

Laboratory Errors in the Handling and Processing of Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors



FACULTY OF MEDICINE | UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Dr. Lisa M. DiFrancesco

Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS);

Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine, University of Calgary



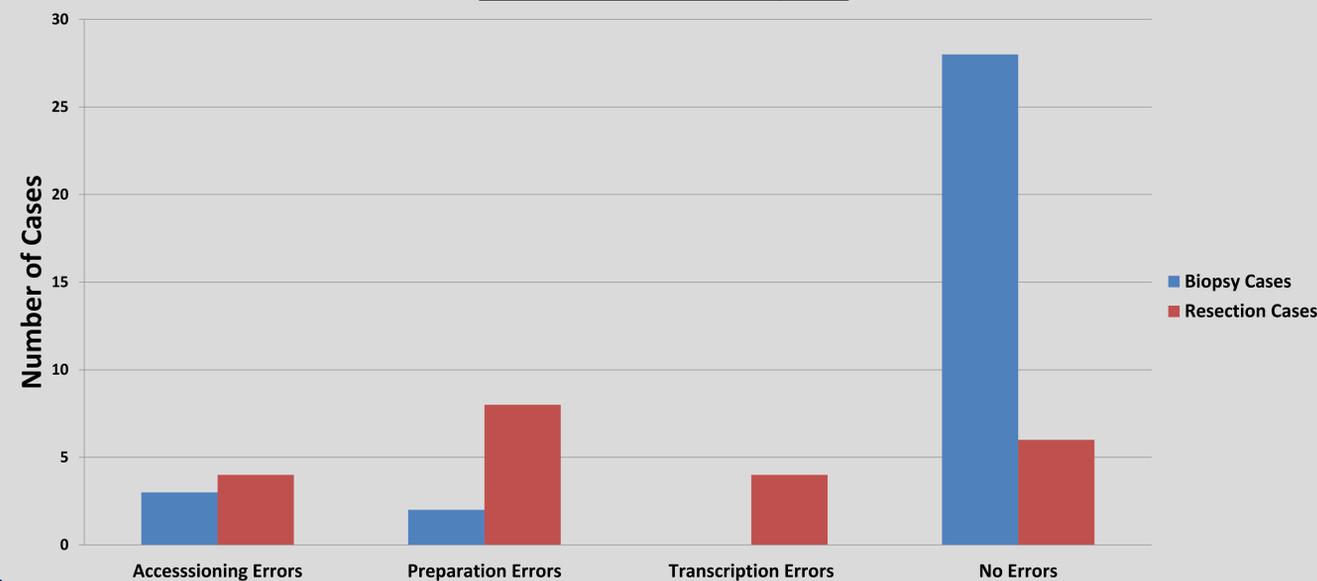
Introduction

Results 1:

