

A PAPERLESS AUTOIMMUNITY LABORATORY : IS IT POSSIBLE?

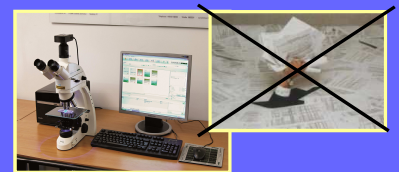
Lutteri L, PESSER M., WATRIN P., CAVALIER E. University hospital, Department of Clinical Chemistry, B35, B-4000 LIEGE, BELGIUM.

INTRODUCTION

Indirect immunofluorescence is still the gold standard technique in autoimmunity laboratories. Slides are examined on a microscope and patterns have to be written on a paper. Results are finally transcribed on the laboratory information system (LIS). These steps can be however tainted with error.

MATERIAL

Different management software exist and could be a support. EUROLabOffice (EUROIMMUN) was chosen in our laboratory where each year more than 8000 ANA, 3000 ANCA, 3000 other different antibodies are searched by immunofluorescence.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

First of all, patient data from **LIS** are automatically integrated in the software by the bidirectional connection.

Then, work protocols are created in a mouse click.

Entry of results and patterns is paperless and performed directly at the microscope.

A direct access to **patient histories** is offered by archiving of results and previous pictures can be viewed in parallel.

Blot images are also integrated in the software and can be compared with the pattern results.

Finally, a **bidirectional data communication** between EUROLabOffice and the LIS makes results directly available for the clinicians.



The software is **completely opened**: any slide of any company can be read.

As regards the quality assurance, a **perfect traceability** of records is another advantage of this paper-free system.

CONCLUSION

EUROLabOffice is the solution for a maximum automation in autoimmunity laboratories. The main advantages of the system is : minimisation of errors from manual handling or data input and the digital archiving of pictures and data