

Additional Table 1: Number of samples decontaminated with multiple decontamination methods in parallel

Decontamination method*	Non-contamination vs. contamination	<i>M. ulcerans</i> growth vs. no growth	<i>M. ulcerans</i> growth vs. contamination or no growth
NaOH_10 and OA_30min	19	3	13
NaOH_10 and OA_1h	87	44	86
NaOH_20 and OA_30min	61	25	33
OA_1h and OA_30min	70	23	32

* Number of clinical samples decontaminated with the combinations of decontamination methods indicated for the three set of samples analysed.

Additional Table 2: Association[§] between non-contamination of *M. ulcerans* cultures and each of the factors of interest

Factor	Value of factor	Odds ratio[§]	95% CI odds ratio	Overall effect (p-value)
Transport Medium	7H9	0.840	0.462 - 1.527	<0.001
	dry	24.314	13.268 - 44.555	
	Amies (ref. level)	1.000		
Decontamination medium	OA_1h	0.853	0.465 - 1.567	0.021
	OA_30min	0.749	0.396 - 1.414	
	NaOH_20min	1.777	0.860 - 3.673	
	NaOH_10min (ref. level)	1.000		
Inoculation media	LJ	0.441	0.307 - 0.634	<0.001
	LJ_PANTA (ref. level)	1.000		
Swab qPCR Ct value	for an increase in 1 unit Ct	0.990	0.978 - 1.002	0.119
Patient qPCR result	negative	0.799	0.379 - 1.682	0.554
	positive (ref. level)	1.000		
Time from sampling to inoculation	for an increase in 10 day	1.402	1.282 - 1.534	<0.001
Weeks before diagnosis*	for an increase by 1 week	0.992	0.976 - 1.007	0.285

[§] Adjusted for random effects of the patient and swab identification.

* Information as reported by the patient.

Additional Table 3: Association[§] between *M. ulcerans* growth and each of the factors of interest.

Factor	Value of factor	Odds ratio[§]	95% CI odds ratio	Overall effect p-value
Transport medium	7H9	0.343	0.099 - 1.192	<0.001
	dry	0.004	0.001 - 0.015	
	Amies (ref. level)	1.000		
Decontamination medium	OA_1h	0.373	0.135 - 1.032	0.076
	OA_30min	0.396	0.136 - 1.157	
	NaOH_20min	0.229	0.071 - 0.734	
	NaOH_10min (ref. level)	1.000		
Inoculation media	LJ	0.510	0.239 - 1.089	0.082
	LJ_PANTA (ref. level)	1.000		
Swab qPCR Ct value	for an increase in 1 unit Ct	0.947	0.868 - 1.033	0.216
Time from sampling to inoculation	for an increase in 10 day	0.621	0.522 - 0.738	<0.001
Number of days of treatment before sampling	for an increase in 1 day	1.033	0.965 - 1.106	0.343
Weeks before diagnosis*	1 week	1.002	0.976 - 1.029	0.865

[§] Adjusted for random effects of the patient and swab identification.

* Information as reported by the patient.