

*Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI):*

**Improving SERS immunoassay for the analysis of ovarian cancer-derived small extracellular vesicles**

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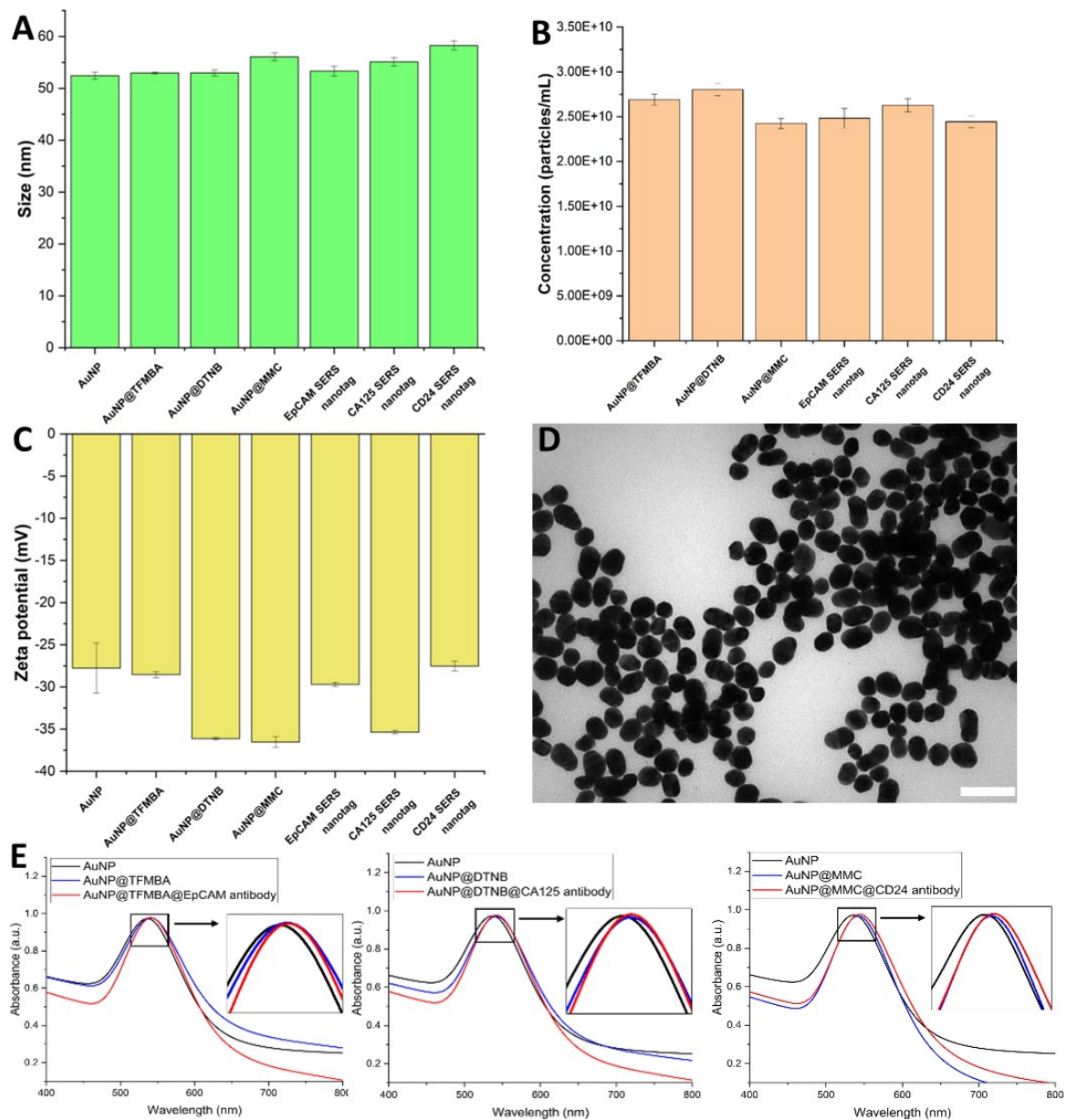
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**Table S1.** Summarise of capturing agents in different sEV studies using SERS.

