

# Recommendations for submitting unstained slides for IHC and ISH

Due to the limitations of Roche's Ventana Benchmark Ultra IHC/ISH staining platform, certain positively charged glass can cause inconsistent staining.

To reduce repeat testing attempts and ensure accurate results, we are:

- Recommending clients use certain slides with more uniform performance
- Requesting blocks instead of unstained slides when possible
- Reviewing tips for slide preparation and storage

## We recommend the following four slide brands:

**Fisherbrand**

**Mercedes Starfrost Adhesive**

**TOMO**

**VWR Superfrost**

This issue of inconsistent staining is recognized by other laboratories and was described in Ventana's 2013 white paper "Impact of environmental stress on various histology slide types" (available upon request). Heat, humidity, and time are suspected to alter the positive charge and affect the distribution of fluid across the slide surface. These issues can lead to uneven staining and can occur randomly within a case.<sup>1</sup>

### Brands we do not recommend include:\*

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Avantik                        | • Matsunami MAS-GP          |
| • ASI Frosted Top                | • Matsunami Platinum        |
| • ASSURE                         | • PermaflexPlus             |
| • Dako Flex                      | • Premiere                  |
| • Erie Polysine                  | • "Specimen" Printed Slides |
| • EverGreen                      | • Tanner                    |
| • Knittle Starfrost Adv Adhesive | • Thorlabs Unimark          |
| • Leica Apex                     | • VistaVision Histobond     |
| • Leica SurgiPath X-Tra          |                             |



**NeoGenomics is contacting clients to request blocks when we receive specimens on these slides. If a client instructs us to continue with staining on the slides received, we will proceed but not repeat the case if inconsistent staining occurs.**

\* Non-recommended brands are not limited to this list and are subject to change

# Sending blocks instead of slides

Whenever specimen allocation allows, please send the FFPE block to NeoGenomics rather than cut slides. This ensures the H&Es are recent and enables us to prepare fresh slides in the minimum quantity and best configuration for the combination of tests ordered.

## Good practices for slide storage and preparation:

- Keep unused slides in their package
- Limit exposure to humidity
- Monitor slide drying time to minimize heat exposure
- Recall our IHC requirements for slides are:
  - *Two to three (2-3) positively charged unstained slides cut at 4-5 microns for each test/antibody ordered.*
  - *Add one (1) unbaked, unstained slide for H&E staining for image analysis cases.*
- Block and slide identifiers should be clearly written and match exactly with the specimen ID and specimen labeling as noted on the requisition.

We appreciate your efforts to help us maintain efficiency and high quality.

For more information or questions please contact our Client Services team at 866.776.5907, opt 3, and ask for any **Pathologist or AP Laboratory Manager**.

1. Pozarowski K., Blinco C., Tast D., Impact of environmental stress on various histology slide types. 2013 Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

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