



Innovation in Seed Localization

Uncovering the intended benefits of the TruNode® Single-use Gamma Probe System in pathology

Hollis Notgrass, a Pathologists' Assistant at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, was seeking a solution to rapidly identify and retrieve radioactive seeds from specimens transported out of the operating room. With the rigorous requirements necessary for radioactive seed localization, she looked to the TruNode® Single-use Gamma Probe System to fill that gap. She quickly realized how important this tool is for the progression of each seed from breast surgery to pathology.



Hollis Notgrass, PA(ASCP)
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Accurate Detection

For Pathologists' Assistant Hollis Notgrass at UT Southwestern Medical Center, the TruNode System has transformed the way she and her colleagues locate and retrieve radioactive seeds in pathology. The high-performance wireless gamma probe can be used for sentinel node, parathyroid and tumor localization procedures.

"We've had specimens where there is more than one seed, and it is still able to pinpoint differences in where those are. Its directionality is very good," said Notgrass. "Because you can hold it at a 90-degree angle from the specimen, it makes it incredibly easy to pinpoint multiple seeds."

The TruNode system enables pathologists to detect radioactive seeds from breast tissue that has been extracted during surgery. With more thorough detection through the small probe tip, clinicians can accurately identify even the most challenging to find seeds.

"We have and can use the system almost like a sweeper. This is especially helpful when a seed is very embedded in fibrous tissue and more difficult to retrieve than if it were in fatty tissue," said Notgrass. "The TruNode system can easily pinpoint where it is. If it got dislodged or extruded in the operating room or in the lab, we will still get alerted that a seed is present."

Notgrass has come to rely on the accuracy of the TruNode system. She can count on the TruNode system for efficient detection so that she can register and confirm the presence of seeds with breast surgery.

"If the seed happened to move around when we were teaching residents, and they weren't sure if it was stuck on something, nobody ever panics," said Notgrass.

“We want to have our workflow be very consistent and quick for continuity of care for that seed.”



For more information, contact your Hologic representative

www.hologic.com/trunode



Designed for Ease of Use and Training

With the touch of a button on the probe, the TruNode system can alternate between three modes of detection right from the sterile field: Scan, Point and Seed. Its ergonomic design eliminates the need for a separate collimator and makes portability convenient.

“If anybody knows how to use a smartphone, they know how to use the TruNode system.”

“Being able to take the system and put it somewhere else is incredibly simple, and we like that versatility,” said Notgrass. “Its ergonomics and the way it hooks up is so user-friendly and easy.”

Notgrass describes the TruNode system as easy to use because of its pleasant audible and clear visual user feedback. The intuitive modes are designed to optimize the localization procedures in a way that is easily comprehensible.

“The system tells you what to press and immediately you are logged in,” said Notgrass. “Because of the speak feature, you always know what function or setting you are in. We have residents who circulate and may never have been here before or have recently transferred in, and I don’t ever get any calls or problems about this system.”

In Notgrass’s experience, the TruNode system requires minimal training and brief instruction for new users. She describes how the images and auditory instructions help people who are unfamiliar get accustomed very quickly.

Reliable Functionality

The appeal of the TruNode system goes beyond its intuitive features and ease of implementation to include its reliable functionality. Notgrass has been using the TruNode system for over five years, and it continuously performs its functions without service disruptions or errors.

“I have had zero repairs since it was bought,” said Notgrass. “I don’t have to do an upgrade or restart because it just works. It’s a workhorse.”

According to Notgrass, the TruNode system has transformed the department’s workflow and has become an essential tool for the pathology team. She appreciates how Hologic has been working to better understand how their products work in the real world and serves as a collaborative partner.

“Hologic wants the end user to be as comfortable with their products as the developer is.”

“I appreciate that they allow for real-time feedback and troubleshoot issues beforehand,” said Notgrass. “The breast health division is very dynamic, so they rely on customers to be part of that development program. I think that showcases how pathology can be a new voice to show how these tools are being used throughout the entire surgical process.”

Notgrass underlined the importance of the TruNode system for pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where its reliable and accurate operation has effectively fit into their workflow for the past five years.

TruNode®

Single-use Gamma Probe

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Important Safety Information: The TruNode® Gamma Probe system is intended to detect and quantify relative amounts of gamma radiation from Tc-99m and I-125 radionuclides in the body or tissues. The TruNode Gamma Probe System is not intended for use in the central nervous system. For detailed benefit and risk information, please consult the IFU.