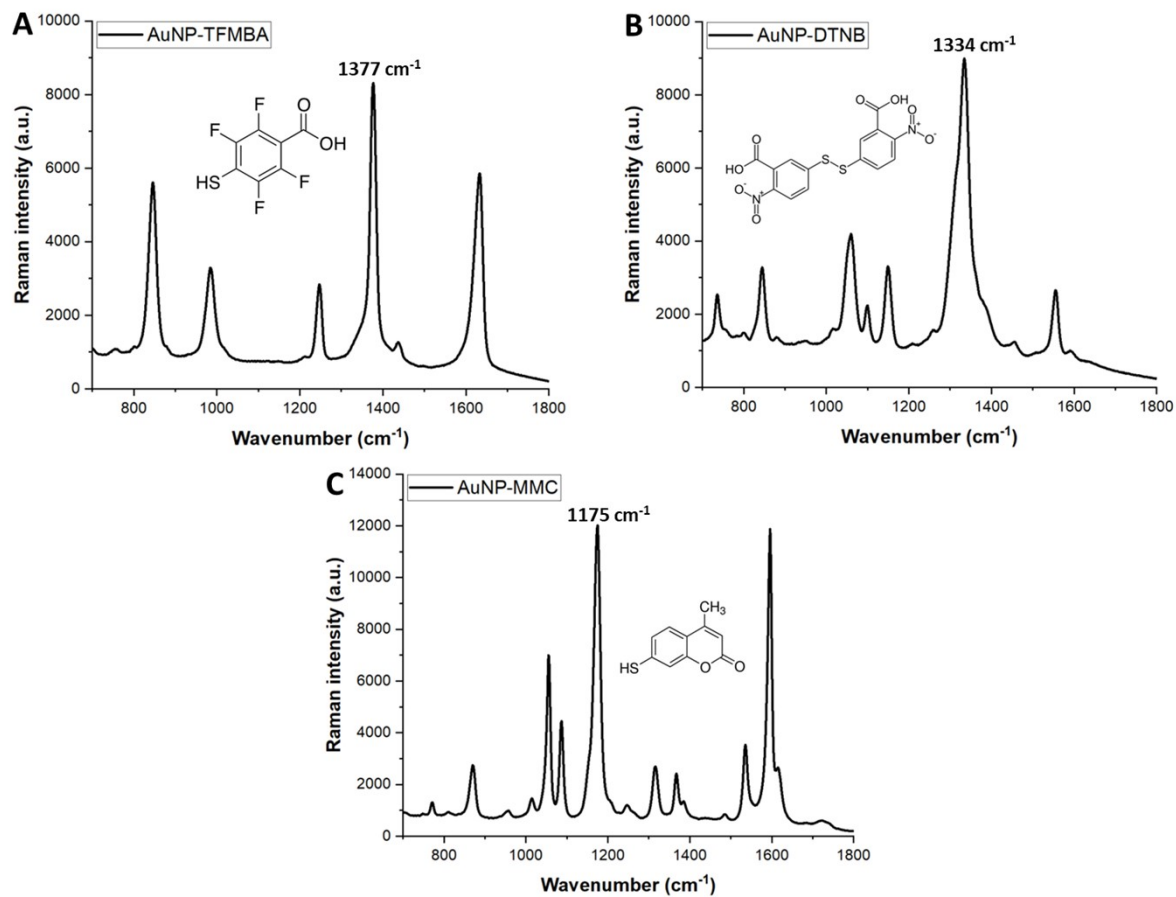
Sources of cancer-derived sEVs	Target capture protein	Ref
SKBR3, T84, and LNCaP	CD63	[1]
SKBR3 and MRC5	CD63	[2]
Panc-1, SW480, and C3	CD63	[3]
HepG2	CD9	[4]
Breast cancer plasma	CD81	[5]

