

CytoPAN—Portable cellular analyses for rapid point-of-care cancer diagnosis

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Sci Transl Med 12, eaaz9746.
DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aaz9746

Panning for diagnostic gold

Accurate and timely diagnosis and categorization of cancer are not always simple even under optimal conditions, and it can be near impossible in the developing world, where the necessary specialists and equipment may not be available and biopsy results can take months to return. To address this diagnostic bottleneck, Min *et al.* devised an automated image cytometry system named CytoPAN, which can correctly detect breast cancer and identify its subtype in 1 hour using samples obtained by fine needle aspiration, a less invasive technique than core biopsy. The system is relatively affordable and requires minimal training, which should decrease the barriers to access in low-resource areas.

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