



DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

2nd EDITION NEWSLETTER

Path Serial #2

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ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

HISTOLOGY SECTION:

The consultant pathologists and pathology residents are using the Aperio's Scanscope for their day-to-day participation in the Tumor Board and other multidisciplinary conferences requiring pathology to be discussed. It also provides the capability for telepathology. We also assist the clinical colleagues who are interested to obtain any images of the pathology material for their patients, please contact the consultant pathologist handling their particular case. The surgical pathologist continues to provide excellent service. All frozen section diagnoses are monitored on a monthly basis regarding the accuracy and turn around time. The department consultants and residents are regularly challenge with unknown cases from College of American Pathologists, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and cases from the California Tumor Registry.

ELECTRON MICROSCOPY UNIT:

Electron Microscope Unit is one of the most advanced unit, within the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine not only in Kingdom but also in Gulf. EM Unit is equipped with TEM-1230 (JEOL) which is recently installed with accelerating voltage 20-120KV, magnification from 50x-600, 000x, with 0.2nm resolution power. This advanced TEM has the facilities of computerized colored photography, Topography & Digital Image Processing which is a new revolutionary advancement in Electron Microscopy. With the help of CCD software digital image system, images are connected to the PC of all pathologists, so that they can directly study patients' micrographs automatically on their PCs without visiting the TEM.

TEM is also connected with internet and intranet so that at any time micrographs can be sent anywhere to get experts view.

Electron Microscope Unit has advanced ultramicrotome Leica EM UC 6, automatic tissue processor EM-TP and automatic grid stainer.

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EM UNIT future vision includes:

Same Day EM Diagnosis of tissue by the use of Microwave-Assisted Processing which facilities:

- a) Diagnostic Emergencies.
- b) Reduction of sample processing time in EM Diagnosis.

CYTOPATHOLOGY

The Department of Pathology honoured the first graduates from the Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program inaugural class (Cytotechnology, Clinical Chemistry, Molecular Biology), College of Applied Medical Sciences, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, on November 13, 2007. Also honoured were the graduates from the inaugural Phlebotomy Program.

With enthusiasm, we re-announce the evaluation of the Cytotechnology Program by the International Academy of Cytology, and the prospective certification examinations will be conducted at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, on December 03, 2007. With this event, our institution becomes a recognized examination site for both Cytotechnology and Cytopathology Board examinations, among a handful of other international institutions.

Cytopathology continues to experience greater expansion in both scope and volume of the services provided. Most imminent is future bedside sampling assessment of FNA biopsies to provide efficient and timely services to clinicians for better patient triage.

We remain committed to providing utmost best Cytopathology diagnostic services for our patients. We always welcome your visitation.



CLINICAL CHEMISTRY:

The Clinical Chemistry Laboratory has purchased a new state-of-art technology to improve the service of Protein Electrophoresis. These instruments will hopefully improve our Turn Around Time for reporting protein electrophoresis and will also be able to introduce new test such as Carbohydrate Deficiency Transfer (CDT) in the new future. This technique uses capillary ion charge and is known as Capillary Electrophoresis.

Congratulations to our promoted staff:

- Ms. Maha Gassas left for Postgraduation
- Dr Ali Al Othaim to complete his Residency Training in Clinical Chemistry in France
- Ms. Hala Al Dosary, Supervisor of Clinical Chemistry has moved to USA for PhD

HEMATOLOGY

1. A new Consultant Hematopathologist, Dr. Layla Al Gwaiz joined the division of Hematology on 3rd November 2007.
2. ELISA technology has been included in the new coagulation GPPRR contract and we are waiting for the delivery of the instrument.
3. New benches have been installed in the routine hematology area.
4. Two Consultant hematopathologists are participating in the Hematology Block for the medical students of KSAUHS.
5. The Division of Hematology is contributing by one poster and one talk in the Symposium entitled "Current concepts and issues in Pathology and laboratory Medicine".
6. Mr. Khalid Al Zahrani gave a presentation entitled Approach to the diagnosis of anemias on 30th October 2007 in the laboratory forum.
7. Two (2) Hematology Technologists, Amal Abu Shaqaif and Eman Bader were attended to the Saudi Abbot Hematology course in Bahrain on 6 & 7th of November 2007.

