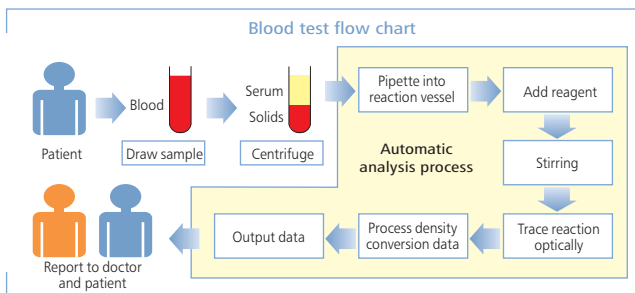


Contributing to Health Care through Clinical Chemistry Analyzer Technology

Higher Efficiency through Automatic Sample Analysis

Blood tests are an important part of periodic check-ups and comprehensive physical exams. These tests measure the levels of cholesterol, proteins, enzymes, and other biochemical components in blood serum to provide an indicator of the patient's health. The serum is prepared by using a centrifuge to separate the fluid part of a blood sample from the solid elements. Next, reagents are added to the serum to obtain a test sample, which is stirred and subjected to chemical analysis. The data for the target component is obtained by measuring the results of a chemical reaction undergone by the reagent. An automatic clinical analyzer is a machine that carries out all steps in this process automatically, instead of relying on manual processing by laboratory personnel. Automatic analyzers enable high-



Hitachi LABOSPECT 008 Automatic Analyzer

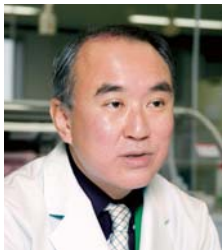
throughput and more efficient testing, because they can measure a large number of test items in a short time.

Delivering Rapid Test Results

In April 2008, the Japanese government introduced a national health exam for lifestyle diseases, popularly known as the "metabolic exam"*1. Blood tests are an important part of this exam, and there is a need to improve the quality of test results. In addition to the standard test items, laboratories are often required to perform a wide range of special tests as requested by physicians. Testing is becoming more complex, and reports are wanted quickly. Automatic clinical analyzers are capable of satisfying all of those requirements.

At clinics and hospitals, rapid testing means that test results are delivered to physicians within 30 to 60 minutes after drawing of the blood samples. The Hitachi LABOSPECT 008 Automatic Analyzer delivers rapid reports thanks to processing performance that ranks in the top class among all systems available in Japan. When eight test items are measured per patient, one LABOSPECT 008 unit can handle the tests for 250 patients per hour. This high processing performance, one of the most important specifications of clinical chemistry analyzers, is made possible by advanced mecha tronics. For example, the high-

Customer voice



Masaharu Suzuki

Japanese Red Cross Tokyo Metropolitan
Blood Center Manager, Testing Section 2

Public awareness regarding blood transfusion safety is increasing. At the Metropolitan Blood Center, we welcome advances that improve the efficiency and precision of blood tests.

The LABOSPECT 008 is easy to maintain and has significantly improved our processing speed. It allows the Metropolitan Blood Center to perform blood tests for 4,000 donors every day. The quality of our test data is higher because the dedicated reagent system is more efficient than our previous reagent management system. We are happy to be able to provide our many generous donors with high-quality test results.

VOICE

Naomi Hotta

Marketing Department
Medical Systems Sales & Marketing Division
Hitachi High-Technologies

Rapid reporting of test results is not only a form of support for diagnosis by physicians but also a service to patients. It is an added value that we would like to realize wherever it can improve the quality of care at medical institutions.



throughput pipette system utilizes robot technology, and the contactless reaction sample stirring system utilizes ultrasonic waves. These advanced technologies ensure higher efficiency and highly reliable analytical data.

Technology and Services for High Reliability

Devices from Hitachi High-Technologies currently account for about a third of the clinical chemistry analyzers sold in Japan. When overseas markets are included, the company is one of the world's top manufacturers. Our success in this demanding market is due to our traditional strengths in both analytical technology and support services.

For the LABOSPECT 008, Hitachi High-Technologies cooperates with reagent manufacturers who have developed dedicated reagents especially for this machine, to enable even higher performance. These specially developed reagents are registered and marked with bar codes that enable precise management of the manufacturer, test item, expiration date, lot, and other information, for higher reliability and greater ease of use. As of March 2009, we are cooperating with 15 reagents manufacturers in Japan and two manufacturers overseas. Maintenance services are handled by Hitachi Fielding Corporation. In addition to normal maintenance, customers in Japan can obtain enhanced support through LABOSPECT Net^{*2}, an online remote support service.

*1: These health exams are available to persons aged 40 to 74 who are covered by national health insurance. In addition to waistline measurements, blood tests for items such as cholesterol and blood sugar are required.

*2: The LABOSPECT Net service is available only in Japan.

Donation of Three Units in Sichuan Earthquake Region

The Sichuan earthquake of May 2008 damaged many medical institutions. Our company, which up to now has delivered 3,500 clinical chemistry analyzers throughout China, donated three LABOSPECT 008 units to the disaster region via the China Charity Federation. We decided to donate the units immediately after the earthquake. With staff from our Chinese affiliate handling the delivery procedures, we were able to deliver the units under difficult circumstances to hospitals where they could be put to use in the medical relief effort.

VOICE

Kumiko Kamihara

Medical Systems 1st Design Department
Naka Division
Nanotechnology Products Business Group
Hitachi High-Technologies



By testing reagents provided by reagent manufacturers, and registering them as compatible with our machine, we make it easier for users to know that they have selected the right reagents. Our system makes the machine easier to operate, prevents handling mistakes, and allows users to be confident in the reliability of the analytical data.

VOICE

Koichi Kawashima

Medical Devices Department
1st Service Division
Hitachi Fielding Corporation



If any trouble should develop in a customer's system, our 24-hour LABOSPECT Net remote operation monitoring system allows us to detect it in real time and correct it quickly, so that rapid reporting of analytical data is always available for patient care.

VOICE

Yang Jun

Medical Marketing & Technical Department
Life Science Sales & Marketing Division
Hitachi High-Technologies (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.



Together with my colleagues, I stayed in contact with hospitals in the Sichuan region to assess the latest news about conditions in the disaster area. We selected three hospitals where we thought the units could be put to use most effectively, and also handled backup support. As one of those involved in this effort, I am proud that the LABOSPECT 008 was able to deliver precise measurement results even under emergency conditions and to contribute to timely medical care for the disaster victims.