

Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry Oud St. Jan/ Old St. John – Brugge (Bruges), Belgium June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2018



# NordiQC External Quality Assurance in Immunohistochemistry

Mogens Vyberg
Professor of Clinical Pathology
Director of NordiQC
Aalborg University Hospital,
Aalborg, Denmark

# AALBORG (~ 200.000 inhabitants)







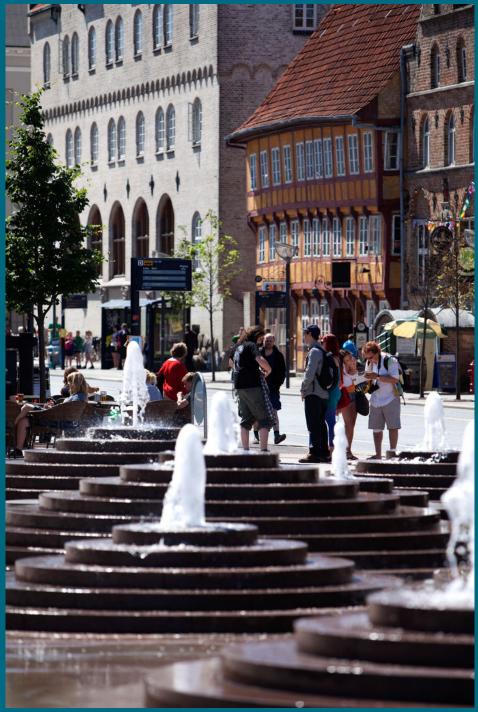
# **Aalborg Harbour Front**



# Aalborg House of Music

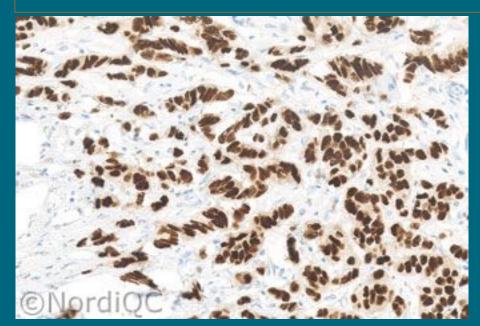


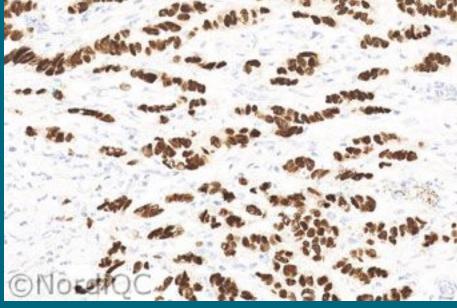




# Serial sections stained for Estrogen receptor





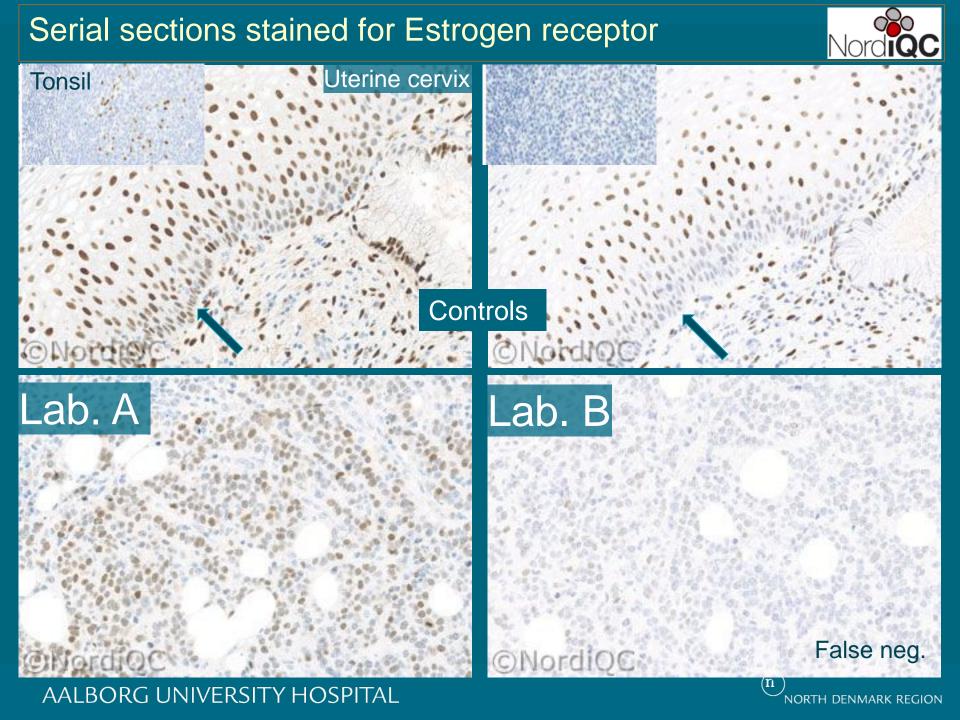


Lab. A

Lab. B

Optimally processed ductal breast carcinoma tissue

# Serial sections stained for Estrogen receptor High expressor Lab. A Lab. B Low expressor False neg. CNordiOC



# Serial sections stained for Estrogen receptor Uterine cervix Tonsil Controls @Nordin Clone SP1/EP1/1D5 in 225 labs Clone 6F11 in 15/37 labs External Quality Assurance! False pos. @NordiQC AALBORG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

# External Quality Assurance – ER



JNCI Journal of the National Cancer Institute Advance Access published June 10, 2008

NEWS

# Breast Cancer Testing Scandal Shines Spotlight on Black Box of Clinical Laboratory Testing

By Karyn Hede

"Through the inquiry, the public learned that between 1997 and 2005 nearly 400 of about 1,000 breast cancer patients received incorrect test results of the ER status of their breast tumors."

"There are no good data on the quality of ER testing in the United States. The scary thing about the debacle in Canada is that we would never have known about this if results hadn't been checked in a central lab.

Craig Allred

# The challenge of IHC



# Suboptimal IHC assays may be due to:

- Preanalytical issues
  - Fixation too short, too late, decalcification too soon...
- Analytical issues:
  - Less successful / too dilute antibody clones/RTUs
  - Insufficient epitope retrieval
  - Insensitive visualization systems
  - Platform problems
- Post-analytical issues
  - Interpretation criteria, interobserver variation ...