IMMUNOLOGY

We held a workshop on a new "Donor specific antibody" assay organized by Biotest on 14 & 15 November 2007. The workshop was organized by Ms. Laila Qasem and Ms. Salwa Saleh. All HLA lab staff have attended this interesting workshop.

Dr. Javed Akhter, Clinical Scientist joined in Virology/Molecular Microbiology.

Availability of VIRAL TRANSPORT MEDIA in Virology Laboratory

Dr. Sameera Al Johani and microbiology team are pleased to announce the availability of Viral Transport Media in the Virology Laboratory.

World Health Organization has recommended collection and transportation of all respiratory samples in virus transport media and to be sent to the laboratory within 1-3 hours.

Some samples can be submitted without utilizing a transport media, with a reasonable expectation of virus viability. Specimens in this category includes sterile fluids such as cerebrospinal fluid, pleural fluid, blood, urine as well as some non-sterile specimens such as bronchoalveolar lavage and faeces. Whenever there is a question of stability, the specimen should be placed in a suitable virus transport media.

The following shall be noted:

1. Tissue and biopsy material can be placed directly into the viral transport media. Each sample need not be more than 1-2 cm in diameter.
2. Abscess material, bullae, pustules, vesicles, lesions, and skin scrapings can be collected on the swab and placed directly into viral transport media. If the material has been aspirated, place no more than 3 ml (equal to the amount of transport media) in the vial of VTM.
3. CSF should be submitted in a sterile container.
4. Urine should be submitted in a sterile container.
5. Rectal swab should be submitted in VTM.
6. Blood for CMV antigenemia should be submitted in a Heparin tube.
7. For CMV colitis, culture of biopsy tissue is preferred. Stool is frequently toxic to cultured cells and virus is infrequently recovered from this source.
8. Mumps: Acceptable specimens for culture include urine and buccal swab after parotid gland massage.

Virology Laboratory discourages usage of regular bacterial swabs and Amies transport media for virology samples.

If you have any further questions or inquiry or if you need supply, please contact Dr. Al Johani at Ext 12817 or pager 4157 or virology laboratory at 11277.



TOXICOLOGY

1. Siham Al Zaid was promoted to Med Tech 1 on 25 Aug 2007.
2. Nabil Al Al Osairy started SCDP training on 18 Aug 2007.
3. On-site training: Essam Al Rabeh from Amal Hospital is following a course of training in DOAU screening and confirmation (20 Oct–21 Nov 2007).
4. Paediatric Emergency Fellowship Toxicology Rotation: Drs Saleh Al Sallouk, Ameen Ghanem, Ghadah Alqasim and Tahani Alahamdi spent one afternoon in the Toxicology Section on 13 Nov as part of the annual one-day familiarization course.
5. Validation of screening assay for phencyclidine has been completed and the assay is now available on request but is not part of the routine panel for toxicology drugs of abuse (DAU) screening. Phencyclidine screening in urine was requested specifically by a Business Centre client.
6. Validation for blood lead has been completed and the assay will become routinely available as from mid January 2008.
7. Dade Behring (Syva®) RapidTest d.a.u® 10, approved by the US Federal Drugs Administration, has been evaluated for use in the ER Stat laboratory. The panel comprises metamphetamine, opiates, cocaine, cannabinoids, phencyclidine, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, tricyclic antidepressants and amphetamines. The analysis time of less than 10 minutes and ease of use make the Dade Behring (Syva®) RapidTest d.a.u® 10 eminently suitable for emergency room application.



