



## ADAPTATION OF HOSPITAL CLÍNICO UNIVERSITARIO "LOZANO Blesa" PATHOLOGY SERVICE AND OTHER SERVICES INVOLVED, BECAUSE NEW EUROPEAN REGULATION ON CLASSIFICATION, LABELING AND PACKAGING OF SUBSTANCES AND MIXTURES WITH FORMALDEHYDE.

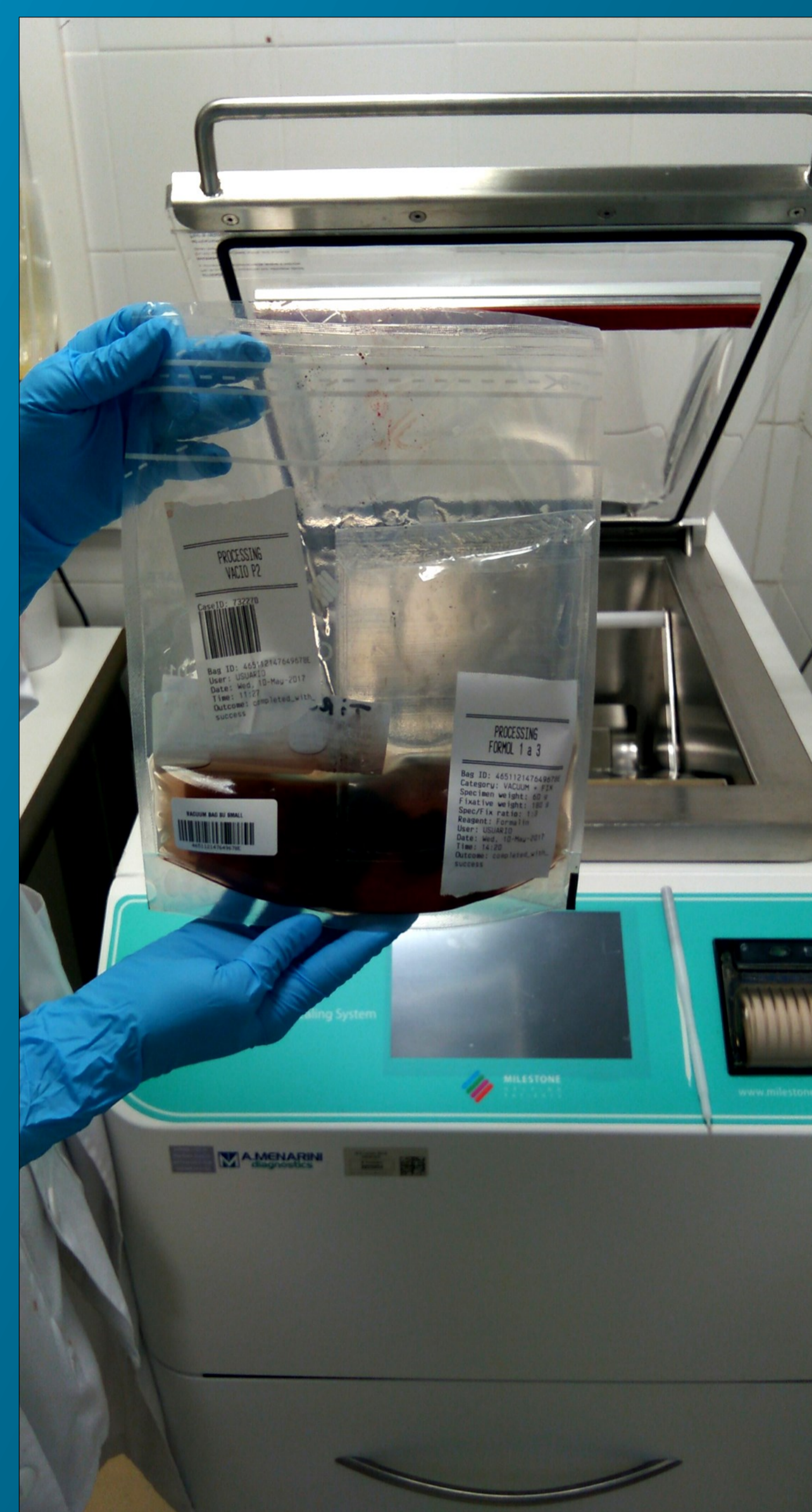
Authors: Pérez L, Sanz Y, Marta CB, Blanzaco Z, Egea O, Artigas A, Vives B, Gomez B, Buesa A, Martínez A, Rodríguez M, Ortiz N, Pastor M, Moreno N, Sota P, Fuertes B, Iliev H.  
Pathology Department, Hospital Clinico Universitario "Lozano Blesa", Zaragoza, Spain.

### INTRODUCTION

Recently, EU regulation on classification, labeling and packaging of substances and mixtures with formaldehyde, changed classification of this product, going from category 2 (H351, suspect to causes cancer), to category 1B (H350, carcinogenic). This force pathology services to adapt.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

We were forced to adapt our facilities focusing on: centralizing formaldehyde use in properly qualified areas, develop multidisciplinary working groups in order to address the problem and evaluation of the state of formalin levels.



### RESULTS

- Reduction of manipulation on surgery, consultations and Primary Care, implementing formalin pre-filled packaging systems for small sample.
- Improving sample delivery, incorporating vacuum packaging systems in surgery areas, and later filling formaldehyde into the vacuum bags
- Adaptation of hoods with formaldehyde dispensers and integrated disposal/inactivation system.
- Modification of grossing lab, with a new specific floor surface with an automatic entry system, linked with a negative pressure system and new generation workstations vacuum hoods.



### CONCLUSIONS

We reduced the use of formaldehyde in areas without ventilation systems, thus improving risk control.

Also packaging/preservation has been improved, up to three days after its extraction, guaranteeing suitability for further immunohistochemical or molecular studies. Design and implementation new protocols for sample processing, adequate fixation and facilitate re-tapping avoiding overfixation.

Reform of physical plant, with extraction systems and negative pressure environment, new tables and bells of carving with exposure control and adapted for ergonomics and occupational safety.