Should be identified with proper controls

# Nordic immunohistochemical Quality Control



- International organization for proficiency testing of IHC
- Founded 2003 by Nordic pathologists
- Independent, scientific, not-for-profit organisation
- Institute of Pathology, Aalborg University Hospital, DK
- General module: 3 runs/year
  - 15-18 different marker challenges
- Breast cancer IHC module: 2 runs/y
  - HER-2, ER/PR, Ki67/E-Cad ...
- HER-2 ISH module: 2 runs/year
  - BRISH, FISH
- Companion module: 2 runs/year
  - PD-L1 ...



# Nordic immunohistochemical Quality Control



Virchows Arch (2016) 468:19–29 DOI 10.1007/s00428-015-1829-1



ANNUAL REVIEW ISSUE

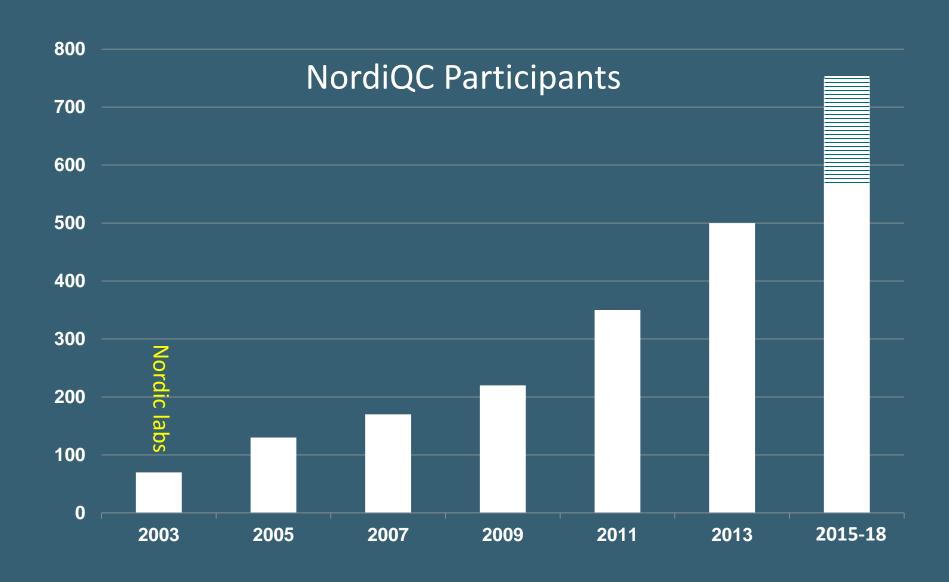
Free PMC Article

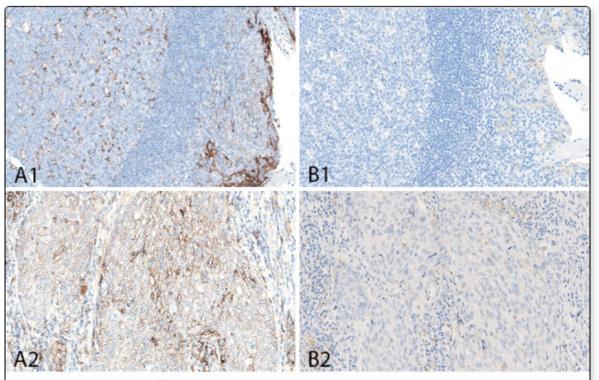
Proficiency testing in immunohistochemistry—experiences from Nordic Immunohistochemical Quality Control (NordiQC)

Mogens Vyberg 1,2 ⋅ Søren Nielsen 1

# Nordic immunohistochemical Quality Control







Serial sections stained for PD-L1 in two Labs A and B: A1 shows optimal staining of tonsil, while B1 shows a false negative reaction in the histiocytes and a too faint reaction in the epithelial cells. A2 shows optimal staining of a non-small cell lung carcinoma, >50% of the tumour cells are positive, while B2 shows a faint reaction in few cells. Only with the result obtained in Lab A would the patient be offered 1. line treatment.

Results - run 52, B25, H13 & C3

### 20-Apr-2018

The general results for the runs **52**, **B25**, **H13** & **C3** are available on the website. Individual results are available after logging in.



### **Events**

QuIP/NordiQC Workshop in Applied Immunohistochemistry 13–15 Jun 2018: Brugge, Belgium

NordiQC Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry 19-21 Sep 2018: Aalborg, DK

Academy of Immunohistochemistry 10-12 Oct 2018: Krakow, Poland

### 

Run 53 Publication of results 9 Jul 2018

### Jobs

Scientist, IHC
Peter MacCullum Cancer Centre,
Australia

### Questions

Check out our <u>FAQ</u> (Frequently asked questions) or <u>contact us</u>

WWW.NORDIQC.ORG FREE ACCESS

# NordiQC assessment scheme 2018

Module	Winter	Spring	Autum
General	Run 52 CR MSH6 SYP TdT VIM	Run 53 BSAP CGA ECAD OCT3/4 PMS2	Run 54 CD8 CEA CK-PAN GATA3 Podop
Breast	Run B25 ER HER2 IHC		Run B26 ER HER2 IHC PR
HER2	Run H13 HER2 ISH		Run H14 HER2 ISH
Companion	Run C3 PD-L1		Run C4 PD-L1

Dates	Winter	Spring	Autum
Protocol submission opens	1 Dec 2017	12 Feb	1 Aug
Protocol submission closes	3 Jan	13 Mar	4 Sep
Shipping of slides	9 Jan	21 Mar	12 Sep
Deadline for slide return	13 Feb	1 May	11 Oct
Assessment General	6 Mar - 8 Mar	23 May - 25 May	24 Oct - 26 Oct
Assessment Breast	15 Mar - 16 Mar		8 Nov - 9 Nov
Assessment HER2	23 Mar		16 Nov
Assessment Companion	5 Apr		20 Nov
Publication of results	20 Apr	9 Jul	7 Dec



### Modify protocol ID 635, CDX2, run 48

	Staining platform	
Staining platform	Ventana Benchmark Ultra	~
	Primary antibody	
Primary antibody clone	Cell Marque (235-Rxx) - EPR2764Y	~
Lot number	1523802K	
Dilution factor : 1:400	400	
Diluent buffer	Dako - Antibody Diluent (K8006)	~
Incubation time (minutes)	32	
Incubation temperature (Celcius)	36	
Ep	oitope Retrieval, HIER	
Epitope retrieval, HIER	● YES ○ NO	
Device	On Board / On Machine	~
HIER buffer	Ventana - Ultra CC1 (950-224)	~
Efficient Heating Time (minutes)	48	
Max. heating temperature (Celcius)	99	
Epito	pe Retrieval, proteolysis	
Epitope retrieval, proteolysis	O YES ● NO	
	/isualization system	
Visualization system	OptiView DAB IHC Detection Kit - 760-700	
		~
Amplification	None	~
Incubation time linker (minutes)	8	
Incubation time polymer (minutes)	8	
Incubation temperature (Celcius)	36	



