



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).