

BRITISH SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CYTOLOGY

**44th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
NEWCASTLE
11th-14th SEPTEMBER 2005**

ABSTRACT P6

Workload Analysis; Manual Liqui-PREP™ vs. Automated ThinPrep® 2000 Processor

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Introduction: To compare the throughput of the new manual Liqui-PREP system to the throughput of the ThinPrep 2000 automated processor in a clinical cytology lab.

Materials and Methods: The lab has been a user of the TP2000 for a number of years. Previous workflow analysis had demonstrated with one (1) TP 2000 the mean processing time for one specimen was 5-6 minutes. In order to maximize time and efficiency by a single technologist, two (2) TP 2000 processors were required to justify a single dedicated technologist to processing. The new manual Liqui-PREP system was similarly analyzed to realize throughput capabilities. Our technologists reviewed the protocol to define which processing steps could be batched to maximize efficiencies. Operationally it was concluded all specimens would be treated with Liqui-PREP Cleaning Solution, an optional step to reduce costs. A standard 28-head centrifuge and one technologist performed the analysis.

Results: Processing for ThinPrep was 3.0 min. per slide; Liqui-PREP was 1.5 min. per slide. Two (2) TP 2000 processes 120 slides/6 hours; One (28-head) centrifuge processes 240 slides/6 hours.

Conclusion: The manual Liqui-PREP system has substantially more efficient operational throughput than (2) TP 2000. The slides were of high quality and reproducible. The Liqui-PREP system lends itself well to high volume screening utilizing standard lab centrifuges providing a substantial savings in capital and labor.