

Customer testimonial

## From Microscopes to Monitors at Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

### A forward-thinking NHS trust embraces digital pathology

Agilent collaborates with laboratories that are shaping the future of patient care through digital transformation. Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is one such example; a team committed to improving outcomes by streamlining histology workflows and embracing digital pathology. By integrating the Agilent Dako Omnis and Hamamatsu NanoZoomer S360MD into their processes, they've taken significant steps toward a more efficient, connected, and future-ready laboratory environment.

Here, the team shares their experience in their own words. Their story reflects the impact on turnaround times, collaboration across teams, and improvements in quality assurance.

### Implementing digital workflows for histology slides

The patient is at the heart of what we do in histology. Improving patient care is the main driving force towards the development of a digitized future. At Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, we offer a full spectrum of integrated healthcare services, including acute care and planned care, specialist services, and community services to a population of 650,000.

The potential benefits of digitized histology reporting to the patient's journey are monumental. From improvements in turnaround time to improving collaboration, digital makes it possible. Digital images allow more streamlined processes compared to glass, saving invaluable time for both pathologists and laboratory staff. To support our digital journey, we implemented Hamamatsu NanoZoomer scanners to digitize our histology slides. One NanoZoomer S360MD next to Dako Omnis is used to scan IHC slides, special stains, and for urgent cases.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) is based in North East England. South Durham Health Care NHS Trust merged with North Durham Health Care NHS Trust in 2002 to form a new Trust, County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (CDDAH). CDDAH applied for foundation trust status, which was approved in February 2007, thereby becoming County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

One area that has seen a great benefit is multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), with laboratory staff no longer spending time endlessly searching for slides. Digital images can be viewed anywhere in the world, allowing pathologists to work from home but also providing a more efficient way to collaborate with colleagues. In addition, slide images can be annotated digitally to provide measurements, highlight areas of interest, and mark areas of tumor percentage for molecular testing.

From an IHC perspective, digital has made the QC process much quicker and elevates training of staff in this process. The introduction of the Dako Omnis has supported the process of moving toward a more digital future, as the quicker turnaround time offsets the additional time spent scanning the slides. As the Dako Omnis workflow is centered on continuous loading, slides are removed and scanned in small batches. This promotes a leaner process, which in turn improves turnaround times. Slides from the Dako Omnis are cover slipped with Prisma film. In addition, the ability of the Dako Omnis to integrate slide barcodes has proved invaluable in allowing compatibility with the LIS-connected NanoZoomer S360MD scanners.

Finally, the move toward digital pathology allows for future proofing. With the emergence of new technologies such as AI, implementing digital imaging sets the foundations for the future.

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