**Table S2.** LOD of other studies using SERS assay for analysing sEVs

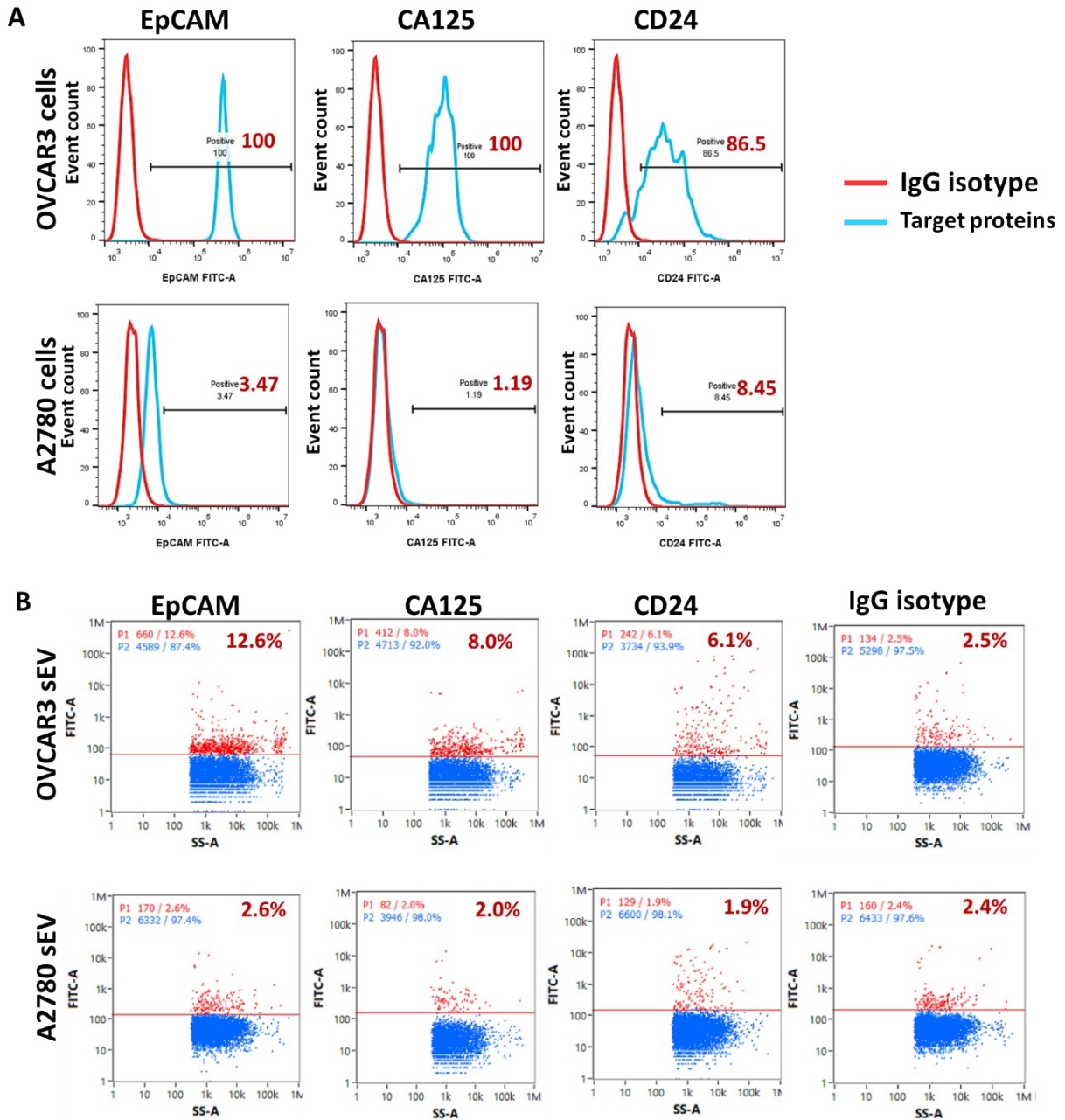
Cancer types	Target molecules	Capturing molecules	LOD	Ref
Prostate cancer	EpCAM	CD63	$1.6 \times 10^{-1}$ particles/ $\mu$ L	[6]
Breast cancer and normal lung cells	HER2	CD63	$1.2 \times 10^3$ particles/ $\mu$ L	[2]
Breast cancer, lung cancer, and prostate cancer	H2, CEA, PSMA	CD63	- Breast cancer: 38 particles/ $\mu$ L - Lung cancer: 73 particles/ $\mu$ L - Prostate cancer: 308 particles/ $\mu$ L	[1]
Pancreatic cancer, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer	Glypican-1, EpCAM, CD44v6	CD63	$2.3 \times 10^3$ particles/ $\mu$ L	[3]
This work: Ovarian cancer	CA125, EpCAM, CD24	CD9	$1.5 \times 10^5$ particles/ $\mu$ L	



