

TABLE I

Concordance between gingival fluid swab and nasopharyngeal swab (NP) specimens in reverse transcription real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)-based Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) diagnosis

RT-qPCR result	Gingival swab positive (agreement %)	Gingival swab inconclusive (agreement %)	Gingival swab negative (agreement %)	Total (%)
NP swab positive	4 (15.38)	2	20	26 (16.56)
NP swab inconclusive	0	0 (0)	1	1 (0.64)
NP swab negative	0	0	130 (100)	130 (82.8)
Total	4	2	151	157

TABLE II

N1, N2 and reverse transcription real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) cycle threshold (Ct) values for gingival fluid swab and nasopharyngeal swab (NP) specimens

Specimen	N1 ^a		N2 ^b		RP ^c	
	Mean CT (SD)	95% CI	Mean Ct (SD)	95% CI	Mean Ct (SD)	95% CI
NP swab	24.85 ± 6.482	22.33-27.36	26.30 ± 7.147	23.58-29.02	25.45(2.097)	25.15-25.78
Gingival swab	36.20 ± 3.20	33.24-39.16	37.18 ± 3.032	35.01-39.35	27.36(1.924)	27.03-27.70

a: Wilcoxon matched pairs test $p = 0.0313$; b: two-tailed paired T test $p = 0.0010$; c: Wilcoxon matched pairs test $p < 0.0001$. SD: standard deviation; CI: confidence interval; RP: RNase P.

TABLE III

Concordance between saliva and nasopharyngeal swab (NP) specimens in reverse transcription real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)-based Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) diagnosis

RT-qPCR result	Saliva positive (agreement %)	Saliva inconclusive (agreement %)	Saliva negative (agreement %)	Total (%)
NP swab positive	48 (67.61)	3	20	71 (34.29)
NP swab inconclusive	1	3 (42.86)	3	7 (3.38)
NP swab negative	4	3	122 (96.83)	129 (62.32)
Total	52	9	145	207

TABLE IV

N1, N2 and reverse transcription real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) cycle threshold (Ct) values for gingival fluid swab and nasopharyngeal swab (NP) specimens

Specimen	N1 [*]		N2 [*]		RP [*]	
	Mean CT (SD)	95% CI	Mean Ct (SD)	95% CI	Mean Ct (SD)	95% CI
NP swab	27.34 (7.797)	25.58-29.09	27.35 (8.004)	25.81-29.49	26.68 (4.803)	25.01-26.35
Saliva	30.50 (5.880)	29.08-31.32	30.67 (5.547)	29.26-32.08	22.56 (3.008)	22.15-22.98

** : Wilcoxon matched pairs test $p < 0.0001$; SD: standard deviation; CI: confidence interval; RP: RNase P.

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