Conclusions

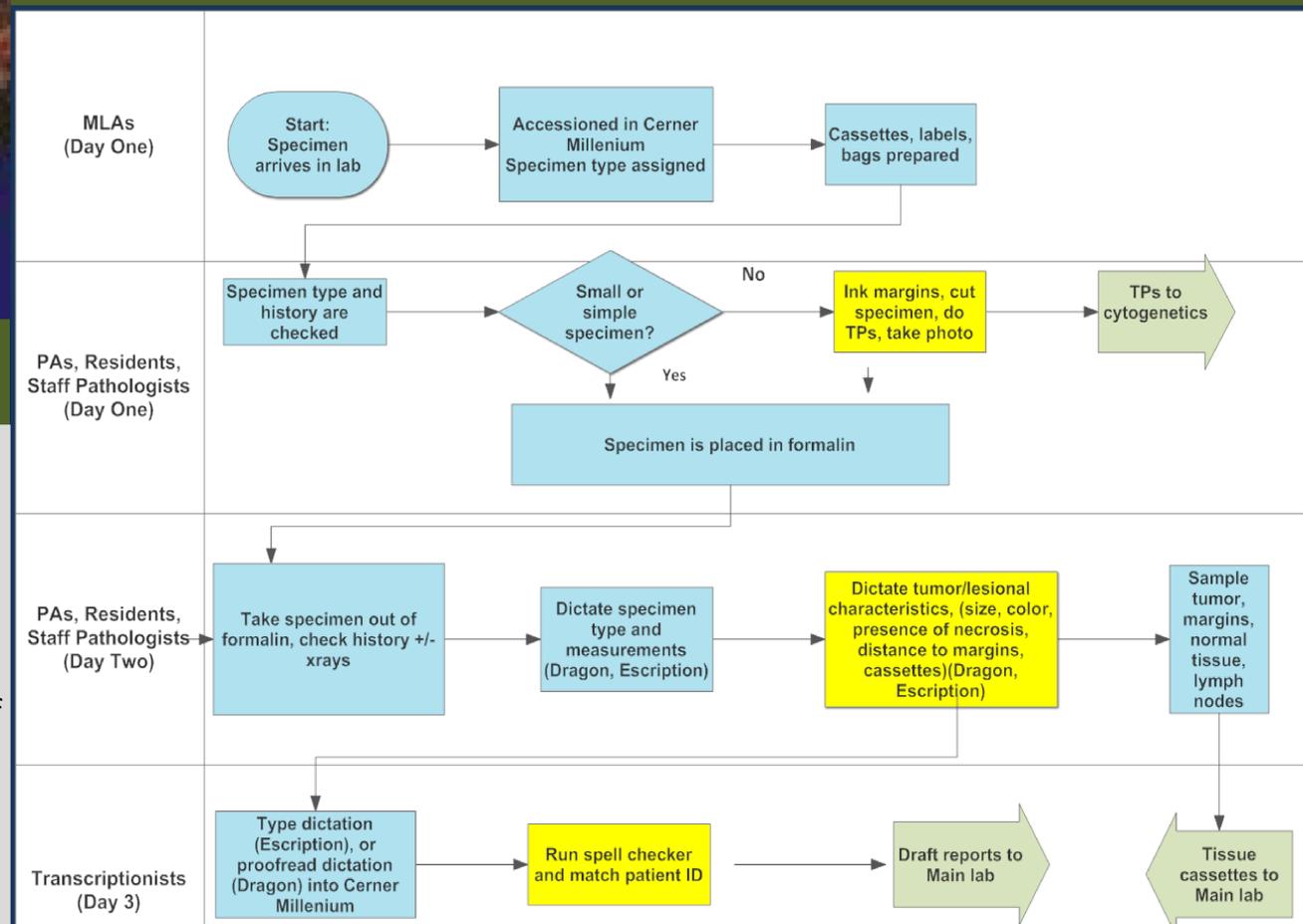
Review of Draft Reports for Errors

Errors in BST Draft Reports



Results 2:

Process Map: Flow of BST Specimens Through the Lab



- The rate of laboratory errors was higher than expected, although most of the errors were not critical.
- This study helped to identify and highlight the type and frequency of errors that were being encountered in the lab.
- Building a process map was useful for identifying areas of concern and also served to generate potential solutions.
- The results of this study can be used to target specific areas for improvement, as follows:
 - Teach staff how to edit specimen types in Cerner, re-inforce communication of any SOP changes, ensure hard copies of SOPs are easily available, buy more cameras, prepare an in-service or ppt for grossing staff.
 - Limitations of the study included the small sample size and the relatively narrow scope of the process mapping.

Acknowledgements

Devika Kashyap: Quality Improvement Consultant, FMC ED
 Stephanie Wall: CLS MLT III
 Process Map Team: Bill Gorday, CLS Pathology Scientist, Dr. Mara Caragea, CLS BST Pathologist, Dr. Aylin Sar, Chief Resident, Anatomic Pathology, U of C, Michelle McLean: CLS Medical Transcriptionist



Malignant schwannoma

- Bone and soft tissue (BST) tumors are uncommon, but when detected, can cause significant morbidity and mortality.
- For optimal treatment and prognostication, clinicians rely on the pathology lab to provide a timely, precise diagnosis and critical staging information.
- Recently, errors have emerged in the handling and processing of BST tumors in our lab (CLS), which could potentially have clinical impact.
- This aim of this study was to quantify and qualify the errors and identify problem areas in the processing and handling steps where improvement interventions can be targeted.

Osteosarcoma



Methods

- Pathology reports from all BST cases from Jan-March 2016 were collected and scored for type and number of errors
- A scoring sheet was designed to assess errors in 3 areas: Specimen Accessioning, Preparation, and Transcription.
- A process map was created by a team composed of representatives involved in the processing and handling of BST specimens
- Gaps and opportunities for improvement were highlighted and causes were discussed.
- Solutions for the opportunities for improvement were discussed with the team.