



Agilent Case Study: Dako CoverStainer

Hospital de Cabueñes, Gijón, Spain

Agilent
Dako

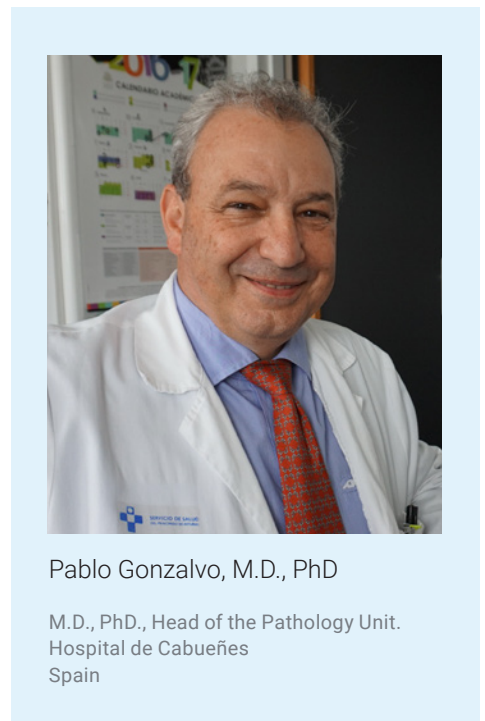
Background

Hospital de Cabueñes is a large, 600-bed university hospital in Northern Spain. The pathology lab at Cabueñes, headed by Pablo Gonzalvo, M.D., PhD, and a team of seven pathologists, provides services for the hospital as well as the entire eastern region of Asturias. The lab's nine technicians process approximately 75,000 H&E stains and 10,000 Papanicoulau stains per year in addition to their high IHC, ISH and FISH volumes.

The lab has had Dako Coverstainer since 2013, in addition to several other of Agilent's Dako solutions, including Dako Omnis, Artisan Link Pro, Autostainer 48 and TPID.

They had been using H&E reagents from another vendor until recently, when the Dako CoverStainer reagent menu was expanded with three staining intensities.

Interviews were conducted with Dr. Gonzalvo to find out how their experience with Dako CoverStainer, and their recent switch to their new reagents, has gone.



Pablo Gonzalvo, M.D., PhD

M.D., PhD., Head of the Pathology Unit.
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"The quality of the staining is very good."

- **Dr Pablo Gonzalvo,**
M.D., PhD., Head of the Pathology Unit,
Hospital de Cabueñes, Gijón, Spain

Expanded choice in H&E staining intensities

In H&E, there is no 'gold standard.' Different pathologists prefer different staining intensities, depending on how they were trained and what they are used to. The pathologists at Hospital de Cabueñes were no exception, and they preferred a staining with stronger intensity than the single option previously offered on Dako CoverStainer. "As pathologists, we are accustomed to a range of colors and saturations with which we perform diagnoses every day. A change provokes fears or concerns about the possibility of things changing or artifacts presenting differently than we are accustomed," said Dr. Gonzalvo.

With the addition of three new staining intensities to the Dako CoverStainer reagent menu, however, Dr. Gonzalvo was intrigued. After testing of the new stains was completed, the team was very impressed with the results they saw with the new Dako Harris Hematoxylin and Dako Modified Eosin Y. They found the stain quite well-balanced, with optimal nucleus staining allowing the pathologists to assess tissue morphology as effectively and as quickly as possible. "The quality of the staining is very good," said Dr. Gonzalvo. "We haven't had any problems adapting, and it has adjusted perfectly to the standard with which we were working." Dr. Gonzalvo is also satisfied with the staining consistency. "We haven't seen any variations. The quality is maintained day after day throughout the week."

An easier and safer daily routine

Before using the new Dako reagents from Agilent, the lab technicians needed to filter and manipulate the reagents manually every day. This is no longer the case, according to Dr. Gonzalvo. "There has been a substantial change for the better for the technicians, who now find it much easier and safer to handle the Dako reagents," he said. "In the past, they had to filter the reagents from the other vendor, and they would unfortunately be exposed to the chemicals."

Other benefits have arisen as well. "Our Dako CoverStainer instrument now requires less maintenance and fewer technical service visits, since we are using reagents optimized specifically for it. And less waste is generated," said Dr. Gonzalvo.

The lab also noticed major benefits to their workflow when they first added Dako CoverStainer back in 2013. "Dako CoverStainer integrated the entire H&E process that we were doing in three separate steps before, and now everything is done on just one instrument, faster and easier and with much better turnaround time. In addition, our staff was exposed to hazardous vapors and a lot of noise before. This is not the case with the Dako CoverStainer, which is ventilated and quiet, and just works really well," said Dr. Gonzalvo. "We also have much better coverslipping quality now."

