WHITEPAPER

ONCORE Pro's Dual Small Footprint Offers a Solution to the Race for Space in IHC Laboratories

BIOCARE MEDICAL

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A reality of the medical industry today is that space is at a premium. Whether it is in a hospital environment or independent practice, medical laboratories face space constraints.

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) laboratories have dealt with this squeeze by optimizing workflow and carefully managing their inventory. However, storage areas may remain scarce and over-utilized despite their best efforts. New construction still may not permit the proper amount of counter space, cabinets, shelves, or refrigerator floor space to accommodate all reagents.

To complicate matters even further, regulatory requirements must also be considered. For example, CAP, CLIA, and Fire Code requirements do not allow supplies to be stacked higher than a certain distance from the ceiling. Supplies can no longer be stored on the floor, and cleaning supplies cannot be stored in cabinets under laboratory sinks. Overloaded refrigerators can violate safety guidelines through insufficient separation of flammable and nonflammable items or other incompatible reagents.

Additionally, refrigerator space is often forced to be shared between multiple labs or departments, severely affecting organization, limiting ease of access, and affecting the workflow of all staff.

To assist labs in their efforts to conserve space and optimize workflow, Biocare has released the ONCORE Pro Automated Slide Staining System with a dual small footprint feature.

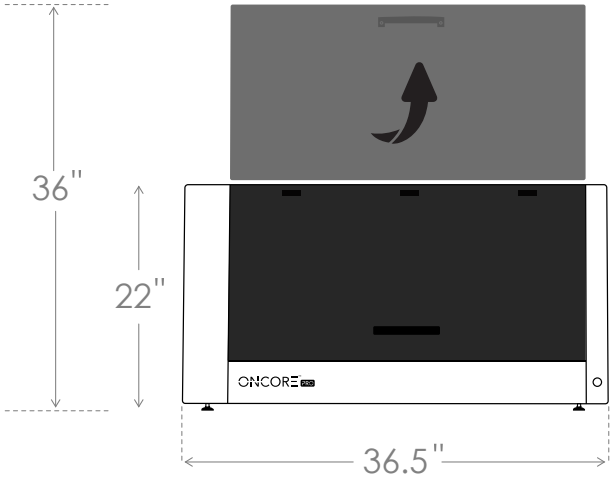
What does a "dual small footprint" mean?

Not only does the ONCORE Pro instrument itself have a small laboratory footprint still maintaining a 36-slide capacity, but the reagents used in its operation have a conveniently small footprint as well.

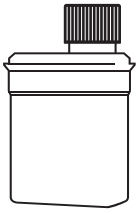
Compared to other platforms currently on the market, the ONCORE Pro's reagent vials are significantly smaller, taking up roughly a quarter of the space required by other platforms in a reagent refrigerator.

Moreover, unlike other fully automated instruments on the market, the ONCORE Pro requires the use of only one bulk reagent, the ONCORE Pro Wash Buffer. The ONCORE Pro Wash Buffer comes as a room temperature, ready-to-use reagent, therefore reducing the need for storage space, as well as any time and workspace that would be involved in pre-mixing other buffer solutions. This serves as a considerable laboratory advantage.

Due to their small, convenient size, reagents can be stored in the extra reagent rack provided. They can also easily be stored in the cardboard cassette drawers that typically house tissue blocks when placed in a refrigerator. This amounts to extremely small refrigerator requirements compared to other platforms, allowing for storage in even the smallest tabletop refrigerators.



Door Closed: 36.5 in x 22 in x 24 in
Door Open: 36.5 in x 36 in x 24 in



Reagent Vial Size Not Including Vial Neck & Lid:
Approximately 4 cm high x 2.8 cm wide

Reagent Vial Size Including Vial Neck & Lid:
Approximately 5 cm high x 2.8 cm wide

*For perspective, a standard histology tissue cassette measures: Approximately 3.8 cm high x 2.8 cm wide.

In conclusion, "footprint" represents an often overlooked, indirect cost in terms of space and efficiency. It is important to factor in the footprint when purchasing new equipment. In this respect, the ONCORE Pro's dual small footprint feature truly offers an advantage in time and cost savings.

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