

Additional file 4: Table S2. Details of sample processing prior to testing with the Xpert MTB/RIF assay.

Study	Samples	Volume	Decontamination or Digestion	Centrifuged	Reconstituted*	Other points*
Ablanedo-Terrazas	Lymph node tissue and FNA	Variable	NALC-NaOH	Yes	PBS – volume not stated	1:2 SR (volumes not stated)
Al-Ateah	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes	2.5ml PBS	1ml:2ml SR
Armand	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes		Sediment frozen. 500µl:1.5ml SR
Bates	Gastric aspirates	Variable	NALC-NaOH	Yes	2ml PBS	0.5ml:1.5ml SR
Causse	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes		1ml:2ml SR
Deggim	Variable	Variable – made up to 5ml with distilled water	Nil	No		1ml unprocessed: 2ml SR
Feasey	Blood	20ml	Acid-citrate-dextrose solution	18ml only	1ml PBS	1ml:1ml SR
Friedrich	Pleural fluid	50ml		Yes	2ml PBS	1ml: ? SR ('as per published protocol')
Hanif	Variable	Not stated				'According to instructions'
Hillemann	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH	Yes	1 – 1.5ml PBS	>0.5ml reconstituted decontaminated pellet used in 1:3 ratio with SR
Ioannidis	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH	Yes		
Lawn	Urine	2ml		Yes	0.75ml PBS	'According to manufacturer instructions'
Ligthelm	FNA	Variable smear		No	0.7ml PBS	1:2 SR
Malbruny	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for gastric aspirates only	Yes, except CSF		'500µl aliquot discharged into cartridge'
Miller	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes	2ml PBS	1:3 SR (volume of decontaminated and concentrated specimen not specified)
Moure	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes, only non-sterile	2ml PBS for non-sterile	1ml in a ratio to SR 'in accordance to manufacturer's protocol';

						sterile samples unprocessed
Nhu (a)	Gastric aspirates	Variable	NALC-NaOH	Yes	0.5ml PBS	0.5ml:1.5ml SR
Nhu (b)	CSF	7ml		Yes - Supernatant removed to leave 0.5ml deposit	200µl resuspended in 300µl PBS	0.5ml:1.5ml SR
Nicol	Stool	0.15g in 2.4ml PBS, vortexed, 1ml supernatant removed		Yes	1ml PBS	1ml:2ml SR
Peter	Urine	1ml		No		1ml:2ml SR
Porcel	Pleural fluid	Variable		Yes	1ml original supernatant	1ml:2ml SR
Teo	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes	PBS to final volume 2ml	0.5ml:1mlSR
Tortoli	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes		Only samples where >0.5ml concentrated specimen used, in strict accordance with protocol
Vadwai	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only	Yes, only non-sterile	Yes – volume not specified	1:2 SR. Sterile fluids processed directly. CSF, where volumes usually <1ml, made up to 2ml with SR.
Van Rie	FNA	Smear into 4ml saline.				1ml saline:2ml SR
Zeka	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only			1:3 SR
Zmak	Variable	Variable	NALC-NaOH for non-sterile only			0.5ml:1.5ml SR

*PBS = phosphate buffer solution; SR = sample reagent buffer

Where cells are blank, for example in the reconstituted column – there was no mention of the volume of buffer in which the pellet/sediment was resuspended