POINT OF CARE SERVICES

1. Marjorie Racho and Heidi Bernabe were promoted to Lab Tech in Aug 2007.

The following are the new staff members joined as Phlebotomist:

- Ms Maribel De Guzman
- Ms Elvira Guillen
- Ms Leah Deloso
- Ms Judy Ann Perpetua
- Ms Roselyn Paclejan
- Ms Shondalyn Daquila

DIVISION OF TRANSFUSION MEDICINE SERVICES

The complex immunohematology workload (antibody identifications, drug-related hemolysis workups, and transfusion reactions) continue to increase at a high-rate. Four years ago, we averaged 60 antibody workups per month (each entailing at least 2-3 hours of work by one technologist plus the time to find antigen-negative components). Currently we are averaging 120 per month with fewer staff on duty in the Transfusion Service area.

The blood bank sent 100 units of packed RBCs for use in Makkah during this year's Hajj.

The Laboratory Symposium had a dedicated section for transfusion medicine. The Head, TMS presented a discussion of antibodies to high-incidence (public) antigens. There was also a presentation by Dr. Nabila Al Baz on transfusion support for oncology patients. The international speaker, Ms. Luci Berte, a well-known figure in the AABB, ASCP, and ISO organizations, spoke about quality systems in blood banks.

The blood bank computer system tender technical evaluation has concluded. Currently negotiations with selected vendors are in progress. The replacement of the current computer system is an essential foundation of the National Plasma Project.

The Head, TMS has been invited to speak at the Fourth Arab Course in Transfusion Medicine in Sharjah, UAE, on the issue of plasma derivative self-sufficiency this December.

RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

- Dr. Omar Al Khairy has started his training on 19th Nov 2007 in the Immunology Laboratory at Royal Children Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
- The Saudi Committee for Anatomic Pathology chaired by Dr Hanaa Bamefleh, Director, Residency Training Program has successfully completed the interview and examination of the new candidates applying for the First Batch Saudi Board in Anatomic Pathology on Dec 8-9, 2007. The announcement of the accepted candidates would be sited at the site of the Saudi Board link of Anatomic Pathology. Three candidates who are currently training at our institute namely Dr Fahad Al Sufiani, Dr Sara Al Moamen & Dr Shatha Al Faraj have been accepted.

CAP MOCK INSPECTION 2008

In view of the upcoming CAP Inspection 2008, the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine has arranged a CAP “Mock” Inspection 2008 during the first week of March 2008. An inspection team with Team Leader and a list of inspectors will thoroughly inspect all sections.

PATHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2007-A STORY OF SUCCESS

The Department had witnessed a successful Pathology Symposium and workshop in Officers’ Club on 19-21 Nov 2007. We have received a very positive response from all the speakers, moderators, organizers and from the participants. Dr M. Ashraf Ali extended his sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who actually served/involved and participated in the symposium.



PROMOTION:

- Dr. Sameera Al Johani, Consultant Microbiologist has been promoted to (A) Section Head, Microbiology
- Mr. Khalid Al Zahrani, Supervisor of Hematology Section has been promoted to Laboratory Deputy Operations Administrator

Please join us in congratulating them on their new position. We wish them a full success.

EDUCATION:

- The first batch of the Phlebotomy program students have graduated
- The first batch of the Post Baccalaureate Certificate Program students have also been graduated. He thanked Mr. Nickolaos Chantz and Mr. Jaseem Ahmed for their outstanding efforts in making both these programs a great success
- Trainees from King Saud University are to be accepted for a period of one year; every five (5) weeks there will be two (2) trainees training in the major sections of the Lab.

VACANT POSITIONS:

1. BLOOD BANK:

- Med Tech I

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- Med Tech II
- Pheresis Nurse
- Donor Tech

2. HEMATOLOGY:

- Med Tech I
- Med Tech II

3. CHEMISTRY:

- Med Tech I
- Supervisor

4. MICROBIOLOGY:

- Med Tech I
- Med Tech II

5. SEROLOGY:

- Med Tech I