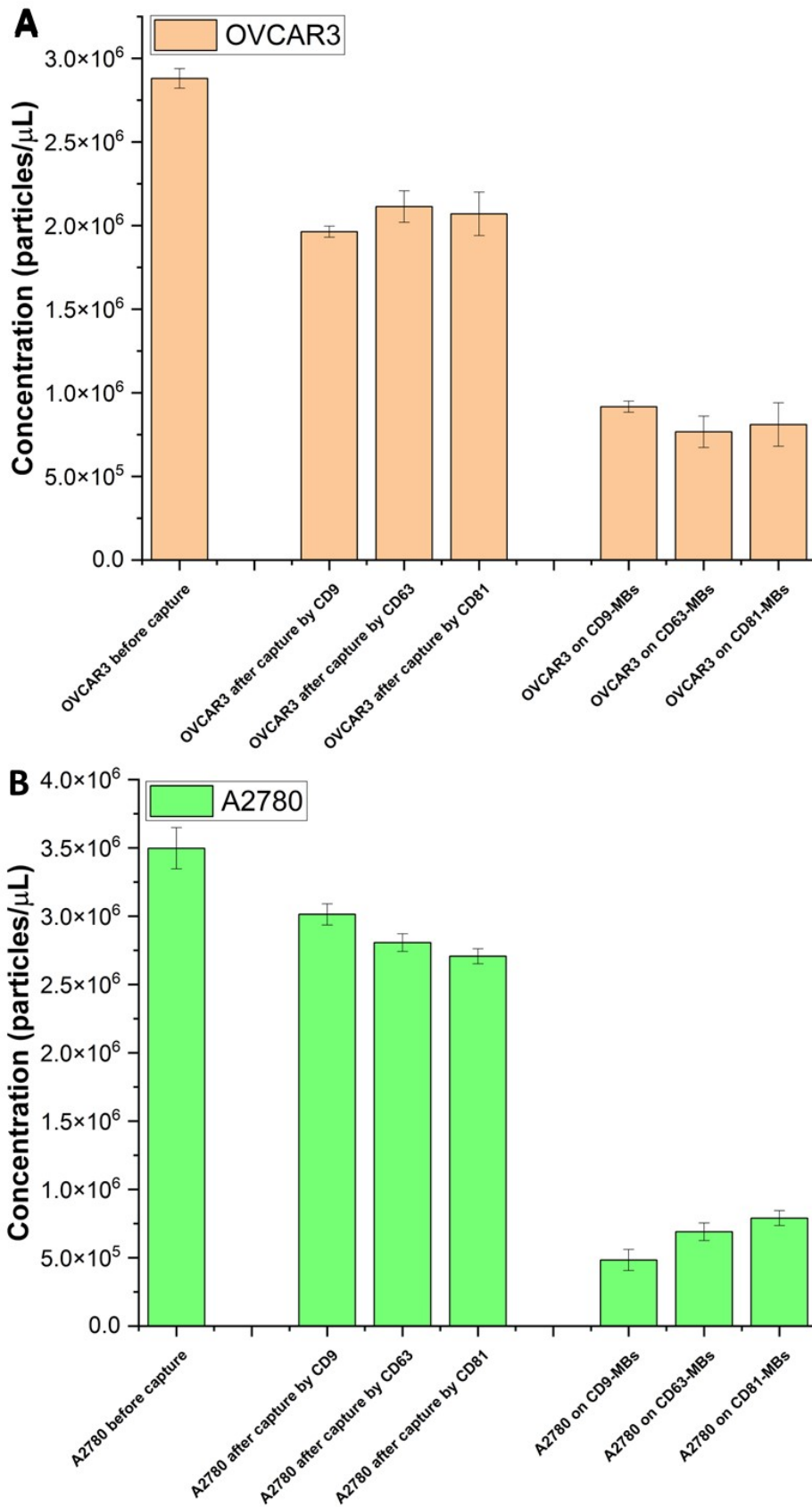
**Figure S1.** Characterisation of AuNPs, AuNPs@Raman molecules and SERS nanotags by A) size (by NTA); B) concentration (NTA); C) zeta-potential (zetasizer); D) TEM image of AuNP (Scale bar 100 nm); E) UV-vis spectra of AuNP, AuNP@Ra, and SERS nanotags.



