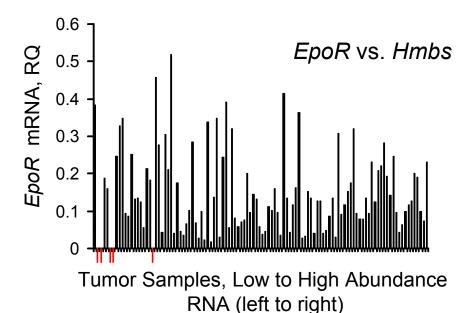


Tumor Samples, Low to High Abundance RNA (left to right)



Supplemental Fig. 4. Normalization of *EpoR* mRNA levels to *Hmbs* corrects for the effects of RNA abundance / integrity.

A, EpoR mRNA levels normalized to Ppia are shown in each of 106 head and neck tumors from the ENHANCE trial. Values are the mean of triplicate PCR determinations and the coefficient of variance is <4% for all assays. Tumors are arranged in order of low to high RNA abundance / integrity to demonstrate the influence of RNA abundance / integrity on normalization. Less RNA abundance / integrity is associated with higher EpoR relative quantification (RQ) upon normalization with Ppia.

B, This systematic effect is corrected upon normalization to *Hmbs*, which has the shortest amplicon size among all reference gene assays tested (64bp). Five samples with *EpoR* RQ values exceeding mean + 1 standard deviation are omitted (red hatches).

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