C1

Companion Diagnostic Module

Info ▼ Modules ▼ Assessments Protocols Controls Events ▼

101

**3** 

		Protoco	l submission	Participar	nt site
Run A	Module	<b>♦ Epitope ♦</b>	Protocol status	Slide received by NordiQC	Action \$
49	General Module	CD5	<b>✓</b>	2017-02-13	<b>8</b>
49	General Module	CK-LMW	~	2017-02-13	<b>&amp;</b>
49	General Module	MLA	~	2017-02-13	
49	General Module	MLH1	~	2017-02-13	<b>3</b>
49	General Module	NKX3.1	~	2017-02-13	
49	General Module	PSA	<b>✓</b>	2017-02-13	<b>3</b>
B23	Breast Cancer Module	ER	<b>✓</b>	2017-02-13	
B23	Breast Cancer Module	HER2 IHC	<b>✓</b>	2017-02-13	<b>8</b> 🖟

### Module status

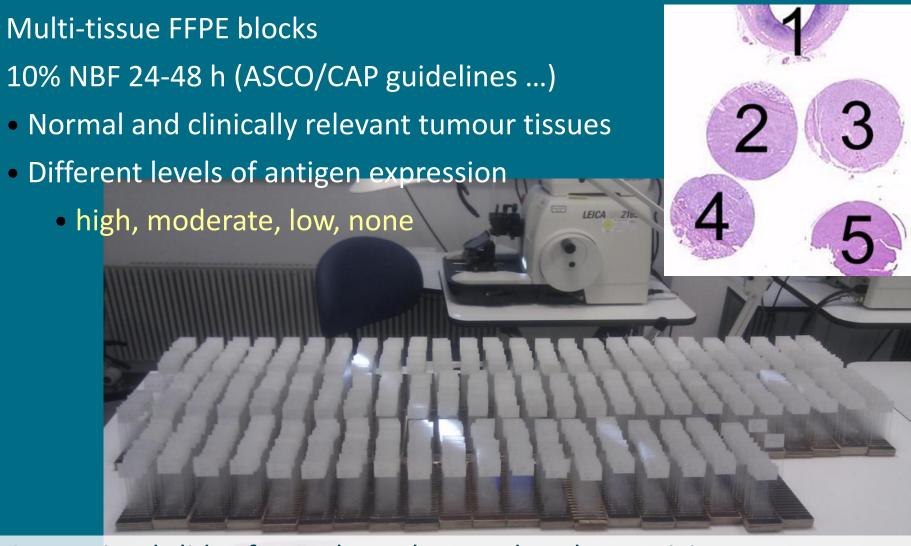
49	General Module	Slides sent
B23	Breast Cancer Module	Slides sent
H11	HER2-ISH Module	Slides sent
C1	Companion Diagnostic Module	Slides sent

PD-L1

Open	Homepage open for protocol submission. New protocols can be created, edited and deleted.				
Closed	Homepage closed for new protocol submission. Protocols already submitted can be edited. NordiQC are preparing to send slides.				
Slides sent	Slides for the submitted protocols have been sent to participants. Only protocol corrections are allowed.				

# Test material





- 2 unstained slides for each marker send to the participants
- 1 stained slide returned for central assessment

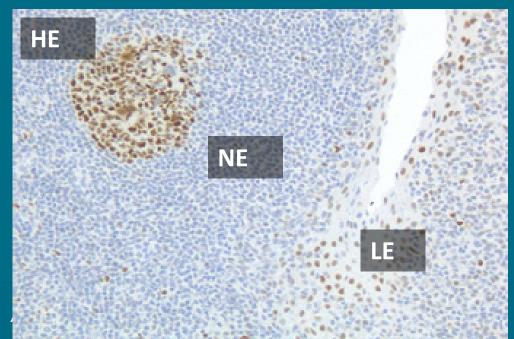
# Test material



The slide to be stained for **Bcl-6** comprised:

- 1-2. Tonsils, 24 h/48 h
- 3. Follicular lymphoma, grade I
- 4. Follicular lymphoma, grade II
- 5. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma





# Tissue selection:

- High Expressor
  - to confirm antibody
- Low Expressor
  - to ensure sensitivity
- No-Expressor
  - to ensure specificity

NORTH DENMARK REGION



### Assessment Run 42 2014

### Bcl-6 protein (Bcl-6)

Recommended Bcl-6 protocols Recommended Bcl-6 control tissue

### Material

The slide to be stained for Bcl-6 comprised:

- 1. Tonsil, 24h fixation, 2. Tonsil, 48h fixation\*, 3. Follicular lymphoma grade I,
- 4. Follicular lymphoma grade II, 5. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, non-Germinal Centre B-cell type (DLBCL non-GCB), 6. DLBCL, GCB.

All tissues were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin.

Criteria for assessing a Bcl-6 staining as optimal included:



- A moderate to strong distinct nuclear staining reaction of virtually all normal germinal centre Bcells in the tonsil fixed 24h.
- · An at least weak to moderate distinct nuclear staining reaction of the majority of the squamous epithelial cells in the tonsil fixed 24h.
- A moderate to strong distinct nuclear staining reaction of the neoplastic cells in the two follicular lymphomas.
- An at least weak to moderate nuclear staining reaction of the majority of the neoplastic cells in th DLBCL, GCB subtype, tissue core no. 6.
- No or only a nuclear staining reaction in dispersed neoplastic cells of the DLBCL, non-GCB subtype tissue core no. 5
- \* The tonsil fixed for 48h (tissue core no 2) was excluded from the assessment due to an aberrant inconsistent staining reaction in the circulated material.

Darticination

Number of laboratories registered for Bcl-6, run 42	244			
Number of laboratories returning slides	228 (93%)			

Results 228 laboratories participated in this assessment. Of these, 168 (74%) achieved a sufficient mark (optimal or good). Table 1 summarizes the antibodies (Abs) used and assessment marks (see page 2).

- The most frequent causes of insufficient staining reactions were:
- too low concentration of the primary antibody
- less successful performance of the mAb clone PG-B6p
- use of low sensitivity detection systems

### Performance history

This was the third NordiQC assessment of Bcl-6. An increased pass rate was seen compared to the two previous runs 17, 2006 and 28, 2010 (see table 2).