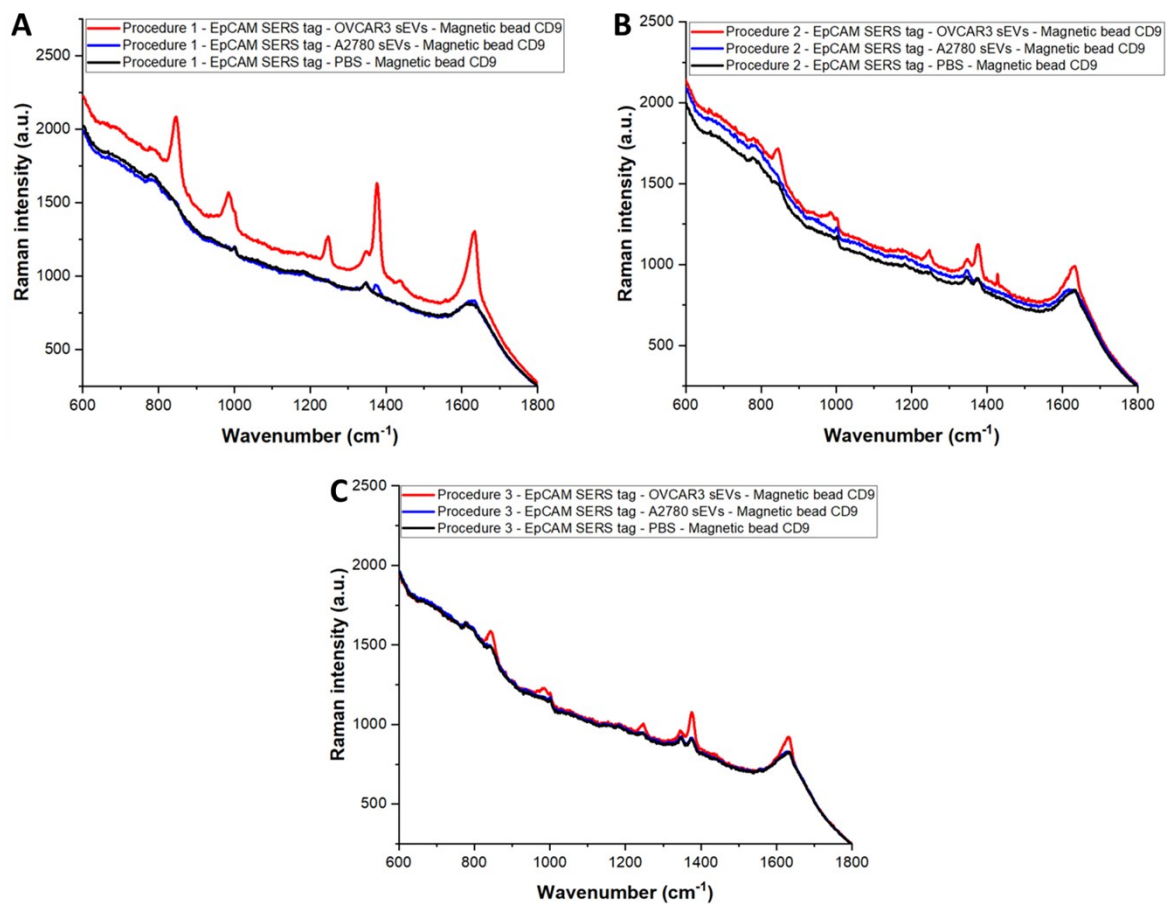
**Figure S2.** Raman spectra and intensity of gold nanoparticle (AuNP) coating with A) TFMBBA Raman molecule, B) DTNB Raman molecules, C) MMC Raman molecules.



