



# **HEAL ITALIA**

## **Innovation on the road**

### **Next steps 2024-2026**

*11 dicembre, Roma  
09.00-13.00*



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria Policlinico Umberto I  
Università Sapienza di Roma  
Aula Cassano, Dip. Medicina Traslazionale e di Precisione II  
Viale del Policlinico, 155, 00161 Roma RM

# Heal Italia per lo sviluppo di metodologie diagnostiche innovative

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Direttore Scientifico

IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori «Regina Elena», Roma



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**Parole chiave di oggi:**

- Integrazione**
- Innovazione Tecnologica**
- Traslazionalità**



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# Spoke 8 – New Project

- **MTB-HIT (Molecular Tumor Board - Heal Italia ):** A master protocol to identify post-genomic biomarkers in solid tumors devoid of actionable genomic drivers.

## General Study Objectives

To collect and analyze data relating to adult patients affected by solid tumors, for whom routine somatic genomic profiling has yielded no druggable or actionable results. as well as to exploit samples/data already collected.

To collect tissue/blood specimens from such patients.

To design/test integrative molecular characterization strategies, to complement genomic information and identify post-genomic actionable alterations.

# **MTB-HIT (Molecular Tumor Board - Heal Italia ): A master protocol to identify post-genomic biomarkers in solid tumors devoid of actionable genomic drivers.**

Update:

- Study protocol being finalized
- Multicentric
- Participating Centers. IFO-IRE, Univ Verona, Univ Pisa, Univ Foggia, Univ Bologna, others?
- Involvement of two winners of Bando a Cascata Spoke 8:
  - Topic 1 Clinical Utility and economic sustainability of outsourced services of Comprehensive Genomic Profiling (CGP) for solid tumors in practice Oncology clinic (SUCCESs) – Polo di Innovazione di Genomica Gentica e Biologia SRL
  - Topic 3 Hub for coordination and conduct of clinical trials (ClinHub) – Consorzio per Valutazioni Biologiche e Farmacologiche (CVBF)

# Diagnostica Innovativa



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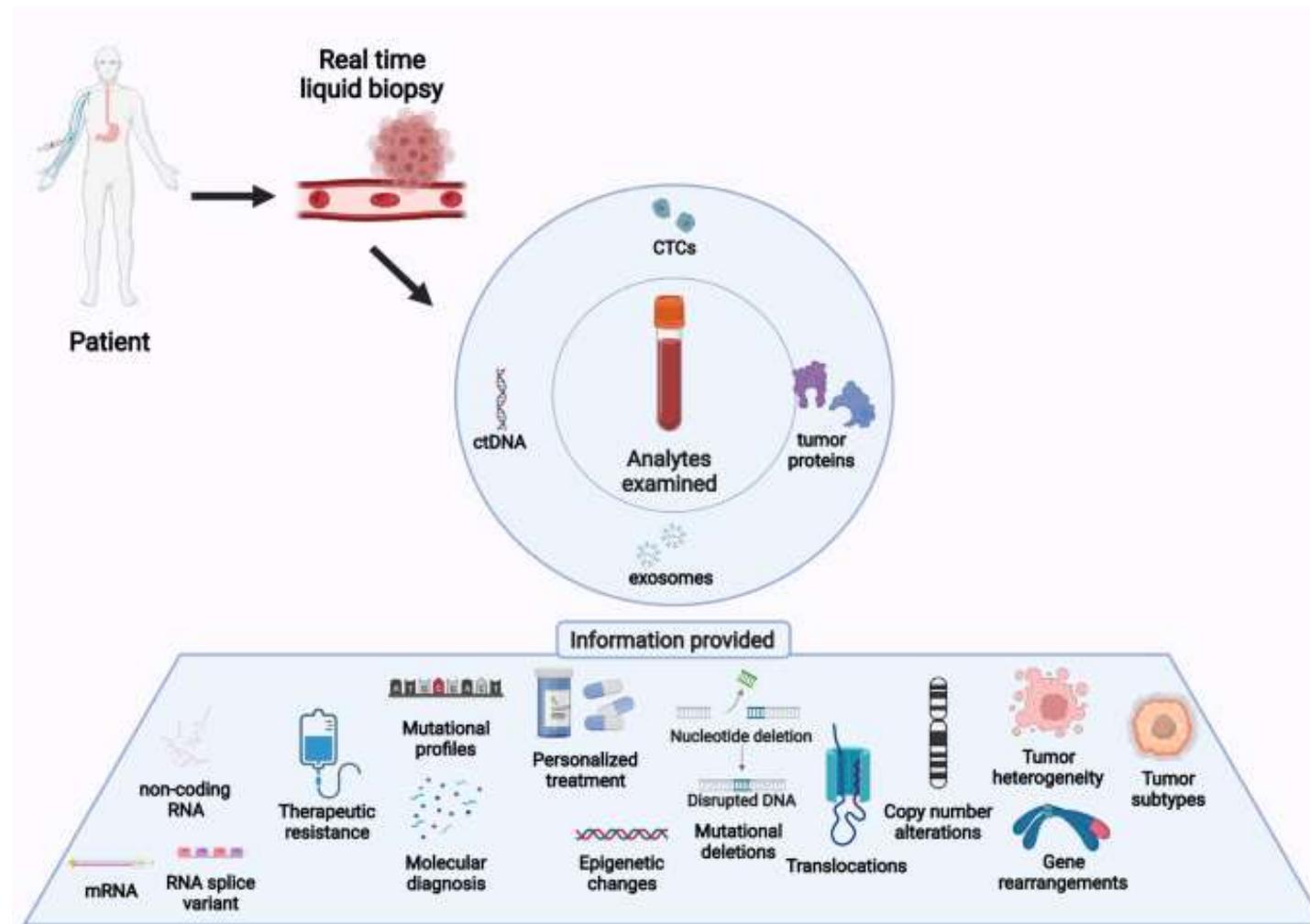
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# Enfasi Crescente sulla Biopsia Liquida