Table 2. Proportion of sufficient results for Bcl-6 in the three NordiOC runs performed

	Run 17 2006	Run 28 2010	Run 42 2014
Participants, n=	69	132	228
Sufficient results	42%	48%	74%

### Conclusion

The mAbs clones GI191E/A8, LN22 and PG-B6p could all be used to produce optimal staining results for Bcl-6. Irrespective of the clone applied, efficient HIER in alkaline buffer, use of a high sensitive detection system and careful calibration of the primary antibody were the most important prerequisites for an

### AALBORG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

# Open website

Table 1. Antibodies and assessment marks for Bcl-6, run 42

	and a	ssessment marks for BcI	-0, run 4	2				
Concentrated antibodies		Vendor	Optimal	Good	Borderline	Poor	Suff.1	Suff OPS
mAb clone GI191E/A8	13 1 1	Cell Marque Immunologic Zytomed	6	8	0	1	93%	1009
mAb clone LN22	38 2 1 1	Leica/Novocastra DBS Biocare BioGenex Zeta Corporation	20	16	4	3	84%	1009
mAb clone PG-B6p	1	Dako DBS Thermo/Neomarkers	9	22	11	3	69%	86%
Ready-To-Use antibodies			ĺ					
mAb clone GI191E/A8 760-4241	59	Ventana/Cell Marque	24	25	9	1	83%	84%
mAb clone GI191E/A8 227M-9x	1	Cell Marque	0	0	1	0	-	-
mAb clone LN22 PA0204	10	Leica/Novocastra	3	7	0	0	100%	1009
mAb clone LN22 PM410	1	Biocare	1	0	0	0	-	-
mAb clone LN22 MAD-00638QD	1	Master Diagnostica	0	1	0	0	-	-
mAb clone PG-B6p IR/IS625	44	Dako	4	17	21	2	48%	75%
mAb clone PG-B6p GA625	7	Dako	2	2	3	0	57%	75%
mAb PG-B6p MAD-004023QD	2	Master Diagnostica	0	1	1	0	-	-
Total	228		69	99	50	10	-	
Proportion			30%	44%	22%	4%	74%	

- 1) Proportion of sufficient stains (optimal or good)
- Proportion of sufficient stains with optimal protocol settings only, see below.

### Detailed analysis of Bcl-6, Run 42

The following protocol parameters were central to obtain optimal staining:

### Concentrated antibodies

mAb clone GI191E/A8: Protocols with optimal results were all based on HIER using Cell Conditi (CC1; Ventana) (6/14)\* as retrieval buffer. The mAb was typically diluted in the range of 1:50-1: depending on the total sensitivity of the protocol employed. Using these protocol settings 9 of 9 ( laboratories produced a sufficient staining result (optimal or good).

\* (number of optimal results/number of laboratories using this HIER buffer)

mAb clone LN22: Protocols with optimal results were all based on HIER using Target Retrieval So (TRS) pH 9 (3-in-1) (Dako) (2/2), CC1 (Ventana) (9/18) or Epitope Retrieval Solution 2 (BERS2; (9/11) as retrieval buffer. The mAb was typically diluted in the range of 1:25-1:200 depending or sensitivity of the protocol employed. Using these protocol settings 27 of 27 (100%) laboratories p a sufficient staining result.

PDF file e-mailed to participants with assessment marks and – when needed – explanations and recommendations



### **Nordic Immunohistochemical Quality Control**

Institute of Pathology, Aalborg University Hospital, Ladegaardsgade 3, P.O.Box 561, DK-9100 Aalborg, Denmark

# Assessment of ER, B24 - individual results Alborg Sygehus (101)

Epitope	ER
Assessment	Optima

NordiQC has assessed the submitted slides. In general, the assessment is based on staining intensity and distribution in cells expected to be demonstrated, background staining, cross-reactivity, quality of counterstaining and preservation of tissue morphology. Specific criteria for each epitope are described on <a href="http://www.nordigc.org/epitope.php">http://www.nordigc.org/epitope.php</a>.

Each slide was marked as optimal, good, borderline or poor based on the following criteria:

Optimal: The staining reaction is considered perfect or close to perfect in all of the included tissues.

Good: The staining reaction is considered acceptable in all of the included tissues. However, the protocol settings may be optimized to ensure improved sensitivity or higher signal-to-noise ratio.

Borderline: The staining reaction is considered insufficient because of a generally too weak staining reaction, false negative or false positive staining reaction of one of the included tissues. The protocol should be optimized.

Poor: The staining reaction is considered insufficient because of, e.g., false negative or false positive staining reactions of several of the included tissues. An optimization of the protocol is urgently needed.

Moderate or strong cross reaction (due to the character of the primary antibody) or other false positive staining reaction (e.g. due to endogenous biotin) is not compatible with an optimal result and will usually cause downgrading.

For stains assessed as borderline or poor, comments and recommendations are given to the protocols. Good stains may also be accompanied by comments if specific problems are identified.

Recommended protocols from each staining platform are available at the NordiQC homepage (http://www.nordiqc.org/recommended.php) for comparison. Implementation of NordiQC recommended protocols as well as changes suggested in this letter must be tested carefully in your own laboratory before implementation into diagnostic work. NordiQC do not take any responsibility for consequences of changes in protocols or methods in your laboratory.

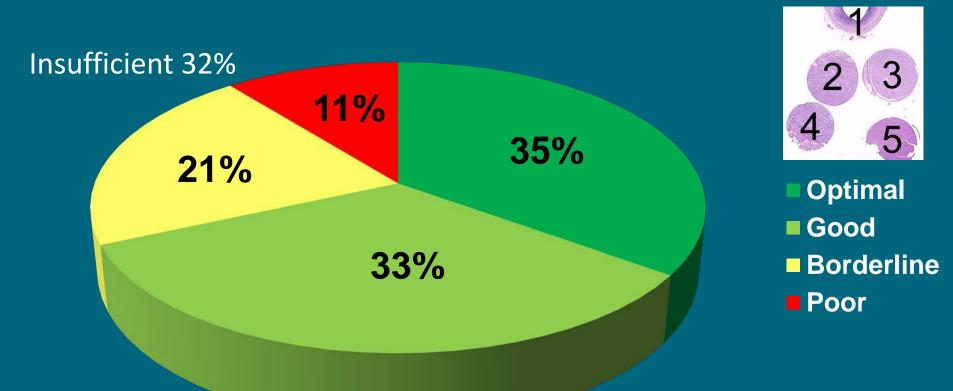
ninal stain

contact percent(o).	Live Limit, white Killeri					
Marker	CD23	CR	CyD1	Ki67	Podop	TTF1
Assessment:	Poor	Optimal	Optimal	Good	Good	Borderline
Comments to the protocol:	Faise negative	-	-	Excessive counterstain	Weak	Weak*
Suggestions for improvement:	Consider change of primary Ab and	-	-	-	-	Increase primary Ab conc. and/or prolong

\* Please read the epitope description and assessment summary carefully, as the choice of the Ab clone will influence the sensitivity and specificity.