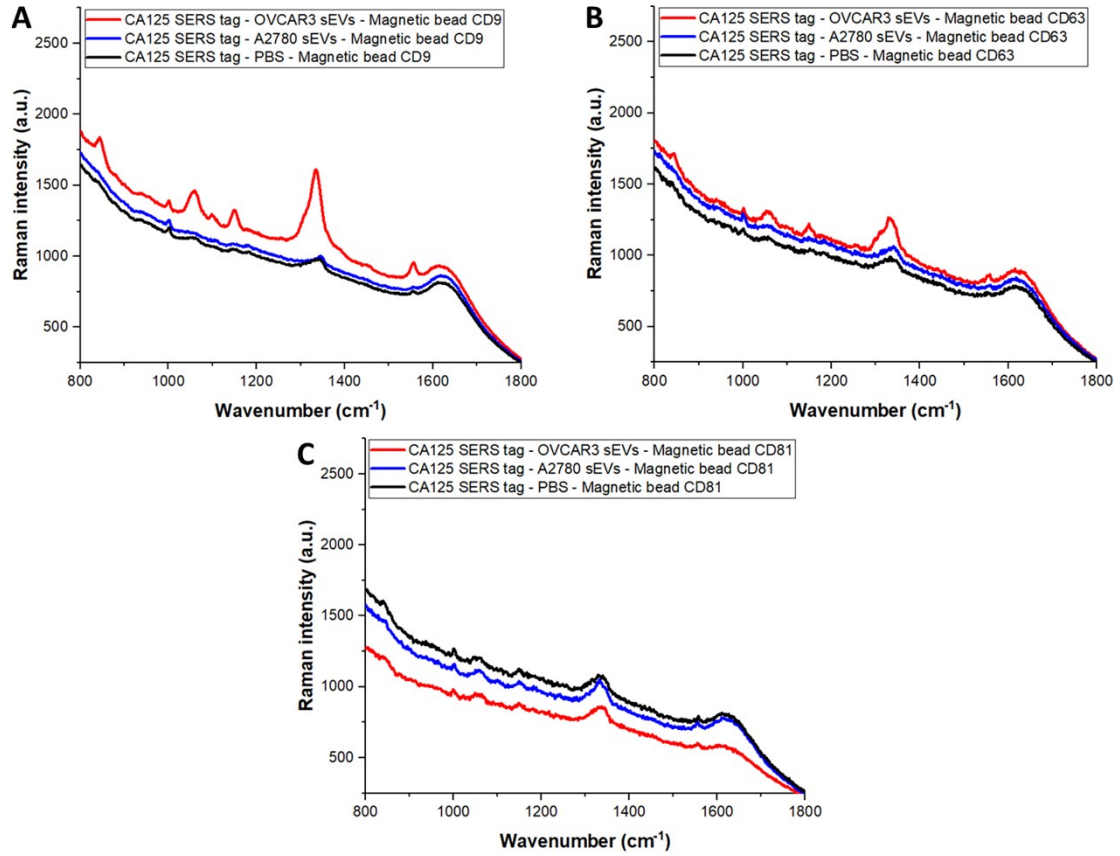
**Figure S3.** The protein expression level of EpCAM, CA125 and CD24 (A) by flow cytometry in OVCAR3 and A2780 cells, and (B) by NanoFCM in sEVs of OVCAR3 and A2780.



