

Evaluation of whole slide imaging for frozen intraoperative consultations at a large academic institution

Patrick Morse MD, Kaleigh Roberts MD PhD, Jon Ritter MD, Joseph Gaut MD PhD, Mena Mansour MD

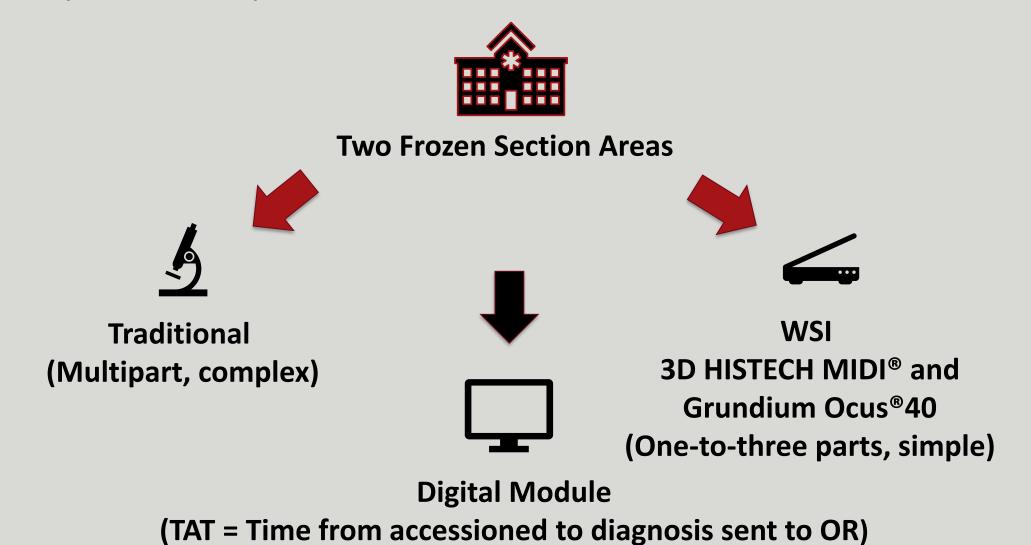
Washington University in St. Louis and Barnes Jewish Hospital, Saint Louis, MO *No financial disclosures or conflicts of interest*

BACKGROUND

- Telepathology is increasingly utilized in frozen consultations and has implications for geographically remote practices and institutions with large infrastructure
- Static image, dynamic microscopy, and scanned whole slide imaging (WSI) are common telepathology modalities with different strengths and limitations
- WSI is a common, reliable, and efficient tool based on small retrospective case series and has not been demonstrated in large academic institutions or in the setting of a fully digital frozen consultation workflow

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Retrospective review of traditional and WSI-based frozen consultations, using turnaround time (TAT) data retrieved from digital frozen module (Sept. 2022 to Sept. 2023)

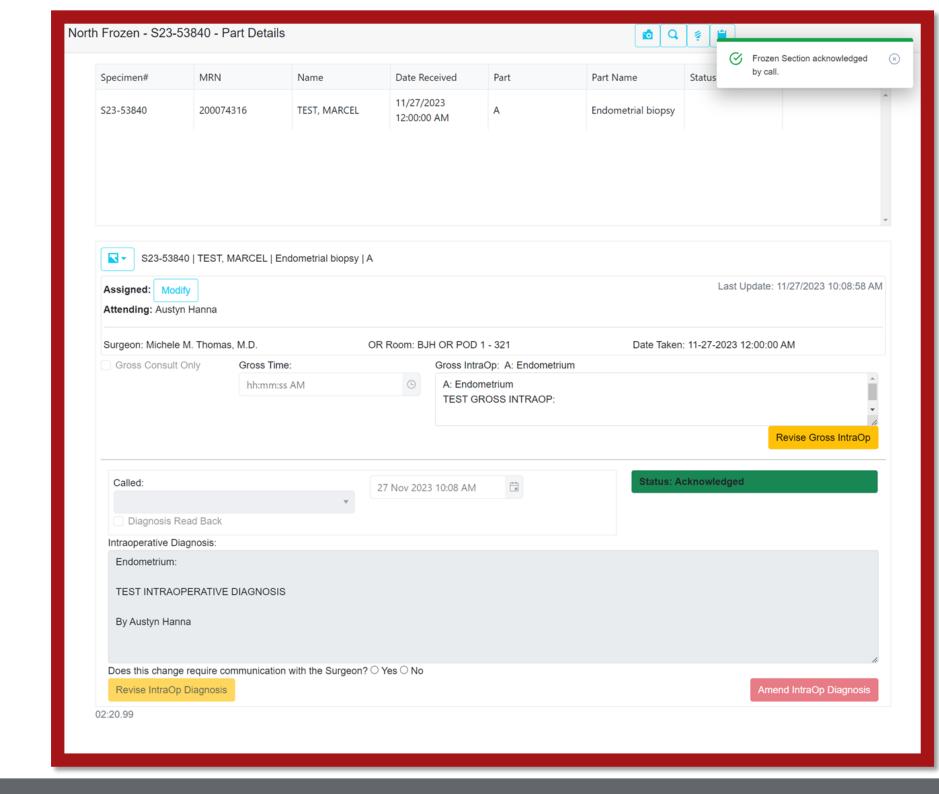


RESULTS **Turn Around Time Distribution of Cases** Traditional Mean TAT One part: 14.6 ± 8.3 min. Multi part: 19.2 ± 11.8 min. **WSI Mean TAT** One part: 22.5 ± 10.9 min. Multi part: 20.9 ± 12.2 min. The traditional approach has significantly lower TAT compared to the WSIbased approach (p<0.0001) using Kruskal-Wallis test.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors acknowledge our IT colleagues, including Michael Isaacs, Ryan Hardy, and Greg Robbins, for their contribution to the frozen section module and this project.

FROZEN SECTION DIGITAL MODULE



CONCLUSIONS

- While the traditional approach to frozen consultation shows a lower TAT compared to WSI (p<0.0001), the difference between modalities is not clinically significant
- WSI-based approach with an integrated digital module may benefit institutions with widespread infrastructure and address challenges such as geographic isolation, need for subspecialty expertise, and high throughput.
- As WSI becomes more widespread, adaptable, and efficient, institutions should consider incorporating this modality into frozen consultation workflows