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Jensen, Peter Lüttge; Larsen, Lone Heimann; Thomsen, Trine Rolighed; Schønheyder, Henrik Carl

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DETECTION AND DESTRUCTION OF RESIDUAL DNA ON SURGICAL STEEL

Peter Lüttge Jensen¹, Lone Heimann Larsen², Trine Rolighed Thomsen¹, Henrik Carl Schønheyder³

1: Section for Medical Biotechnology, Danish Technological Institute

2: Section for Biotechnology, Institute for Chemistry and Biotechnology, Aalborg University

3: Department of Clinical Microbiology, Aalborg Hospital, Aarhus University Hospital,

WHY?

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is being used increasingly in the field of clinical microbiology. One of the methods' advantages is the extreme sensitivity, but this can also be a problem, because even trace contamination with DNA can lead to erroneous diagnosis. This has been the case previously where carry-over of residual microorganisms from improperly cleansed bronchoscopes lead to false-positive PCR results. Current autoclave procedures are known to be adequate for killing of microorganisms, but it is not known whether the routines are sufficient for removal/inactivation of DNA. With molecular biology-based methods for diagnosis it could prove necessary to combine the autoclave step with a DNA removal/ inactivation method. Unfortunately, current strategies for removal/destruction of DNA from surfaces are hazardous, corrosive or expensive.

The aim of the current study was therefore to:

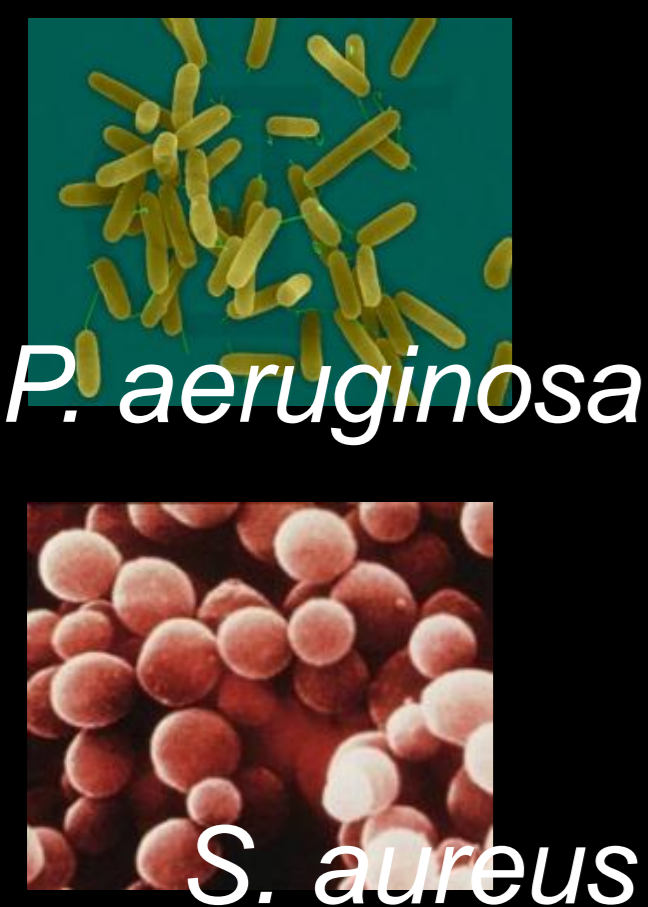
- 1) Develop a non-corrosive, non-hazardous, inexpensive method for making residual DNA non-amplifiable,
- 2) Devise a protocol for detection of residual DNA on surgical steel instruments
- 3) Determine whether residual DNA was present after sterilization routines at Aalborg University Hospital.



HOW?