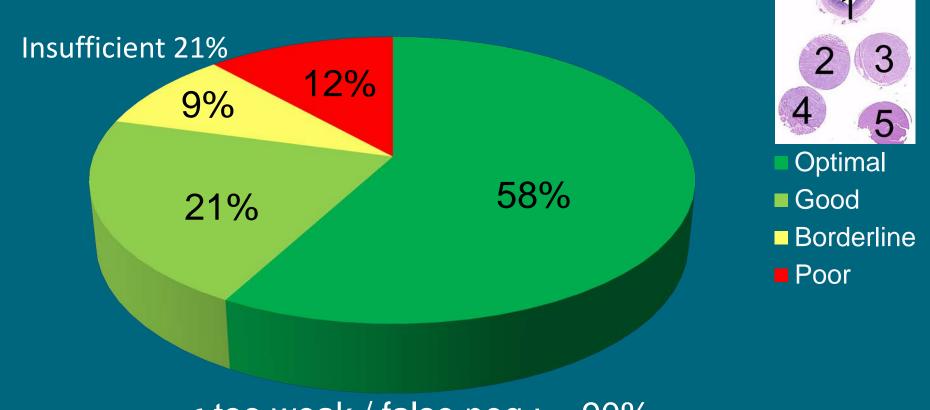
General module ~ 20,000 slides (~100.000 core sections)



Insuff. { too weak / false neg.: ~ 90% over-stained / false pos.: ~ 10%



Breast cancer module ~ 9,000 slides (~35,000 core sections)



Insuff. { too weak / false neg.: ~ 90% over-stained / false pos.: ~ 10%



# Major causes of **insufficient** stains in ~9,000 slides

Less successful antibodies/RTUs 17 %

Inappropriate antibody dilution 20 %

Inappropriate epitope retrieval 27 %

Inappropriate detection kit 19 %

Other inappropriate lab. performance 17 %

Endogenous biotin reaction
Section drying-out after HIER
Technical platform error

. . . .

Unexplained

AALBORG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

# IHC – Biomarker controls



Go for Low antigen expressors ~

<u>Critical Assay Performance Controls (CAPCs)</u>

- essential to evaluate sensitivity
- essential to assure consistency

Normal tissues - easier to ensure the quality

- 90 % of insufficient staining results in EQA are caused by weak/false negative results
- often related to the use of inappropriate positive tissue controls.....

# **Publications**



# Standardization of Negative Controls in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry: Recommendations From the International Ad Hoc Expert Panel

Emina E. Torlakovic, MD, PhD,\*†‡ Glenn Francis, MBBS, FRCPA, MBA, FFSc (RCPA),\$||¶
John Garratt, RT,†‡# Blake Gilks, MD, FRCPC,†‡\*\* Elizabeth Hyjek, MD, PhD,\*
Merdol Ibrahim, PhD,†† Rodney Miller, MD,‡‡ Søren Nielsen, HT, CT,\$\$|| ||
Eugen B. Petcu, MD, PhD,\$ Paul E. Swanson, MD,¶¶ Clive R. Taylor, MD, PhD,##
and Mogens Vyberg, MD\$\$|| || AIMM 2014, 22:241

# Standardization of Positive Controls in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry: Recommendations From the International Ad Hoc Expert Committee

Emina E. Torlakovic, MD, PhD,\*† Søren Nielsen, HT, CT,‡§ Glenn Francis, MBBS, FRCPA, MBA, FFSc (RCPA), ||¶# John Garratt, RT,†\*\* Blake Gilks, MD, FRCPC,†††

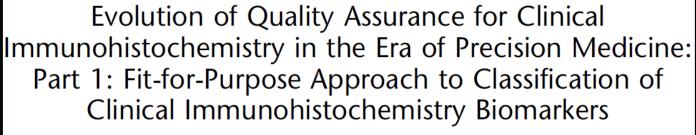
Jeffrey D. Goldsmith, MD,‡‡ Jason L. Hornick, MD, PhD,\*§§ Elizabeth Hyjek, MD, PhD,\*

Merdol Ibrahim, PhD, || || Keith Miller, FIBMS, || || Eugen Petcu, MD, PhD, ||

Paul E. Swanson, MD,¶¶## Xiaoge Zhou, MD,\*\*\*††† Clive R. Taylor, MD, PhD,‡‡‡

and Mogens Vyberg, MD‡§

AIMM 2015, 23:1





AIMM 2016-17

Carol C. Cheung, MD, PhD, JD,\*† Corrado D'Arrigo, MB, ChB, PhD, FRCPath,‡§||
Manfred Dietel, MD, PhD,¶ Glenn D. Francis, MBBS, FRCPA, MBA, FFSc (RCPA),#\*\*††
C. Blake Gilks, MD,‡‡ Jacqueline A. Hall, PhD,§§|| Jason L. Hornick, MD, PhD,¶¶
Merdol Ibrahim, PhD,## Antonio Marchetti, MD, PhD,\*\*\* Keith Miller, FIBMS,##
J. Han van Krieken, MD, PhD,††† Soren Nielsen, BMS,‡‡‡§§§ Paul E. Swanson, MD,||||||
Clive R. Taylor, MD,¶¶ Mogens Vyberg, MD,‡‡‡§§§ Xiaoge Zhou, MD,###\*\*\*
and Emina E. Torlakovic, MD, PhD,\*††††‡‡‡‡

and International Quality Network for Pathology (IQN Path)

Evolution of Quality Assurance for Clinical Immunohistochemistry in the Era of Precision Medicine – Part 2: Immunohistochemistry Test Performance Characteristics

