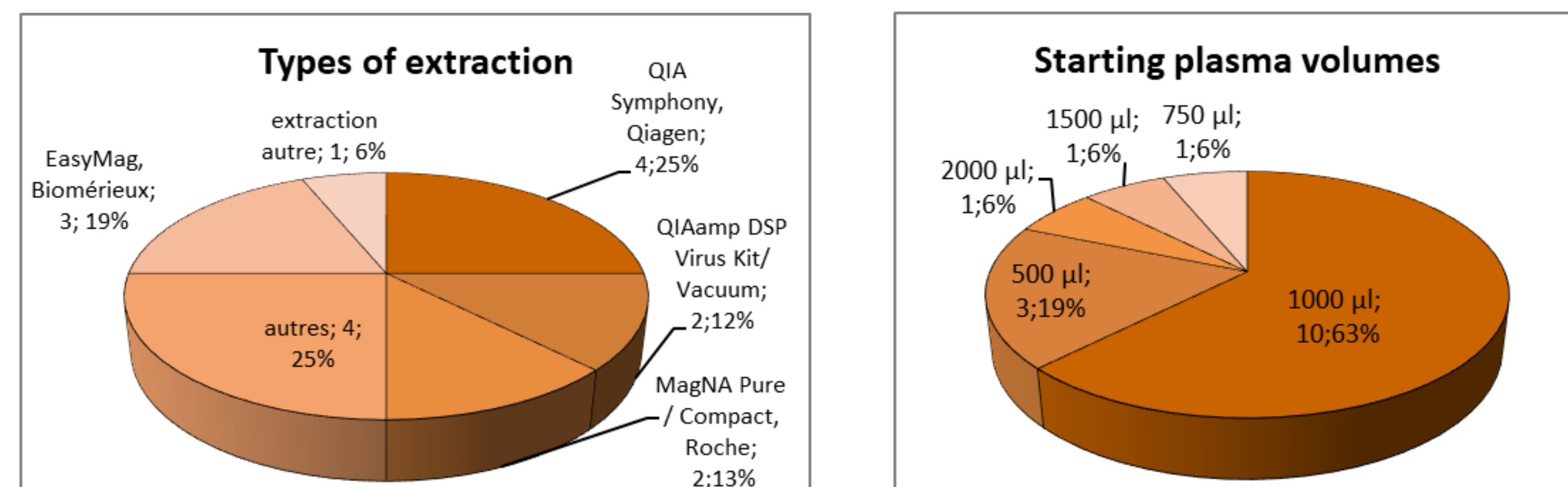
## RESULTS

14 assessments were conducted since 2015 with an increasing number of laboratories from 7 to 16 in 2022 (figure 1). Each year, we achieved a 100 % response rate. The EQC results were most of the time conform to those expected, 90% with note A (table 1) although the laboratories use different extraction and amplification protocols (figure 2, 3). Some laboratories (4% of results) made unsuitable clinical interpretations despite right analytical results (note B).

Figure 1 : Number of laboratories



Figures 2 : Different types of extraction used and volumes of plasma extracted



Reimbursement of genotyping by health insurance in July 2017  
Generalization of the use of this test in pregnant women

LAB CODE	2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				
	15P1 Inint.	15P2 RHD-	15P3 RHD+	15P4 RHD+	16P1 RHD-	16P2 RHD-	16P3 RHD+	16P4 RHD+	17P1 Inint.	17P2 RHD+	17P3 RHD-	17P4 RHD+	18P1 RHD-	18P2 RHD+	18P3 RHD+	18P4 RHD-	19P1 Inint.	19P2 RHD+	19P3 RHD+	19P4 RHD+	20P1 Inint.	20P2 RHD-	20P3 Inint.	20P4 RHD+	21P1 RHD-	21P2 RHD+	21P3 RHD-	21P4 RHD+	22P1 RHD + Inint.	22P2 RHD+	22P3 Inint.	22P4 RHD-	
1	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
3																																	
4																																	
5																																	
6																																	
7																																	
8	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
9	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
10	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
11	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
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19	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
20	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
21	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
22																																	
Total attendees	8	8	6	6	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	11	11	12	12	13	13	13	13	15	15	15	15	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	
Total registered	8	8	6	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	11	11	12	12	13	13	13	13	15	15	15	15	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14		
% participation	100%	100%	75%	75%	86%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85%	85%	92%	92%	93%	93%	93%	94%	94%	94%	94%	81%	81%	81%	81%	93%	93%	93%	93%		
A-notes	8	8	6	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	11	11	12	12	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14		
B-notes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
C-Notes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
D-notes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 1 : Evaluation of results

The letters A, B, C or D are assigned according to:  
- the expected qualitative response of the test  
- the difference between the laboratory result and the average of all the participating laboratories  
clinical -biological advice

- A : Correct answer, difference between 0-10%, appropriate clinical -biological advice
- B : Correct answer, difference between 0-10%, unsuitable clinical -biological advice
- C : Correct answer, difference > 10%, adapted clinical -biological advice
- D : Wrong answer

Notes A	90%
Notes B	4%
Notes C	3%
Notes D	3%

3% of the results correspond to wrong answers corresponding to a **grade D**. The grade D is observed for uninterpretable RHD genotyping due to the presence of maternal or fetal variants. Two laboratories give false positive results in this case because the techniques used do not detect variants. This problem is not limited to EQAs and these laboratories also return false positive results for patients.

## Global Results

## CONCLUSION

The presented EQC meets the criteria required to evaluate the practices of laboratories performing noninvasive fetal RHD genotyping. The extension of the field from analytical process to postanalytical process including results interpretation and biological advices was important to improve national harmonization of the results of this specialized examination and to highlight the labs giving clinical advices to help prevention of fetal or newborn anemia.

Figure 3: Amplification systems used

