

Breast Biomarkers Can Be Reliably Tested on Tissue Fixed and Processed by Same Day Automated Microwave-Assisted Method



Elżbieta Słodkowska MD, Fang-I Lu MD, Wedad Hanna MD, Houman Nafisi MD, Guangming Han MD, Patrice Boulianne MD
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Background

- Recommendations to validate any modification in breast cancer biomarker testing have been endorsed by CAP and other regulatory bodies to ensure accurate testing (Fitzgibbon et al 2010).
- Accordingly, any proposed modification has to be tested against a previously validated technique. For modifications in preanalytical variables this entails creating a validation set of paired samples, consisting of a combination of positive (P), low positive (LP, <10%) and negative (N) cases that have been prepared under the same conditions and differing only with respect to the modified variable.
- Microwave-assisted rapid tissue fixation and processing (MWARTFP) significantly reduces tissue processing time.

Design

- A set of 62 breast cancer resection specimens (enriched for HER2+ cases) was prospectively selected for validation.
- Upon receipt from the OR, a core-sized sample of fresh tissue was acquired and immediately processed using a 2 hr protocol for MWARTFP (Pathos, Delta, Milestone).

- The remaining blocks were fixed for a minimum of 8 hours and processed by conventional overnight tissue processing (CTP).
- Parallel blocks from each case were placed on the same run on the immunostainer and read by the same pathologist.

Results

- ¹ fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH)
- ² One CTP HER2 IHC 1+ scored 2+ on 2 hr protocol but wasn't amplified.
- ³ One CTP ISH equivocal case scored negative on 2 hr protocol.

Biomarker	Status, CTP	Cor
ER (SP1)	P(LP)	46(
	N	.
PgR (1E2)	P(LP)	35(
	N	;
HER2 IHC (4B5)	P	;
	N	2
HER2 FISH ¹	Amplified	.
	Non-amplified	.
	Equivocal	.

USCAP 2016, Seattle, WA