

Clinical Laboratory Division

Introduction

The Clinical Laboratory Division comprises the Clinical Pathology, Physiology and Anatomical Pathology laboratories.

The Clinical Pathology Laboratory consists of hematology, biochemistry, serology, urinalysis, and bacteriology and blood bank sections. The physiological laboratory has four sections: ultrasonography (US), electrocardiography, electroencephalography and respiratory function tests. Three physicians and two technicians manage these sections. These laboratories assist internists and surgeons by providing reliable data at short notice. The anatomical pathology laboratory, staffed by four consultant pathologists and five technicians, deals with surgical, cytological and autopsy specimens. All the data gathered by this section are computer-filed, and are accessible to physicians at any time.

Routine Activities

The Clinical Laboratory Division has five doctors, 18 technicians and two assistants. Data quality control and laboratory management are discussed at monthly meetings attended by doctors and chief technicians. Several weekly conferences in each section are held to monitor data quality control.

The most important role of the clinical pathology laboratory is to provide highly reliable data rapidly to support prompt therapeutic decision-making. A new, downsized automatic analyzer was installed last October, which enables hematology data to be obtained within one hour. Our clinical computer system was also renovated to process outside laboratory test orders and results electronically.

The bacteriology section plays an important

role in infection control, not only by examining daily specimens but also summarizing monthly, quarterly and yearly statistical data on hospital infections.

The blood bank section types blood, screens irregular antibodies, and supplies blood at the request of physicians.

In the physiology laboratory, US is an important screening examination for malignancies in the neck and abdomen. Cardiac US provides valuable information on preoperative patients with cardiac disorders and on patients who have undergone chemotherapy with cardiac toxicity.

The anatomical pathology laboratory evaluates surgical, cytological, and autopsy materials, and is responsible for making final histological and cytological diagnoses. For more accurate diagnoses, immunohistochemical approaches and/or genetic analyses are frequently employed.

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Number of laboratory tests carried out in 2002-2006					
Section	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Urinalysis	144,272	157,962	145,502	182,046	192,597
Hematology	410,833	429,745	432,049	452,652	473,416
Biochemistry	1,242,320	1,255,013	1,265,225	1,344,923	1,330,853
Serology	109,711	112,936	122,564	120,710	121,436
Bacteriology	16,352	16,953	15,620	15,966	17,834
Surgical Pathology	11,214	11,868	12,280	11,862	12,573
Cytology	6,015	6,082	6,304	6,164	5,411
Blood Banking	18,180	18,412	17,168	17,284	20,047
Physiology	35,894	37,051	34,784	34,700	34,485
Total	1,994,791	2,046,022	2,051,496	2,186,307	2,208,652

Number of examinations in anatomical pathology in 2002-2006					
Examination	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Biopsy	9,151	9,930	10,266	9,888	9,049
Operation	2,063	1,938	2,014	1,977	2,116
Cytology	6,015	6,082	6,304	6,164	5,411
Autopsy	24	24	19	12	12
Total	1,994,791	2,046,022	2,051,496	2,186,307	2,208,652