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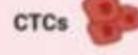
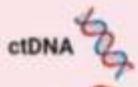
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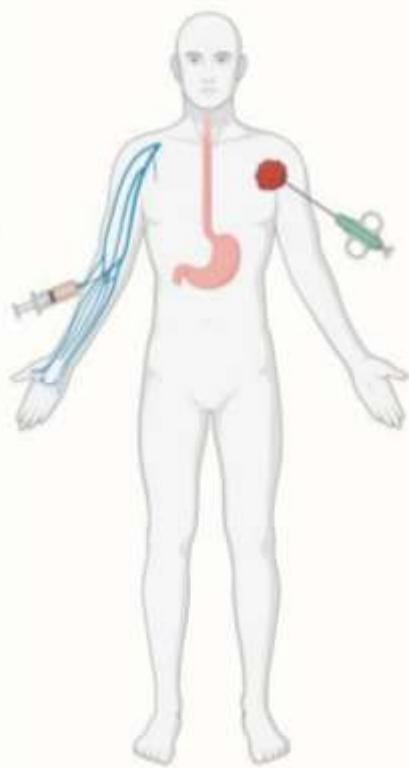
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## Liquid Biopsy



- Minimal invasive
- Shorter time
- Highly sensitive
- Lower cost of sample isolations
- Not clinically validated
- Does not provide histological evaluation
- Monitors continuous tumor evolutions
- Real time monitoring of drug response
- Reveals spatial and temporal tumor heterogeneity



## Tissue Biopsy



- Invasive
- Longer time
- Low sensitivity
- High cost of sample isolations
- Clinically validated
- Provides histological evaluation
- Organ penetration required
- Not capable of assessing tumor evolution
- No real time monitoring of drug response
- Repeated surgeries not feasible
- Does not reveal tumor heterogeneity



