

PATHOLOGY SERVICES AT BUGANDO MEDICAL CENTRE- NORTH WESTERN TANZANIA

INTRODUCTION.

Pathology department at Bugando Medical Centre is affiliated with Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences CUHAS- BUGANDO, our main goal is to understand, diagnose, and translate diverse manifestations of human diseases into rational clinical applications through comprehensive pathology and laboratory medicine services.

SCOPE.

We provide consultancy, teaching, facilitate research activities in the field of Human Pathology and acts as a referral laboratory for histological, cytological and haematological investigations in North Western zone of Tanzania.

CAPACITY.

We carry out about 6000 tissue biopsies and around 1,500 cytological tests each year.

DEPARTMENT STAFF.

The unit has highly qualified and experienced Pathologists, Haematologists, Laboratory Scientists and Histotechnicians working together to achieve diagnostic goals through validated methods, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Quality Controls (QC) for every specimen received in the unit for histological, immunohistochemical, cytological, hematological analysis.

HISTOPATHOLOGY SERVICES.

When tissue biopsies are received they undergo different histopathology steps such as grossing, processing, sectioning and stained by routine Haematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) stain, and some are stained by special stains which include stains for organisms such as Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, polysaccharides stains etc.

IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY SERVICES.

Over recent, we have adopted an advanced technique for cancer diagnosis by application of immunohistochemistry.

We have markers for diagnosis including pancytokeratin, vimentin, smooth muscle actin, myogenin, and S100, and markers for prognostication and treatment including ER, PR and Her2 for breast cancer, CD45, CD20 and CD3 for lymphoma, and C-KIT for GIST. We are committed to expanding our immunohistochemistry services from time to time.

HAEMATOLOGY SERVICES.

The unit also provides investigations for haematological diseases through Bone Marrow Aspiration Smears and Bone Marrow Biopsies. We also do PCR for BCR-ABL. We do flow cytometry/Immunophenotype on bone marrow and peripheral blood for liquid tumors.

CYTOPATHOLOGY SERVICES.

The unit furthermore offers cytological analysis through Fine Needle Aspiration for palpable lesions (FNAC), Image- guided cytology, Body fluids cytology, Exfoliative cytology, Seminal fluid cytology for investigation of infertility, Buccal smears for Barr Body test, and Papanicalou smears for screening of cervical cancer.

TURN AROUND TIME.

Turn around time (TAT) for most tissue biopsies is from 3 days to 14 days and 3 hours to 24 hours for most cytological tests.

MORTUARY SERVICES.

Our mortuary is adequately equipped and staffed with trained and experienced personnel who provides dead body treatment, body preservation services, preparation of dead bodies for funeral services and also carries medical legal postmortem examinations, clinical autopsies, and postmortem examination on request basis.

DEPARTMENTAL FUTURE PROJECTIONS .

- 1. We look forward to further promote translational research and training activities in field of pathology**
- 2. Expand our immunohistochemical capacity to cover major categories of neoplastic lesions.**
- 3. We also foresee community engagement and linkage/referral to care through periodic outreach mobile screening and educational programs**
- 4. In the near future we foresee to establish MMED training in the field of Human Pathology.**

QUALITY MANAGEMENT.

We generally adhere to Medical laboratory International Organization for Standards (ISO) 15189 and best laboratory practices.

PAYMENT SCHEMES AND SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS:

Laboratory services can be organized and provided on different payment categories (In – patients Package payments, Health Insurances, Cash – Private, Cash – Grade III, and Private categories)

CONTACTS.

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