

St. Marys

Customer Focus



St. Marys Hospital Medical Center Madison, Wisconsin

Life is a whole lot easier than it used to be in the chemistry lab at St. Marys Hospital Medical Center.

Since the lab began using the Sebia HYDRASYS[®] electrophoresis system in January 1999, technologists exert less effort preparing reagents...less time running electrophoresis...and less eyestrain interpreting results.

"When we compared automated electrophoresis solutions, a couple of big plusses set the HYDRASYS apart from the other competitors," explains Eunice Hardy (MT ASCP), Chemistry Technical Specialist at the Madison, Wisconsin-based medical center. "It's a very easy system to operate, and the gel quality is exceedingly good."

The instrument, which is compact enough to fit unobtrusively on the countertop, performs fast agarose gel electrophoresis for protein, immunofixation (IFE), lipoprotein, Hb, Hb A1c, HDL-cholesterol and iso-enzymes. St. Marys currently uses the system to test protein and IFE.

Drilling down to specifics, Hardy attributes the easy operation of the HYDRASYS to two things. First, she and her colleagues find the instrument software to be extremely user-friendly; with just a few touches on an LCD keypad, the HYDRASYS automatically carries out all phases of electrophoresis — from sample application to migration to incubation to staining, destaining and, finally, drying.

"When we compared automated electrophoresis solutions, a couple of big plusses set the HYDRASYS apart from the other competitors."

—Eunice Hardy (MT ASCP), Chemistry Technical Specialist, St. Marys Hospital Medical Center

"Sebia has made it incredibly easy to move from test to test on this instrument," Hardy says. "If you can run protein you can run immunofixation without any hassles as far as programming goes."

According to Hardy, simplified reagents are another reason the HYDRASYS is so user-friendly. "Everything comes prepackaged in one kit — there's nothing to prepare except for the dilution of the Wash, Destain and Stain. That's a real time saver."



Clearly Superior...

AUTOMATICALLY BETTER



Customer Focus

Looking at gel quality, the St. Marys team likes the crispness of the Sebia gels, particularly for IFEs. The HYDRASYS instrument yields images with sharp and well-separated zones — making for highly accurate readings. “With this system, interpretation is as good or better than the alternatives,” Hardy says. “In fact, these plates are more sensitive than what we were accustomed to with our old system, which means we’re getting a more complete picture than we did in the past.” As an example, she notes that they are picking up more minimonoclonals as a result of the increased sensitivity of the gels.

Has the HYDRASYS helped improve operations at St. Marys? According to Hardy, it has — and the benefits are measurable. For one thing, the instrument allows technologists to batch samples, leading to better resource allocation and significant cost savings. “Our old system didn’t give us that capability on every test,” she notes.

By relying on the HYDRASYS, the lab has standardized processes among staff — dramatically reducing training time while ensuring accurate results with every test.

“The HYDRASYS allows technologists to batch samples, leading to better resource allocation and significant cost savings.”



“When you have multiple technologists running electrophoresis, consistency becomes a major concern — unless you have this type of automation,” says Hardy. “It’s not as ‘technique-dependent’ as a manual system.

“And not only that, we used to spend many, many hours getting an individual up and running. Now a new employee is ready to go in a matter of hours...which keeps productivity up.”

Now that St. Marys has clocked more than a year with the HYDRASYS, are they still pleased with their choice? “Absolutely,” Hardy says. “We couldn’t be more happy with the HYDRASYS instrument. And our experience with Sebia’s people has been positive too — they are very responsive to our questions and needs, always working to provide answers and solutions quickly so we can keep things mov

ing in our lab. They exemplify everything a partner should be.”

About St. Marys Hospital Medical Center

Founded in 1912 to serve the people of South Central Wisconsin, St. Marys Hospital Medical Center offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient treatment and diagnostic services in primary care and nearly all specialties. Special medical/surgical areas of focus include the Center for Cardiovascular Care, Perinatal Center, Pediatrics, Neuroscience Center, Geriatrics and Emergency Services. Since 1972, St. Marys also has been affiliated with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine’s three-year family practice residency program.

St. Marys Hospital Medical Center is a part of St. Louis-based SSM Health Care, owned by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