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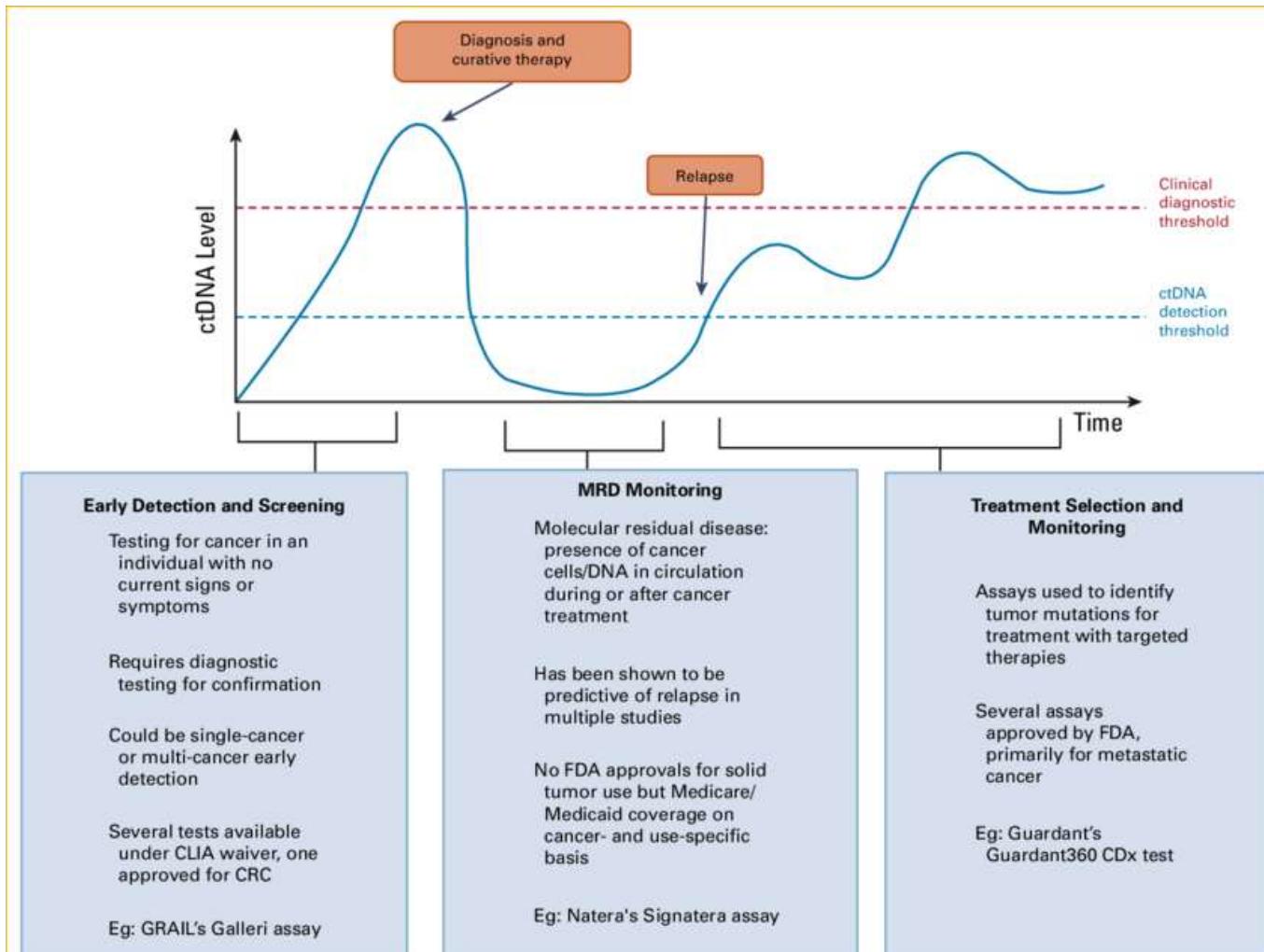
