

Augmentiqs

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SEE THE SMART PATH

FROZEN SECTIONS

REMOTE VIEWING FOR INTEROPERATIVE CONSULTATIONS

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJU) is a 900-bed hospital located in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. The TJU clinical informatics & pathology departments integrated Augmentiqs as a real-time telepathology solution for frozen sections.



WHAT ROLE DOES AUGMENTIQS FILL AT TJU

“Our current use for the Augmentiqs system is for on-call remote intraoperative consultation (a.k.a. “frozen section”) purposes. In these situations, a patient is in the operating room and the surgeon requests a preliminary tissue diagnosis by a pathologist. This can include biopsies from an unknown lesion, tumor margin status, transplant surgeries, etc.”

The pathology residents at TJU use Augmentiqs to consult in real-time with pathologists located off-site.

HOW OFTEN IS AUGMENTIQS USED

“The frequency can be quite variable but I would estimate that it is at least once or twice per week.”

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING AUGMENTIQS

“Until this point, a pathologist on call would have to physically come to the hospital in order to render a diagnosis from the slide(s). Other technical methods that have been employed in the past involved using an image streaming application by our microscope camera vendor and a free screen sharing application.

The benefits Augmentiqs brings us includes greater time savings compared to previous methods, some minor (e.g. compared to previous remote technologies) and others much greater (i.e. 30-40 min travel time back to the hospital).

We have not had experience with this product prior to its implementation. Yet after becoming a customer, we have found that the Augmentiqs product is a very useful tool and is well suited for our purposes. It balances cost and functionality. When enhancements to current features have been suggested, the product has been updated to suit our needs in a rapid fashion.”

WHAT ARE OTHER BENEFITS AUGMENTIQS PROVIDES

1. “The fact that the transmission is secure and meets HIPAA encryption requirements which keeps us compliant with the needs of our enterprise IT security group and regulatory body, that has oversight over the laboratory for accreditation, College of American Pathologists (CAP).
2. The ability to have multiple users in the same session and share annotations adds the ability for more interaction and teaching when users are remote from each other. This ability is to the benefit of the residents who are performing the frozen section.”

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE AUGMENTIQS TO COLLEAGUES

“Augmentiqs is an affordable, secure product that leverages existing equipment already in the lab and enables close collaboration and interaction among remote users. It offers excellent image quality, fast image transmission, new innovative features such as augmented reality of the microscope eyepiece, annotation sharing in real-time, and it is only going to get better.”

HOW COULD AUGMENTIQS SOLVE CHALLENGES IN PATHOLOGY

“The ability to rapidly connect and share cases for consultation is an ongoing challenge, especially when pathologists and or clinicians are distant from each other. Current processes take time (i.e., couriering or shipping fragile glass slides - which risks loss or damage, traveling to sites).

There are many technical solutions available, but they can be very expensive and in the current healthcare environment where margins are thin and budgets are tight, these may be difficult to obtain. **Augmentiqs does address some of these challenges and comes at an affordable price point making it more accessible for institutions to be able to leverage this technology.**

Having this type of technology at distributed sites would allow real-time collaboration and immediate feedback, thus potentially reducing the costs and risks of sending material between sites and reduce report turn-around-time.”