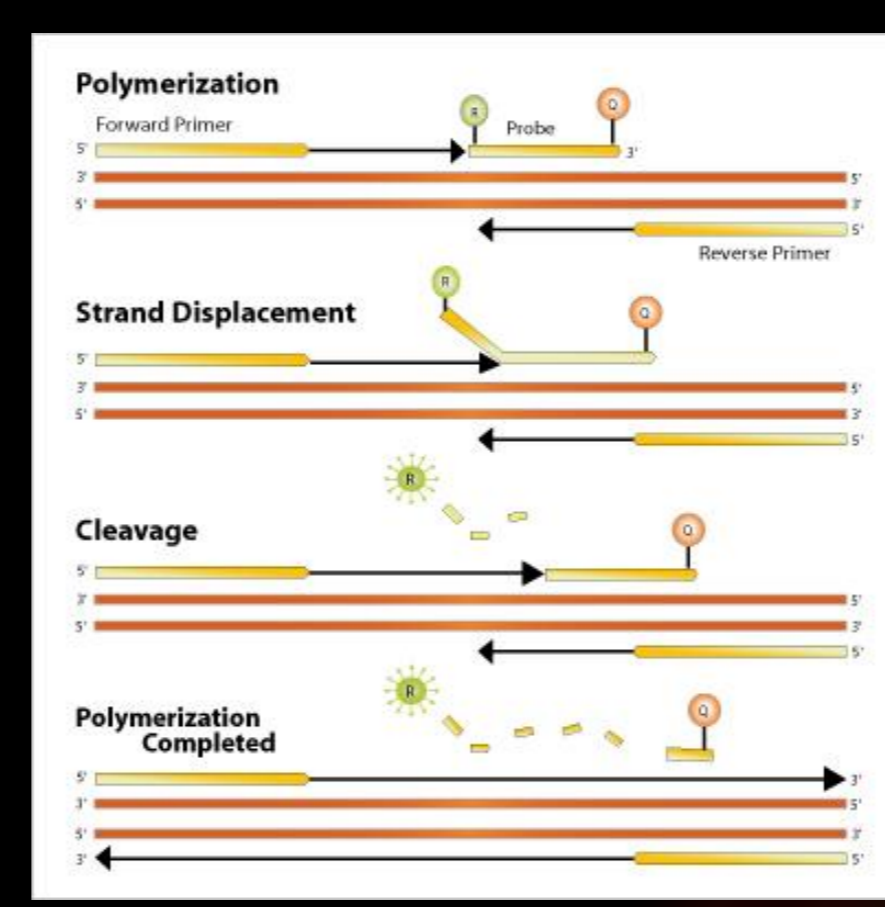
Gefrides 2009: "2 h of autoclave treatment will eliminate nanogram quantities of DNA from laboratory consumables"

IN VITRO TEST



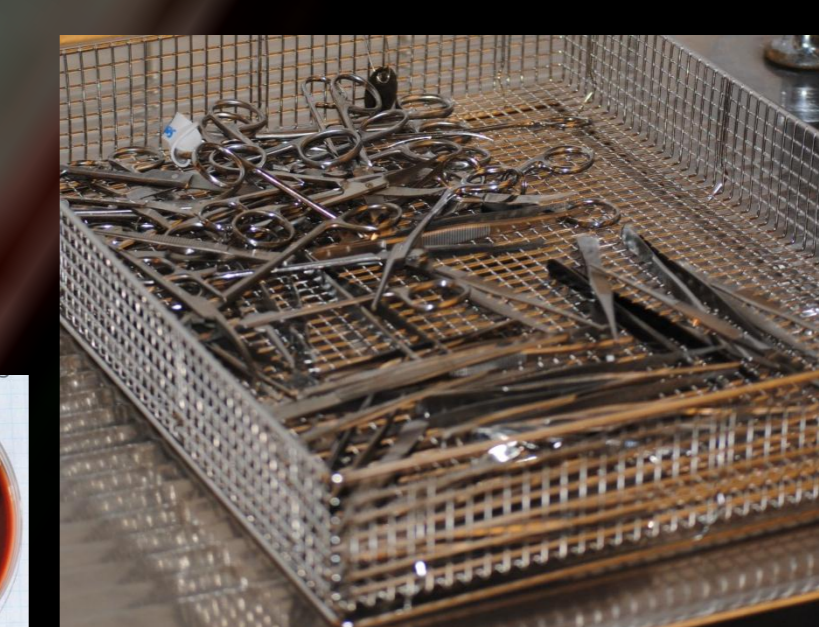
Autoclave step
 a) Duration: 0 & 60 & 120 min
 b) Temperature: 125 & 139 °C

DNA isolation and quantification
 Sonication → soil kit
 TaqMAN qPCR



CLIN. SIMUL.

