# Category: Breast pathology

# Determination of FISH Her2 testing: Comparing between the ASCO/CAP guideline and CAP expert panel guideline

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#### Introduction:

FISH Her2 testing is the gold standard in detecting Her2 amplification in breast cancer. The ASCO/CAP guidelines recommended the use of overall Her2 ratio (OHR) for evaluating the Her2 status. Subsequent CAP expert panel guideline had proposed the counting of individual cell Her2: chromosome 17 ratio (ICR). This study is aimed to compare the outcome of Her2 status according to the recommendation of both guidelines.

## Materials and method:

FISH Her2 data from 390 consecutive breast cancer cases during December 2010 – January 2012 were studied using Excel program to determine the OHR and ICR. The criteria are as follow: OHR <1.8 = non amplify, 1.8-2.2 = equivocal, and >2.2 = amplify; ICR ≥50% = amplify, 5% - <50% = tumor heterogeneity. Average Chromosome 17 count ≥3 is considered as polysomy chromosome 17.

### Results:

For OHR, amplify/equivocal/non amplify cases are 214/6/170 cases. For ICR, amplify/non amplify cases are 214/176 cases. Tumor heterogeneity presented in 67 cases (0.2%). Polysomy chromosome 17 was found in 113 cases (28%). The cases with amplify/ non amplify in both guidelines were 210/170 cases. Four cases are OHR amplify/ ICR non amplify. Four cases are ICR amplify/one OHR non amplify and three equivocal. These discrepant cases are mostly polysomy chromosome17. Three other OHR equivocal cases are all ICR non amplify. Both guidelines show good correlation (r=0.74) with statistically significance (p<0.0005).

# Conclusion:

ICR is superior to OHR in determining tumor heterogeneity and eliminates the equivocal category. However, combined use of both guidelines would be helpful in determining proper Her2 status.