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Review And Streamline Current Frozen Section Processes To Improve Reporting Turn-Around-Time

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Aim:

Frozen Section (FS) is a routine histological service that the preliminary histological diagnosis is expected to be reported to the surgeon while patient is still under surgical operation. Thus, FS turn-around-time (TAT) is crucial upon receiving specimen in lab from operating theatre. Pathologist often spends substantial time in describing the specimen grossly and the description is manually transcribed by medical technologist. The project is aimed to use a digital recorder to replace the manual transcription for grossing by medical technologist and hence to improve the overall TAT.

Methodology:

The FS procedure is divided into three main parts upon the specimen arrived in histology lab. They are tissue grossing and sampling by pathologist, cryo-microtomy and H&E staining and lastly diagnosis made by pathologist. Technologist is often held up writing the grossing description, which is not the crucial info needed by surgeon, that causes the delay in the whole process. The proposed method is to let pathologist sample the representative tissue first and pass it to technologist for cryo microtomy and H&E staining. They can then use the feet control digital recorder for recording gross description. Upon finished recording, the H&E slide is ready for pathologist to make diagnosis.

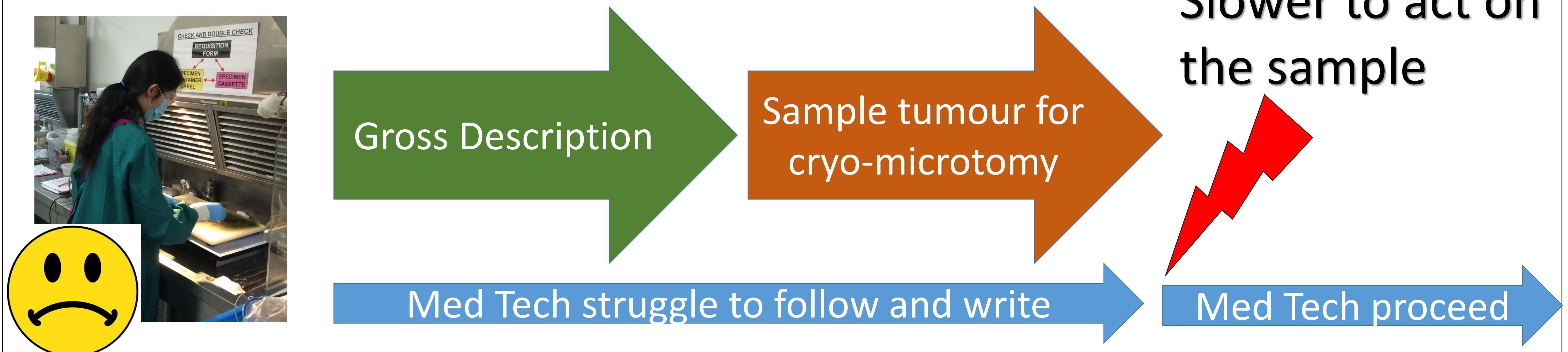
Result:

This approach has cut down the 10% time wastage previously for pathologist and technologist spent in the gross transcription. The intangible benefit is definitely lower the stress level of a technologist trying to keep up with the lengthy description by the pathologist, in the meantime struggling with the preparation work for cryo-microtomy. The improvement is particularly significant for FS case with multiple specimens.

Conclusion:

The proposed method has successfully reviewed the FS process and reorganizes the work procedure between technologist and pathologist, by the use of the digital recorder, which has resulted not only in reducing the overall FS reporting time but also removing the technologist from unnecessary stress.

Manual grossing description



Dictaphone grossing description