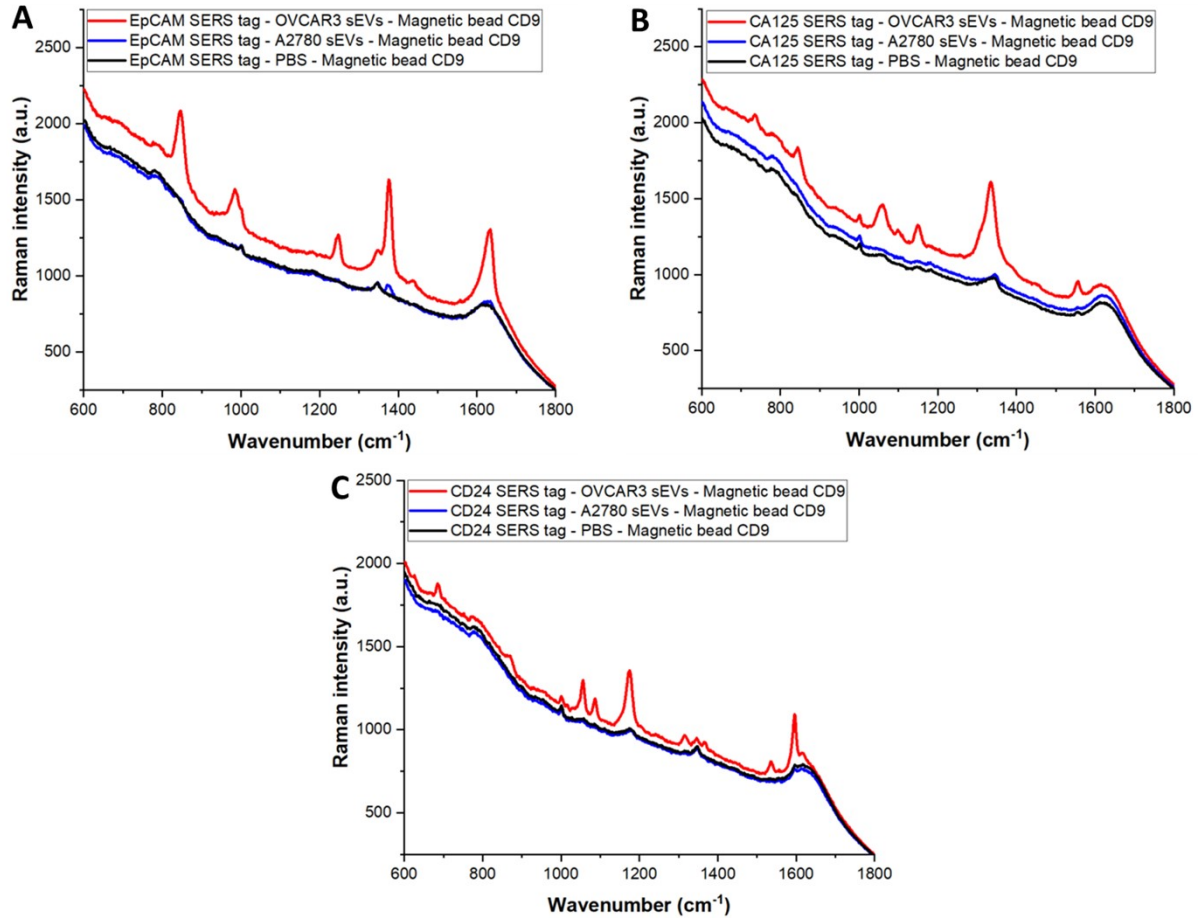
**Figure S4.** sEVs concentration before and after capturing with different MBs. A) OVCAR3-derived sEVs; B) A2780-derived sEVs.



