

Diagnosing Breast Cancer

The positive impact of a complete breast panel solution

A Case Study



Randy W. Cooper, M.D.



Center for
Breast Health Services



Breast Cancer treatment and care are paramount areas of focus at Piedmont Augusta in Augusta, Georgia

The Randy W. Cooper Center for Breast Health Services plays a vital role in patient's journeys who are treated in the health system. Along with the Piedmont Anatomic Pathology Laboratory and Piedmont Physicians Surgical Oncology at Augusta, a multidisciplinary care team is formed to provide the best possible treatment path to patients throughout their cancer care journey from screening and diagnosis, to treatment and aftercare.

In 1999, the Randy W. Cooper Center for Breast Health Services was created. In 2013, the system initiated a rapid turnaround screening process with the goal of speeding up the imaging and biopsy processing time to help get results to patients sooner.

"A key result from bringing the HER2 Dual ISH in-house has allowed us to expedite patient care."

– Matthew Pugliese, M.D F.A.C.S,
Breast Surgical Oncologist

"I could not even fathom waiting two weeks to find out what that result was, especially once I learned how aggressive of a breast cancer I had." – Tracy Capizzi, Two Time Breast Cancer Survivor

The staff at the Piedmont Health System Randy W. Cooper Center for Breast Health knew they could do even more, do even better for their patients who were waiting for results from their biopsies to inform the care team.

"Being diagnosed and waiting for that answer is something completely different than anything I've ever experienced" "it feels like a lifetime waiting for results."
– Tracy Capizzi



- Single piece flow using the Benchmark Ultra Instruments in the lab, allowed timely running of HER2 Dual ISH as cases came through the lab – no batching or holding cases for batch send out
- Improved turnaround time (TAT) of reporting out HER2 Dual ISH results by 60%
- Improved full case sign out from 11-14 business days to 3-4 business days
- Having on time HER2 Dual ISH results improved multidisciplinary care team review at tumor board by as much as 7 business days in some cases
- Multidisciplinary Care Team witnessed crucial time to treatment decisions improvement for patients

Boost productivity while reducing overall costs

“Once we checked into it and we realized that it would be saving us money, saving our patients money and also helping us get that result back to the physician so they could make a clinical decision much faster, it just made sense.”



In-house HER2 Dual ISH testing enabled the laboratory and physicians to expedite results while reducing costs for both the lab and the patient. Piedmont has experienced cost savings by minimizing expenses related to send-out costs and labor, providing more time and resources to the team to dedicate to other responsibilities.

– Bradley Jay, Lab Manager

Reduced turnaround time for test results, improving crucial time to treatment decisions

“The most important benefit to our newly acquired in-house, HER2 testing is timeliness. It allows us to get a piece of information back in one to two days that has historically taken us one to two weeks. That’s a tremendous advantage in terms of being able to start our patients and their care plans quickly.”

Workflow improvements were realized quickly with the Piedmont team upon bringing HER2 Dual ISH testing in-house. In-house testing has led to improved turnaround time of HER2 Dual ISH result reporting, allowing the multidisciplinary care team to have needed results to review, develop, and start treatment plans for patients quickly.

– Matthew Pugliese, M.D F.A.C.S, Breast Surgical Oncologist

Innovating for the Patient



“Pathology is everything when it comes to breast cancer, so being able to provide that in a timely manner is information the physicians needs.”

Piedmont places a strong emphasis on patient care and treatment. Introducing in-house HER2 Dual ISH testing has played a crucial role in reducing the time it takes for patients to receive test results, allowing for a quicker initiation of treatment for patients. This has allowed the multidisciplinary team to review pathology reports simultaneously, facilitating the development of comprehensive treatment plans tailored to each patient’s needs.

– Melissa Manley, Breast Health Manager

VENTANA HER2 Dual ISH DNA Probe Cocktail Assay

Ordering Information

Product	Catalog Number	Ordering Number	Tests
VENTANA HER2 Dual ISH DNA Probe Cocktail	760-6072	08314365001	30
VENTANA Silver ISH DNP Detection Kit	760-516	08318883001	60
VENTANA Red ISH DIG Detection Kit	760-512	08318832001	60

Intended Use:*

The VENTANA HER2 Dual ISH DNA Probe Cocktail is intended to determine HER2 gene status by enumeration of the ratio of HER2 gene to Chromosome 17 by light microscopy. The HER2 and Chromosome 17 probes are detected using the VENTANA Silver ISH DNP Detection Kit and the VENTANA Red ISH DIG Detection Kit for a two-color chromogenic in situ hybridization (ISH) in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded human breast carcinoma tissue specimens, following staining on BenchMark ULTRA instruments.

The VENTANA HER2 Dual ISH DNA Probe Cocktail is indicated as an aid in the assessment of patients for whom Herceptin (trastuzumab) is being considered.

This product should be interpreted by a qualified pathologist in conjunction with histological examination, relevant clinical information, and proper controls.

This product is intended for *in vitro* diagnostic (IVD) use.

**Individual lab results may vary, and testimonials are not claimed to represent typical results. All testimonials are real participants, and may not reflect the typical purchaser's experience, and are not intended to represent or guarantee that anyone will achieve the same or similar results*

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