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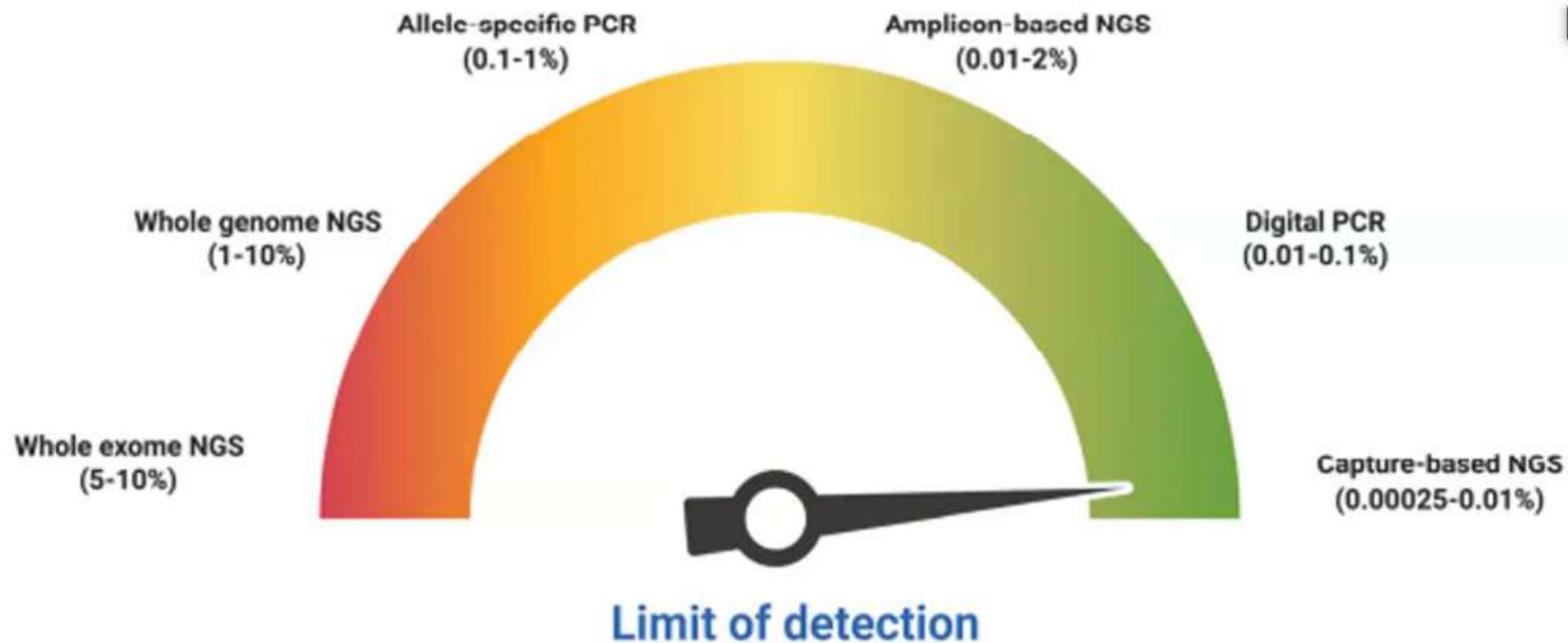