P. aeruginosa
S. aureus
K. pneumoniae (thermotolerant)



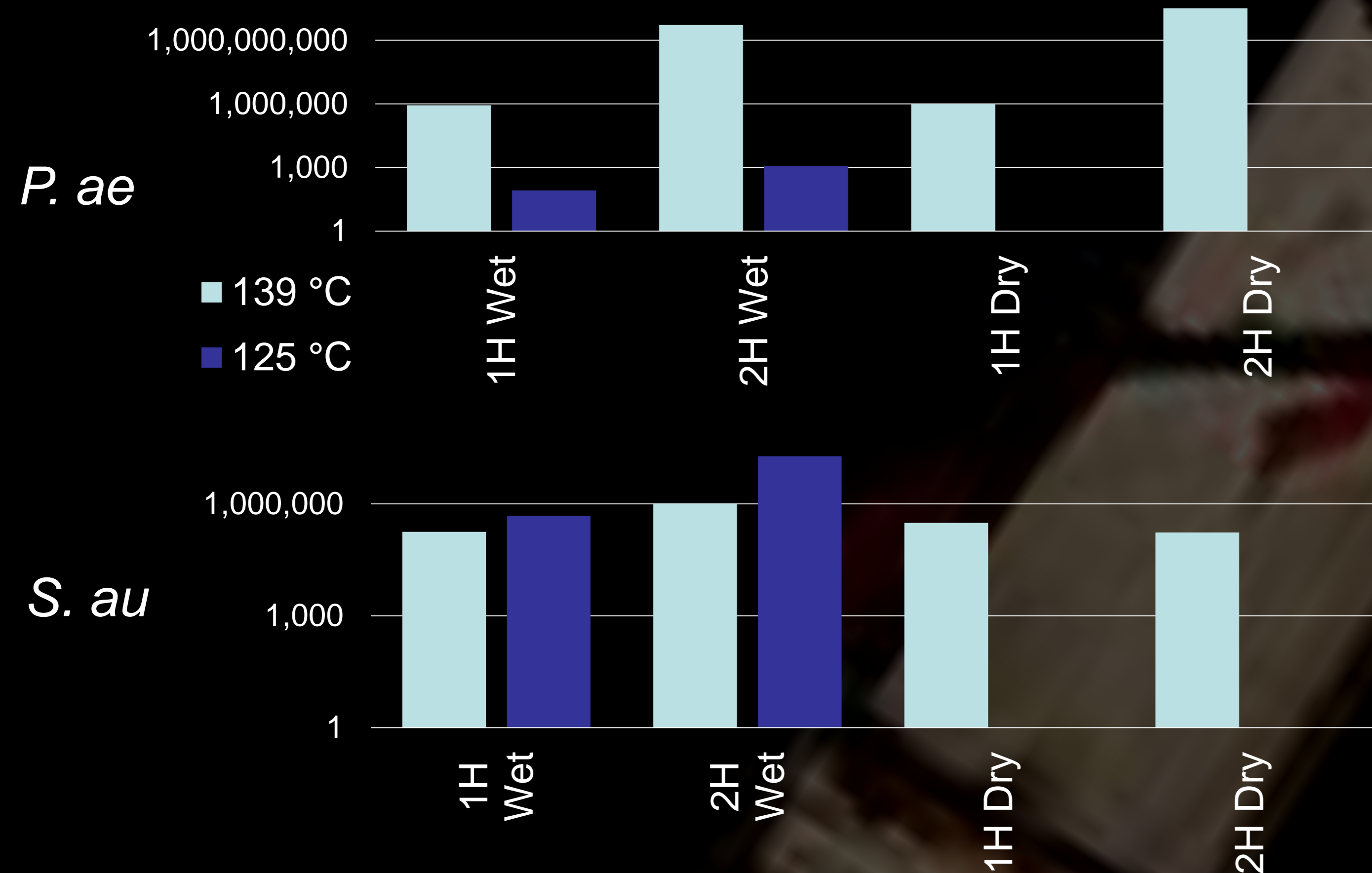
Wash 100 min
 max temp 100°C



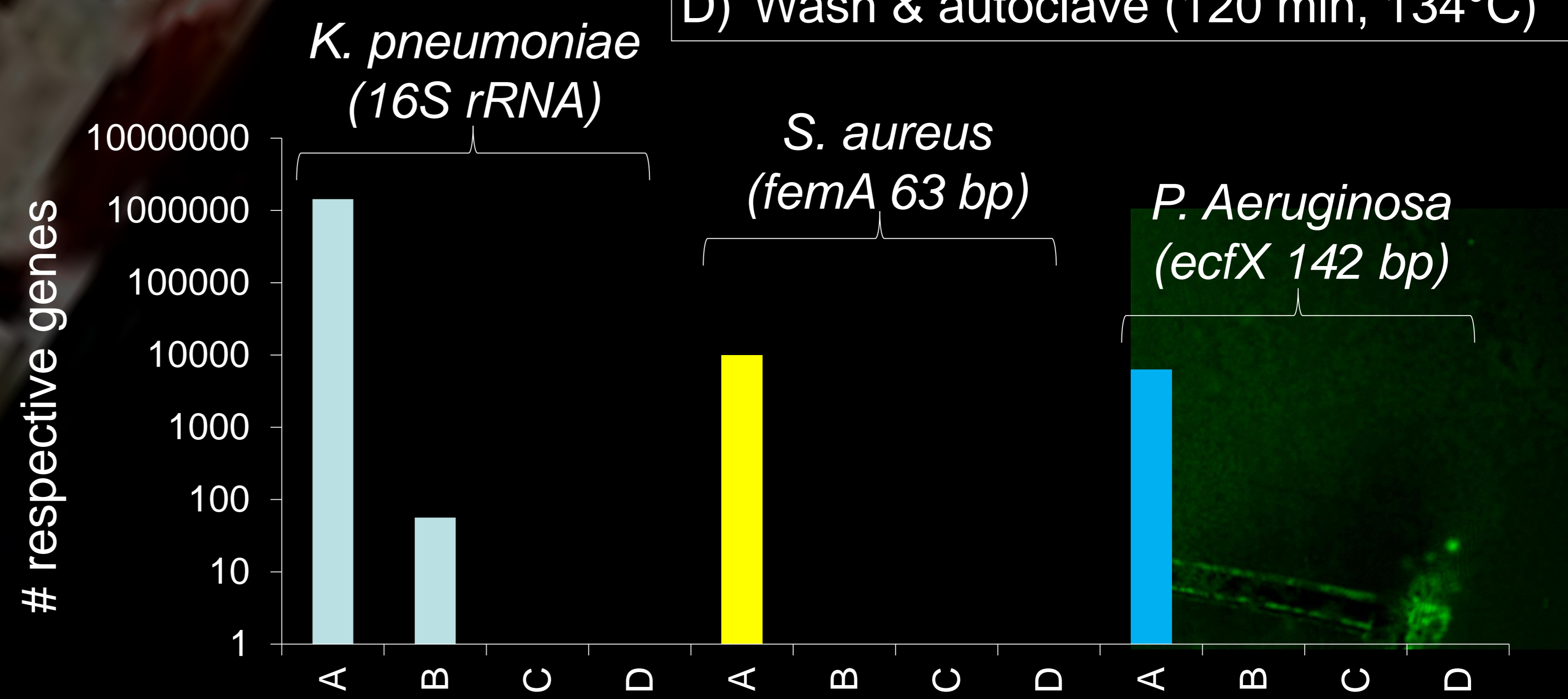
Autoclave
 a) 4 min, 137°C
 b) 120 min, 134°C

RESULTS

Dense inoculum:
 10^9 cells/mL



Approximately 10^5 cells/scalpel
 A) Control (no wash, no autoclave)
 B) Wash (100 min, max temp 100°C)
 C) Wash & autoclave (4 min, 137°C)
 D) Wash & autoclave (120 min, 134°C)



CONCLUSION

The simulation at the CSR documented that the current disinfection routines are adequate. If more rigorous DNA-destruction is needed, prolonged autoclaving at 137°C for 120 min can be implemented to provide >10 mio fold reduction in the amount of residual amplifiable DNA.

REFS

- Kaul K, et al. Amplification of residual DNA sequences in sterile bronchoscopes leading to false-positive PCR results. *J Clin Microbiol.* 1996;34(8):1949-51.
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