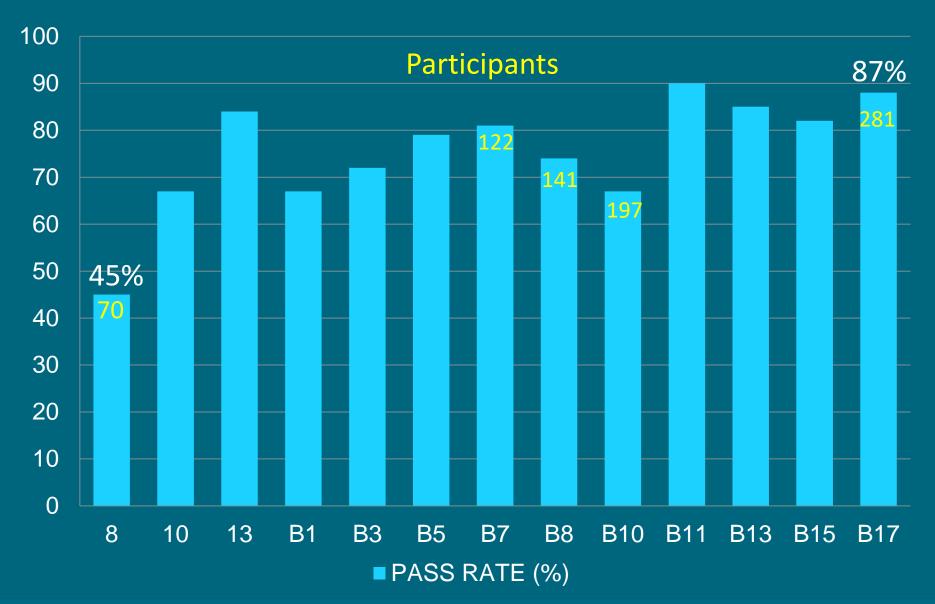
Evolution of Quality Assurance for Clinical Immunohistochemistry in the Era of Precision Medicine. Part 3: Technical Validation of Immunohistochemistry (IHC) Assays in Clinical IHC Laboratories

Evolution of Quality Assurance for Clinical Immunohistochemistry in the Era of Precision Medicine: Part 4: Tissue Tools for Quality Assurance in Immunohistochemistry

**AALBORG UNIVERS** 

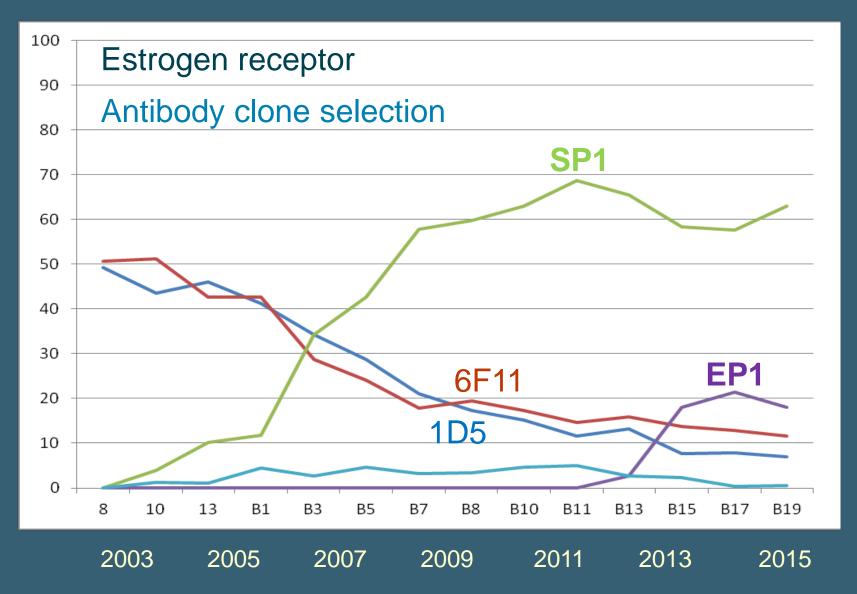
# NordiQC EQA: Estrogen Receptor in 13 runs





# NordiQC EQA ER

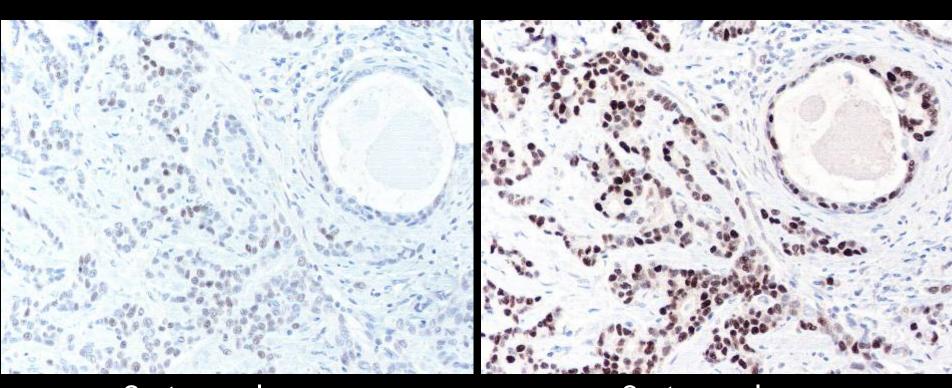




# IHC – Optimal performance



ER 1D5 1:100 HIER Ci pH 6



2-step polymer

3-step polymer

# Results of NordiQC recommendations

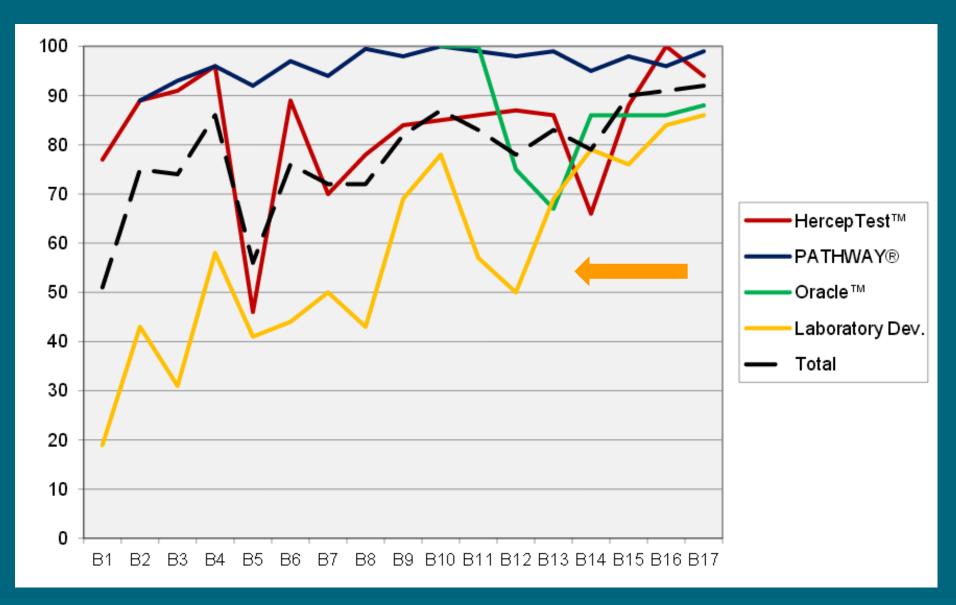


# Pass rate (optimal + good) by participant status

Estrogen receptor	New participants	'Old' participants
Run 10, 2004	57%	71%
Run B15, 2010	70%	86%
Run B19, 2015	51%	73%
Average	59%	77%