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**Figure 2** Limit of detection of different methods for cfDNA genotyping at which the specificity is maintained at 100% (*Credit: Created with Biorender*).



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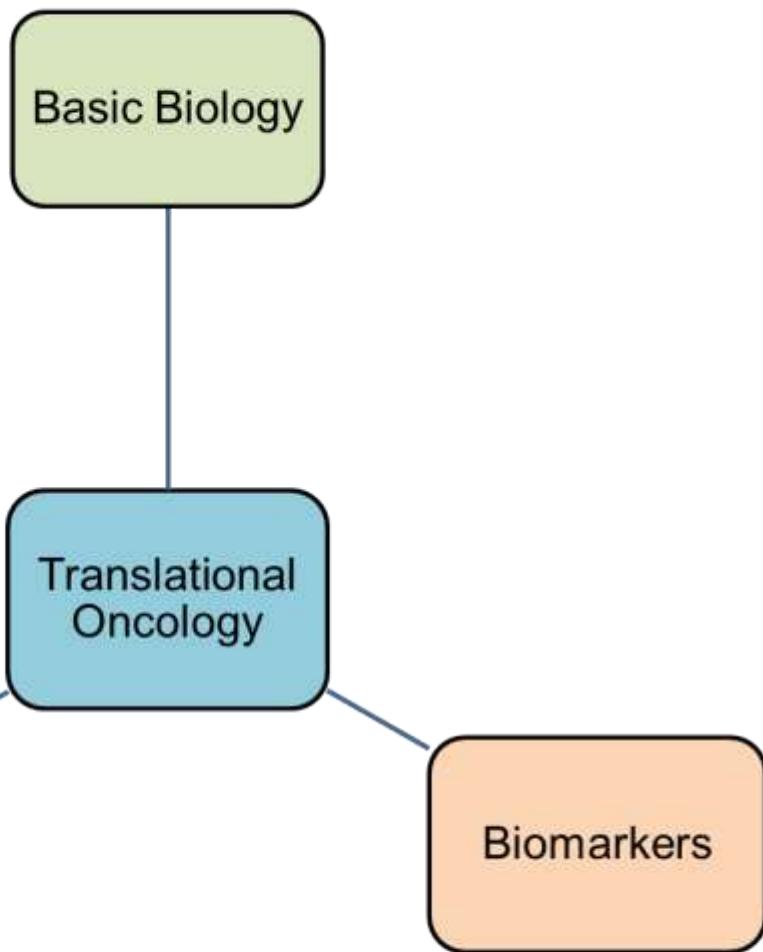
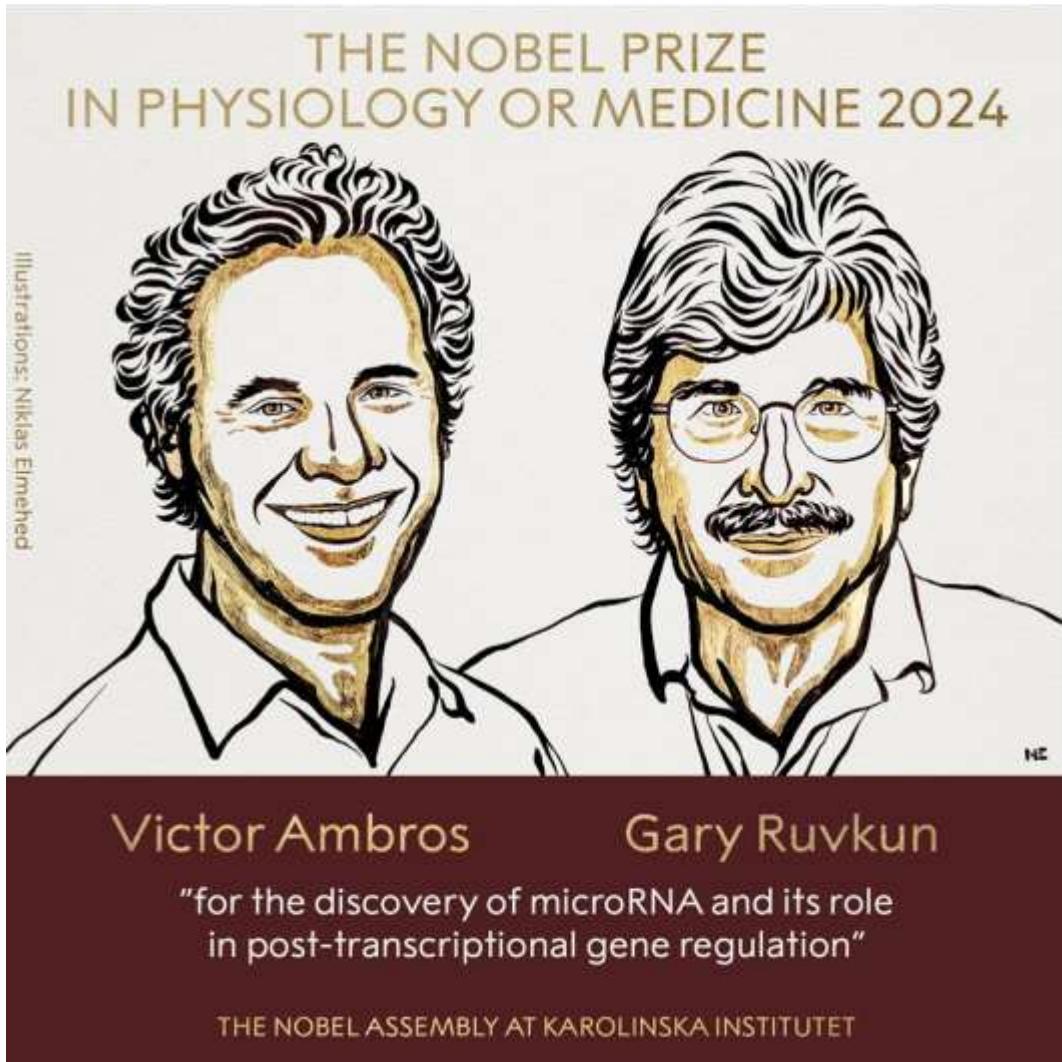
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# microRNAs: back to the future



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# microRNAs as ideal biomarkers for liquid biopsy



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## Available kits for miRNA diagnostics



