UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF NORTH TEES ENHANCES PATHOLOGY MACRO IMAGING SERVICES WITH PATHLITE

CASE STUDY

University Hospital of North Tees has improved its Cellular Pathology digital operations with the implementation of 2 PathLite Compact systems.

NHS
North Tees and Hartlepool
NHS Foundation Trust

BACKGROUND

The University Hospital of North Tees has revitalised their pathology services with the implementation of PathLite for macro imaging. North Tee's key aim has been to support the move from paper-heavy to paper-light working, the facilitation of annotation tools, and to enable those working within the trust to share information more easily with each other. It is therefore not surprising that they have reported positive experience on PathLite's capabilities in revolutionising the future of macro imaging in pathology.

Many pathology departments such as North Tees are beginning to introduce digital imaging systems like PathLite for the first time, as cellular pathology begins to catch up to other medical disciplines in its advancement to the digital sphere. The days of DSLR cameras for macro imaging, and images saved to hard drives with confusing storage, management and access, are coming to an end. PathLite is bringing North Tees pathology into the future of macro imaging.

UHNT EXPERIENCE WITH PATHLITE

Speaking on behalf of the University Hospital of North Tees, one member of the pathology team said "We had a specific budget due to some funding won in a bid. We wanted two systems so we could have one on both dissection benches. A staff member had seen the PathLite and said it seemed really good. We did look at other competitors but we would only have been able to afford one unit with them."

About North Tees

The University Hospital of North Tees forms part of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, which provides services for over 400,000 people across the Stockton, Hartlepool and Yorkshire areas.
Covering many pathology disciplines, including phlebotomy, biochemistry, cellular pathology, immunology, microbiology, and blood transfusion; the University Hospital of North Tees carries out thousands of tests on a yearly basis and forms part of the diagnosis process of thousands of patients received from hospital, general practice and other sources.
The installation of the first digital macro imaging system brings a new era to patient diagnosis across these disciplines and enters North Tees into the new era of pathology.

THE PROCESS: ENTERING THE NEW ERA OF MACRO IMAGING

The installation of PathLite in the University Hospital of North Tees marks the initial steps in bringing the hospital's lab into the new era of pathology. Being the first digital macro imaging system installed in the lab means that for the first time, slides can be viewed, images taken and stored, annotations can be made, and reports can be generated from these high quality images, digitally.

The intuitive 5-click process of PathLite has meant that the lab can benefit from the advantages of a digital macro imaging system, with minimal time spent in training and support for its use in the lab.

Cirdan's UK PathLite distributor, PFM Medical, delivered training on the system. One member of the University Hospital of North Tees stated 'Installation was easy and smooth, with excellent communication. The training from PFM was really useful and told us everything we needed to know'.

FLEXIBLE AND ACCOMODATING

PathLite is a system which is highly flexible and competitive, providing macro imaging of gross samples to meet the needs of the individual lab, both in terms of pricing and setup. North Tees reported 'We had a specific budget due to some funding won in a bid. We wanted two systems so we could have one on both dissection benches. A staff member had seen the PathLite at the IBMS conference and said it seemed really good. We did look at other competitors but we would only have been able to afford one unit with them'. PFM were really helpful with discussing several mounting options and came to fit the one we chose. We are happy with the mounting system we have'.

> PathLite has definitely improved workflow in the department, with a more accurate record of a patients specimen and an easier to understand block description.
> The consultant pathologists appreciate the fact that they can see what the specimen looked like whilst they report the case.

HIGH SPEED AND USER FRIENDLY

Feedback from the University Hospital of North Tees has been that PathLite's software is intuitive and high-speed, increasing efficiency in their lab.
A member of North Tees' pathology department stated; 'The camera is good quality and the auto focus is consistent and accurate. The system and software are quick to load and save. The software itself is easy to use and intuitive, with the option of using touch screen or the mouse to draw blocks on photographs. The text boxes will auto update each time so you can click multiple times on the screen for multiple blocks (e.g. A-1, A-2, A-3) which really speeds up the process. The inbuilt ruler is useful for demonstrating macro measurements. It has definitely improved workflow in the department'.

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

The University Hospital of North Tees also noted a seamless integration with existing digital pathology systems, which results in improved lab workflows; 'We were concerned about being able to successfully integrate the PathLite with our digital pathology PACS system (Sectra ids7). However this was really simple, and all of our macro photographs are now linked to the scanned slides and accessed in our digital pathology reporting system. The pathologists are able to view side by side the scanned microscopic images and the annotated macroscopic photographs whilst they report cases'.

HIGH LEVELS OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT PROCESS

Both Cirdan and PathLite distributors PFM Medical aim to provide the highest quality support for customers. The Hospital lab also states that 'the support from PFM has been great, both throughout purchasing and after-sales care. Cirdan have also been easy to get in touch with, and their IT support helped us quickly resolve an issue we had with photographs 'queuing' in the system'.

CIRDAN