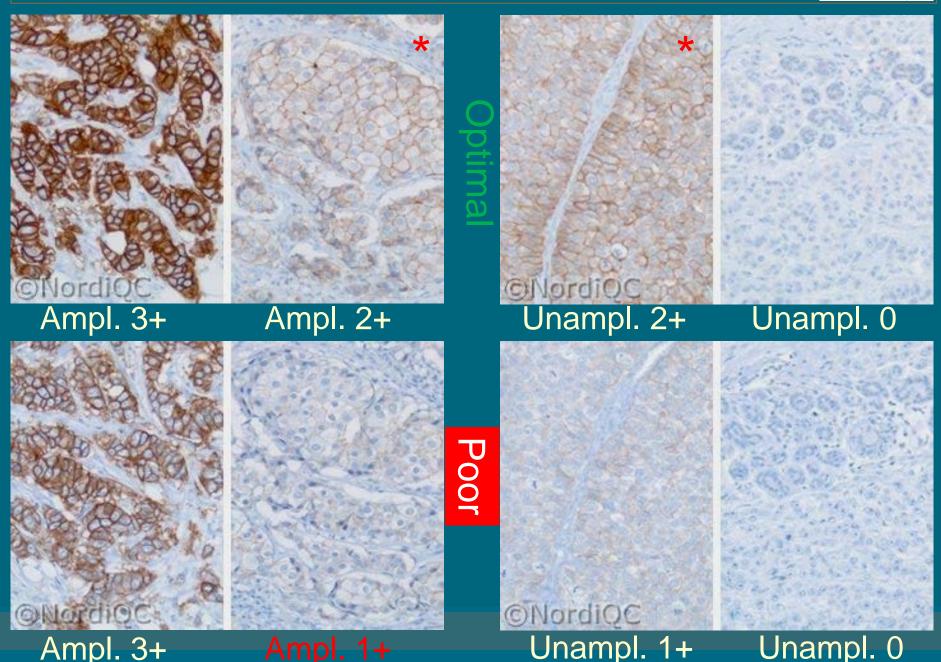
# HER-2 staining results in 17 runs





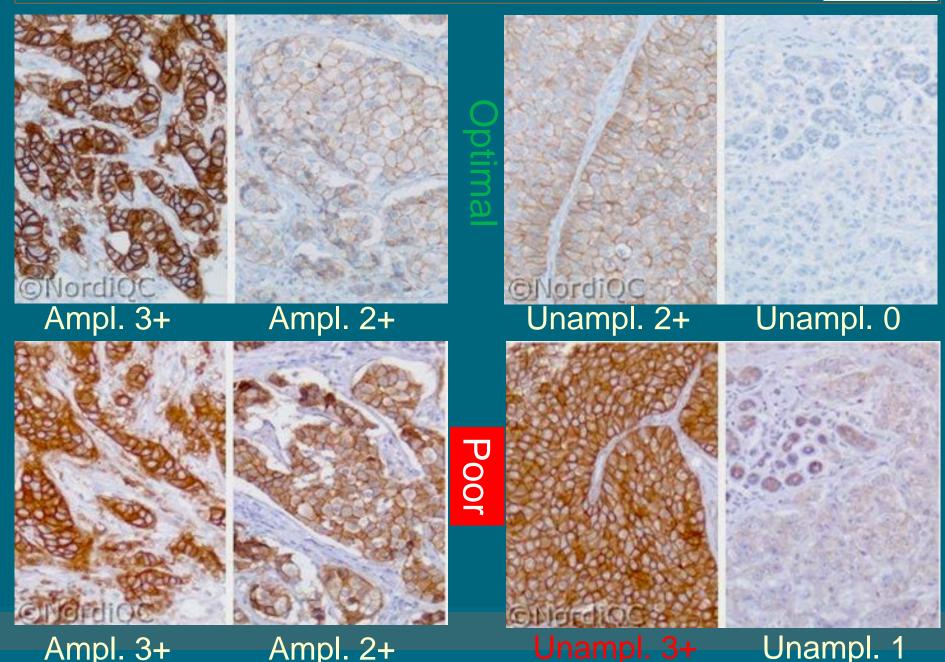
# NordiQC runs for HER2 IHC





# NordiQC runs for HER2 IHC





# NordiQC runs for HER2 IHC



Vyberg et al. BMC Health Services Research (2015) 15:352 DOI 10.1186/s12913-015-1018-6



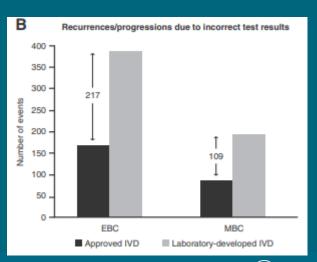
### **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access** 

Immunohistochemical expression of HER2 in breast cancer: socioeconomic impact of inaccurate tests

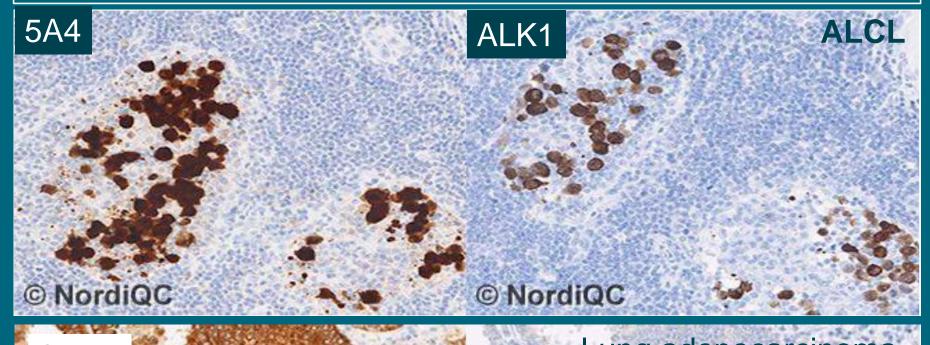
Mogens Vyberg<sup>1\*</sup>, Søren Nielsen<sup>1</sup>, Rasmus Røge<sup>1</sup>, Beth Sheppard<sup>2</sup>, Jim Ranger-Moore<sup>2</sup>, Eric Walk<sup>2</sup>, Juliane Gartemann<sup>3</sup>, Ulrich-Peter Rohr<sup>3</sup> and Volker Teichgräber<sup>3</sup>