- qPCR-based
- Gastric cancer
- blood

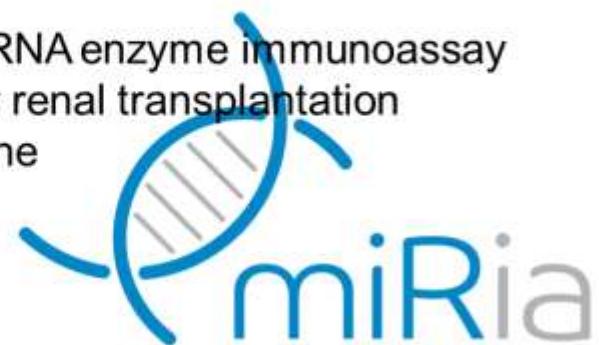


<https://gastroclear.mirxes.com/>



- qPCR-based
- Detection of neurodegenerative diseases
- Blood

- miRNA enzyme immunoassay
- For renal transplantation
- Urine



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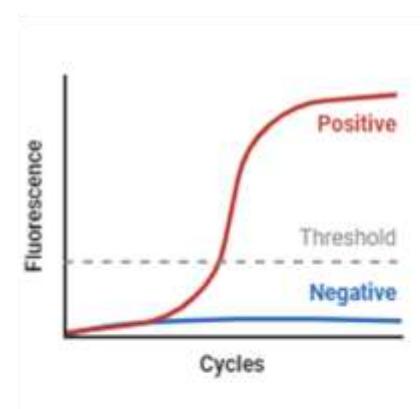
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## Limitations in the use of circulating microRNAs

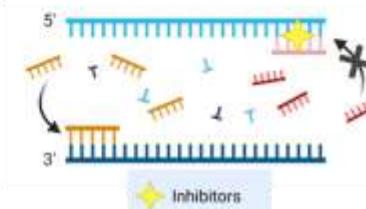
- low abundance in body fluids



- difficulty in normalizing the results



- high levels of enzyme inhibitors



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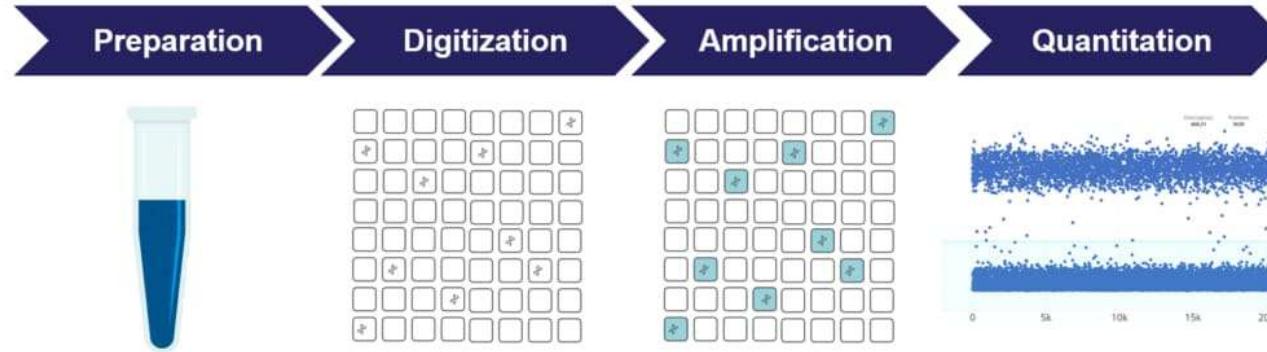
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# The promise of digital PCR (dPCR) to evaluate circulating miRNAs



## Precision

High Levels of Accuracy and Reproducibility

## Absolute Quantification

No standard curves required

## Multiplexing

Simple strategies to maximize sample utilization

## Sensitivity

Detection of rare targets in complex backgrounds

## Tolerant of PCR Inhibitors

Cycle to end point, partitioning

<https://www.thermofisher.com/it/en/home.html>



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# Liquid Biopsy

- Entire field is reaching maturity
- Several applications for ctDNA: gene panels, methylomics, fragmentomics , etc
- Great potential of multiomics/AI
- Expectations for miRNAs signatures with dPCR as disruptive technology
- Possibility of HEAL ITALIA to synergize with INNOVA PNRR project MinSal Piano complementare (WP4)