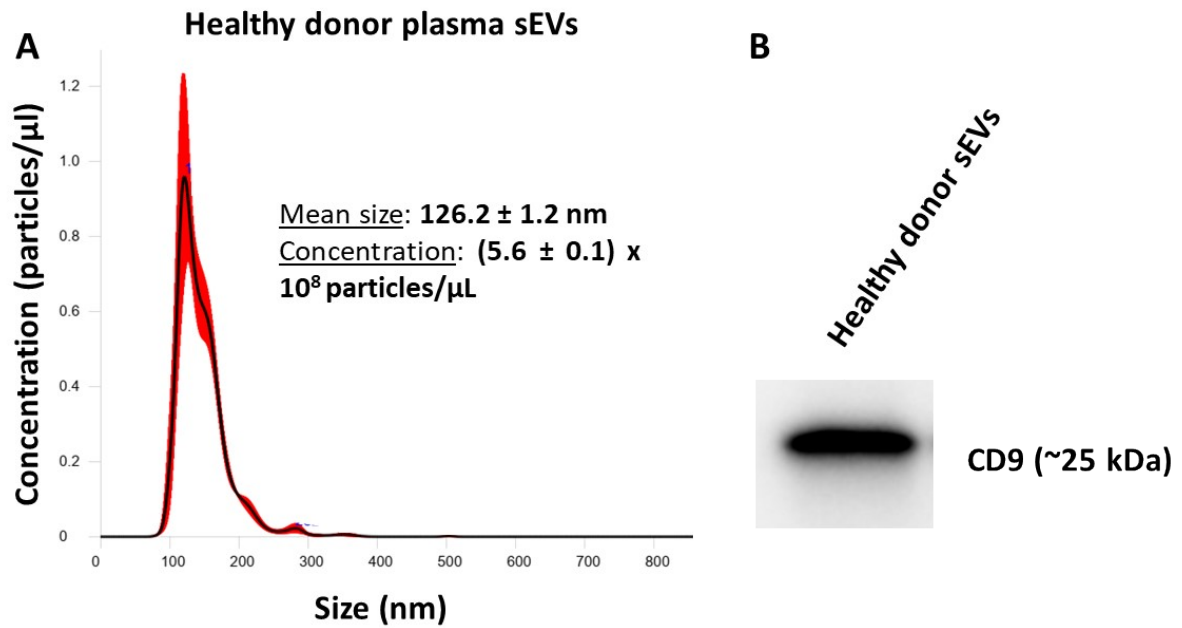
**Figure S5.** Raman spectrum of different immunocomplex forming procedure A) Procedure 1, B) Procedure 2, C) Procedure 3.



**Figure S6.** Raman spectrum of anti-tetraspanin antibodies efficiency on capturing cancer-derived sEVs using CA125 SERS nanotags. A) Capturing by magnetic beads conjugated with CD9, B) Capturing by magnetic beads conjugated with CD81, C) Capturing by magnetic beads conjugated with CD63.



**Figure S7.** Specificity study of three SERS nanotags on profiling three ovarian cancer biomarkers. A) EpCAM, B) CA125, C) CD24.



**Figure S8.** Characterisation of healthy donor plasma sEVs. (A) NTA result on the mean size and concentration of plasma's sEVs; (B) Immunoblotting of healthy donor sEVs with CD9 expression.



## References

1. Wang, Z., et al., *Screening and multiple detection of cancer exosomes using an SERS-based method*. *Nanoscale*, 2018. **10**(19): p. 9053-9062.
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