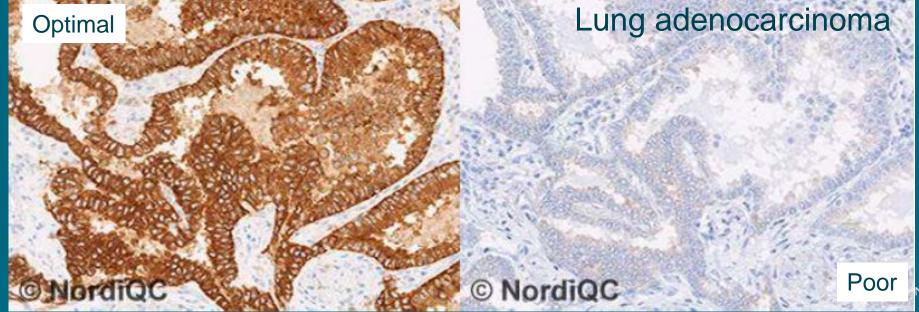
Every \$1 saved by laboratories by using cheaper reagents could potentially result in approximately \$6 additional costs to the healthcare system.



# Lung ALK







# Lung ALK

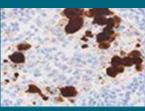


# The immunoassay must fit for the purpose:

Identify the antibody useful for the specific task

# The right external controls must be used:

- Tissue with high epitope expression to identify
  - the right antibody
    - Appendix
- Tissue with low epitope expression to assure the sensitivity:
  - ALK-positive lung adenocarcinoma
- Tissue with no epitope expression to assure the specificity
  - e.g., liver



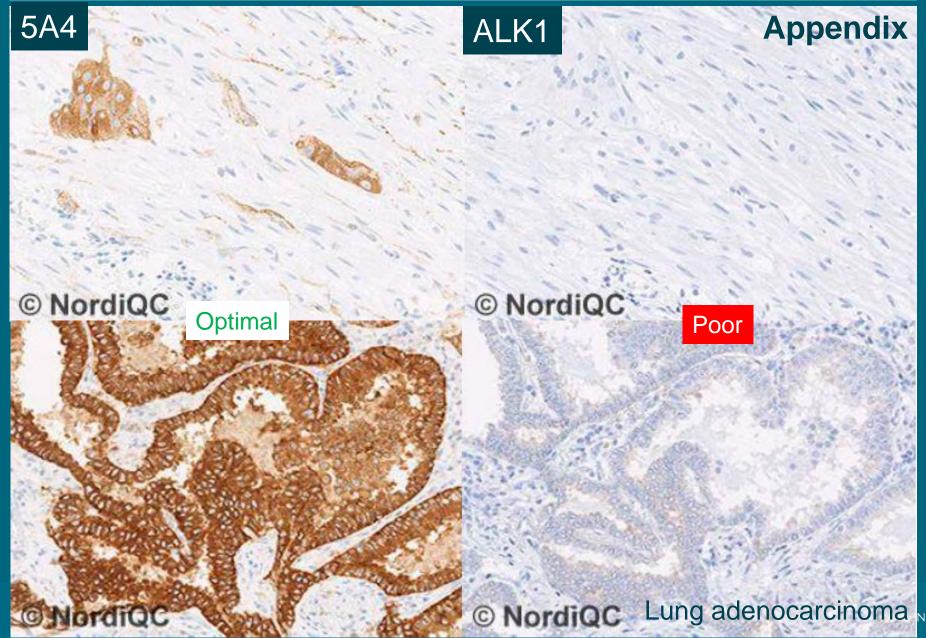


Appendix - ALK



# Lung ALK – run 45, 176 labs





# Results of NordiQC recommendations



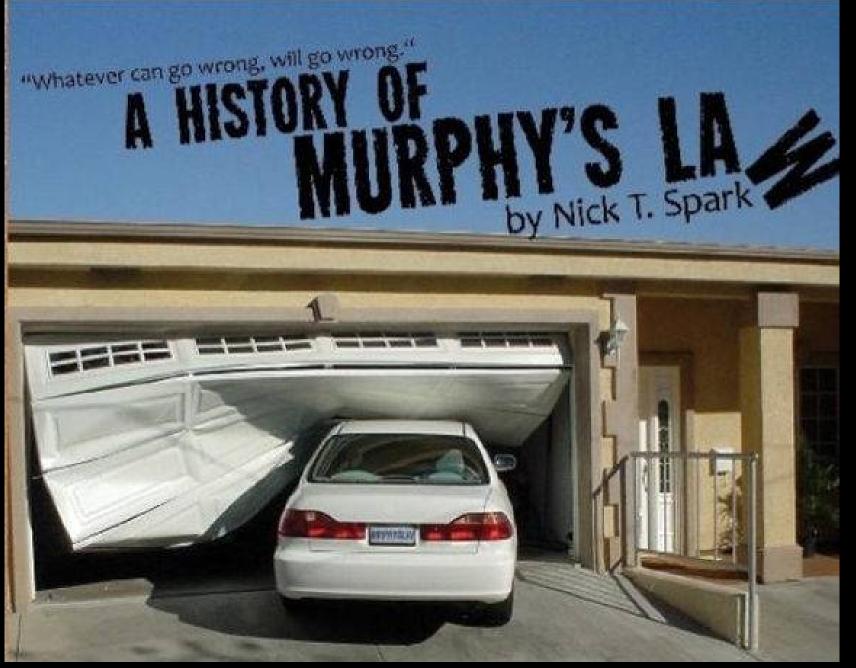
# 419 advices for 11 markers

	No.	Improved	%
Positive	268	195	<b>73</b>
Negative	151	21	14

# Perspective



- Almost 1/3 of all IHC stains produced by NordiQC participants are still insufficient!
  - New labs
  - New antibodies, techniques, platforms
  - Increasing demands
- How many IHC stains produced by labs not participating in an EQA scheme are insufficient?
- How many scientific publications are based on insufficient IHC stains?
- What are the consequences for the patients?



When you believe in automation and stop thinking



Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry Oud St. Jan/ Old St. John – Brugge (Bruges), Belgium June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2018



# NordiQC External Quality Assurance in Immunohistochemistry

Mogens Vyberg
Professor of Clinical Pathology
Director of NordiQC
Aalborg University Hospital,
Aalborg, Denmark