Associates in Pathology Quarterly Newsletter



7/24/2024 Quarter 2



Quarter 2 In Review

At Associates in Pathology, one of our main points of focus is case turnaround time (TAT). TAT for pathology specimens is an indicator of efficiency. TAT affects coordination of patient care, which in turn impacts satisfaction of both physicians and patients. We handle a variety of case types, each with their own TAT guidelines. Non-Gynecologic Cytology, FNAs, and Surgical Pathology cases have a goal of 90% signed out within 2 working days. Molecular cases have a goal of 3 working days and Gynecologic Cytology (Pap Smears) aim for within 7 working days. Bone Marrows have a goal of 90% signed out in 5 working days.

Frozen section analysis is an essential tool utilized during surgery by offering the surgeon a rapid diagnosis; therefore, frozen section TAT has a direct impact on patient's therapy and safety during/after surgery. With respect to our Intraoperative Single Frozen Sections, we strive to have a call back to surgeons in 20 minutes or less.

The chart above reviews AIP's TAT for 2024 Quarter 2.

AIP NEWS

- AIP welcomes Dr. David Durnick, as a new hematopathologist for AIP.
- AIP also welcomes Jamie Natzke as a new Pathologists' Assistant.

Picture 1: Cryostat- Machine that frozens are cut on.

WHAT IS A FROZEN SECTION (FS) AND WHEN ARE THEY USEFUL?

- FS is used when a surgeon wants an immediate preliminary diagnosis or to check for margin adequacy
- Only done on fresh tissue
 - Any fresh tissue must have frozen selected in EPIC or further instruction provided
- A single FS can be done in under 20 minutes
- The fresh tissue is frozen in a cryostat (Picture 1)
- It is then cut by a PA, histotechnologist, or pathologist (Picture 2)
- The cut tissue is put on a slide and stained with H & E
- The pathologist can then read the slide/slides and give the surgeon his/her preliminary results
- Pros:
 - o Fast results
 - If margin is not clear of tumor, surgeon is still in OR to take more immediately
- Cons:
 - Freezing tissue can cause artifacts in cells which can make interpretation more difficult than routinely processed tissue
 - Frozen tissue does not cut as well



Picture 2: Histotechnologist cutting a frozen in the cryostat.



Picture 3: Tissue that has been frozen in the cryostat and is now being cut to be immediately put on a slide for the pathologist to look at.

