



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
National Guard Health Affairs
King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh



DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

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CYTOPATHOLOGY

The Cytopathology Section conducted the 2nd Cytopathology Annual review Course on January 2010. The conference was very well attended and 2 distinguished international speakers were invited to deliver lectures, along with local speakers, to provide a comprehensive overview of current Cytopathology topics for both practicing colleagues and the candidates approved to sit the 3rd round of International Academy of cytology certification examinations in our institution.

We continue to upgrade the technical platforms utilized for diagnostic service. One such development is the evaluation and subsequent approval of SAKURA Papanicolaou staining reagents for the routine service, providing superior staining quality to the previously used reagents. We are also investigating the efficacy of SurePath technology in processing Non-Gynecological specimens.

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HEMATOLOGY

The Hematology lab continues case study sessions as a part of continuing education for staff.

Congratulations to Mr. Mohammed Zakour and Nouf Ammary, they got married.

Mr. Saleh Alomari went for Arab Health in Dubai. Ms. Meshael Al Harbi was appointed as an Education Coordinator for Hematology. Our good luck to Mr. Mohammed Ali (Med Tech I) who left the department.

3 new instruments received, evaluation and training has been started.

MICROBIOLOGY

3 posters were accepted for presentation by Dr. Sameera Al Johani and staff at the 20th European Congress of Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology (ECCMID).

1. Performance Characteristics and Utility of the Cepheid and MRSA-Xpert for Screening for MRSA from Direct Patient's Samples at a Tertiary Care Center (Abstr.903) S. Al Johani, J. Akhter (Riyadh, SA)
2. In Vitro Activity of Tigecycline against Brucella sp. Isolate from 1997 to 2009 (Abstr. 1441) S. Al Johani, Z. Nemish (Riyadh, SA)
3. Performance Characteristics of Two Rapid Influenza Diagnostic tests and Direct Fluorescence Assay in Comparison with Real-time PCR in the Current H1N1 Influenza A Pandemic (Abstr. 681) S. Al Johani, M. AL Balwi, A. Hajeer (Riyadh, SA)

A Lecture is to be presented at the 2nd Annual Infection Control Symposium on April 5-7, 2010 at the Riyadh Military Hospital.

The Microbiology team is involved with a number of grants approved by King Abdullah International Research Centre as well as King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology.

The Microbiology Division is also involved in teaching of students of different specialty at KSAU-HS like College of Nursing and College of Medicine. Currently, a new Clinical Lab Science Program was launched at the KSAU-HS for Virology, Parasitology and Bacteriology.

We are please to announce the upgrading of MicroScan Panels (Automated Identification of Susceptibility Testing) to rapid ID within 4 hours for most of pathogens. Also, we switch to MIC susceptibility method instead of Breakpoint. MRSA Molecular Detection has been implemented since November 2008 and currently been upgraded to new version that gives the result within 30 minutes.

Our congratualtions to Ms. Muneera Al Ouda and Mr. Ahmed Al Awaji, both have been promoted to senior positions.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Quality Management section has conducted some activities to improve staff knowledge and to strengthen their skills and promote excellence in the laboratory practice. Such activities are (but not limited to):

- **CAP Competency Assessment Program** : is an online package of assessment courses that come along with customized training and CE credit, reassessment courses, a library of independent stand-alone "Pro-Courses" with CE credit, instrument specific observation checklist, course-building and-modifying tools, management tracking and reporting and individual transcripts.

- **APHL (Association of Public Health Laboratories):** are live lectures presented by subject matter experts via the telephone. Handouts are available for download prior to presentation. This cost-effective method of training allows for staff education without leaving the workplace.
- **Employee Satisfaction Survey:** to ensure a maximum job satisfaction of employees within the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and to measure the degree of job satisfaction of all participant laboratory employees.



SEROLOGY

Coeliac Disease, also known as Celiac Disease, is a common bowel condition that is caused by intolerance to a protein called gluten. Gluten is found in wheat, rye and barley. The exact cause of celiac disease is unknown. However the condition can be inherited, although it is linked to certain foods. It is not a food allergy. It is an autoimmune condition which means that it occurs as a result of the body's immune system attacking gluten in the digestive system. This leads to Intestinal mucosal damage resulting symptoms such as diarrhoea, weight loss and stomach pain.

There is no cure for celiac disease but the symptoms can be kept under control by eating a strict gluten-free diet. However, coeliac disease that is untreated or undiagnosed can cause several different complications including growth retardation and development of Malignant Lymphoma.

Diagnosing Coeliac Disease

Two tests-a blood test and a gut biopsy is recommended.

1. Blood Test

Serological tests for certain antibodies that are usually present in the bloodstream of people with celiac disease. However, it is possible to have celiac disease and not have these antibodies in the blood. Serological screening for celiac disease include:

- IgG and IgA anti-gliadin antibodies determined by an indirect ELISA technique in microtiter plates with purified gliadin
- IgA Endomysial Antibody is determined in indirect immunofluorescence on frozen section of distal monkey oesophagus
- ELISA test of IgG and IgA antibodies to Tissue Transglutaminase (endomysium) in human serum (IgG tTG and IgA tTG) test.

2. Biopsy

If the antibodies to celiac disease is not found in blood, gut biopsy is recommended. Gut biopsy is also recommended to assess the severity of disease.



EVENTS

Liver Pathology Symposium

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine conducted a specialized symposium entitled “Liver Pathology Symposium and Workshop: Current Concepts and Issues” on March 16 and 17, 2010 at the Makarim Convention, Riyadh Marriot Hotel. A workshop (Slide Seminar) was held on March 18, 2010. The Saudi Council for Health Care Specialties accredits the event with 13 CME hours for the symposium and 4 CME hours for the workshop.

His Excellency Dr. Bandar Al Knawy, Chief Executive Officer made the ribbon cutting and welcome address, which was shortly followed by welcome address by Dr. Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, Chairman, Department of pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Important topics for lectures/presentation includes: Stem cell in Liver Disease, Fatty Liver Disease, Autoimmune Liver Disease, Pediatric Cholestatic and metabolic Diseases, Liver tumors, Hepatitis and Hepatic Liver Cirrhosis, Liver Allograft Rejection, Pathology in Late Transplant Biopsies, Drug-induced Liver Injury and Vascular Disorder in Liver.

The symposium was a great success because of world class international speakers and a number of distinguished national speakers. The following are the International Speakers:

- Dr. Elizabeth Brunt, MD
Professor, Pathology and Immunology,
Washington University of Medicine, USA
- Dr. Alastair Burt
Dean of Clinical Medicine, Professor of Pathology
Clinical Deanery, Faculty of Medical Sciences
Newcastle University, UK
- Dr. Stefan Hubscher, MB, ChB, FRCPath
Professor of Hepatic Pathology, Department of Pathology
University of Birmingham, UK
- Dr. Alexander Knisely, MD
Consultant Histopathologist, Institute of Liver Studies
King's College Hospital, UK
- Dr. Joseph Misdraji, MD
Assistant Professor of Pathology, Gastrointestinal Pathology Unit
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA
- Dr. Neil Theise, MD
Professor, Division of Digestive Diseases
Department of Pathology and laboratory Medicine
Beth Israel Medical Center
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA

A total of 234 attendees participated in the 2 day symposium and 52 participated in the half day workshop. News media were also present who covered the event like Saudi Channel 1, Saudi Channel 2, Al Jazeera Newspaper, Ar Riyadh Newspaper and Al Watan Newspaper.

We wish to congratulate all the members of the Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee for their hard work and dedication which made the event a grand success.