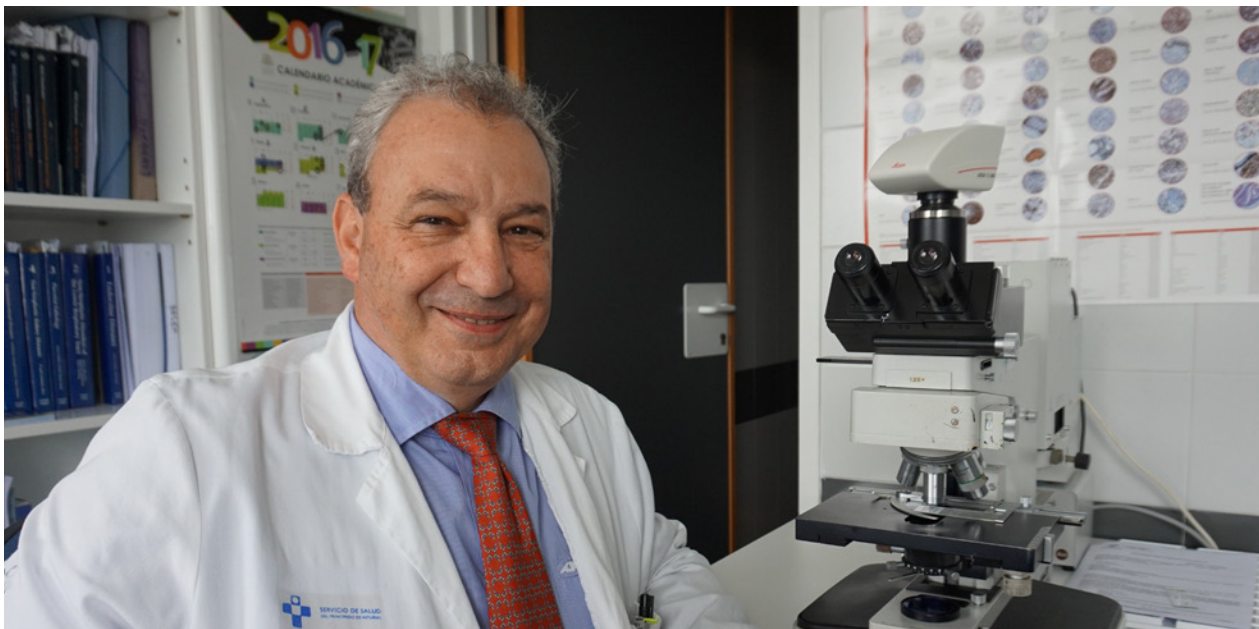


Figure 1. Pablo Gonzalvo, M.D., PhD, Head of the Pathology Unit.

The process is integrated and reliable, and we no longer have problems with repeated coverslipping issues. Using Dako CoverStainer has given us a great reduction in hands-on time of our technicians, which enables them to work with other tasks within the lab.” The lab also has their staining system connected to TPID, which gives them complete traceability to provide greater patient safety.

Customer samples stained with the new Dako CoverStainer reagents

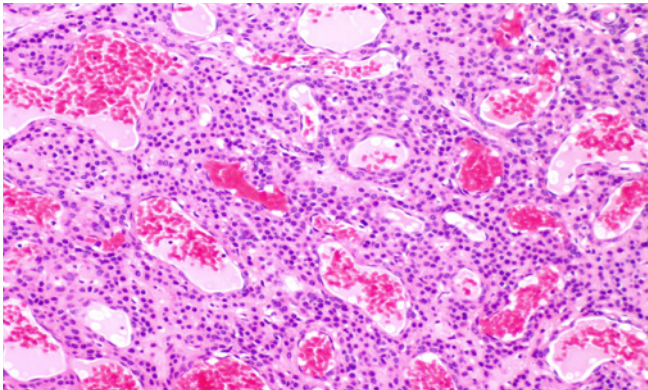


Fig 2. Glomus tumor in skin

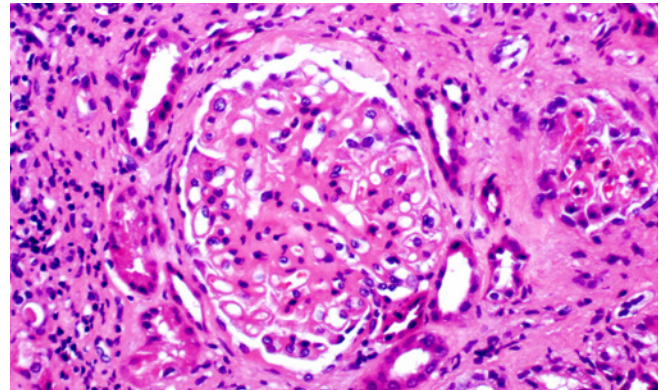


Fig 3. Kidney

Summary

The lab at Cabueñes has had no regrets since adding Dako CoverStainer and switching to the new reagents. “Dako CoverStainer has brought us improvements in every way. It is an instrument that works well, works a lot and uses glass covers, which is a big advantage,” said Dr. Gonzalvo. “For us, the new reagents gave us the advantage of excellent staining quality and because the reagents are optimized for our instrument, maintenance is now much simpler and the daily work for our technicians is much safer.”

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