Guided Annotation: setting up

The Guided Annotation tool is designed to support the busy workdays in the IVF laboratory. This is accomplished by guiding you from one variable to the next in an annotation strategy.

This technote describes how the tool is set up in a completely customizable way to support the needs and strategies of your clinical workflow.
Guided Annotation in synergy with KIDScore models optimally supports your consistent embryo assessment process.

Main benefits

The Guided Annotation tool offers two main benefits: enhanced speed of annotation and improved consistency of the embryo assessment process.
These benefits are accomplished by a semi-automated annotation flow based on a user defined strategy (the annotation strategy).
Setting up Guided Annotation is an easy process that ensures the consistency and efficiency of your daily workflow.

Settings page – customising the annotation process

On the *Settings page->Annotations* tab you will find features for setting up one or more annotation strategies relevant to
your clinic (Figure 1).
Under this tab you can design, import and sort annotation strategies. You may also import variables and add commonly used phrases to the list of pre-defined comments in the "User defined Comments" box (A).

The page contains logical groups of variables which you may include in your annotation strategy (B). When double-clicking a variable in the list, the variable is added to the strategy. The variable will appear on the "Annotation order" list (C), where you can also change the order of the variables included on the list using the arrow buttons.
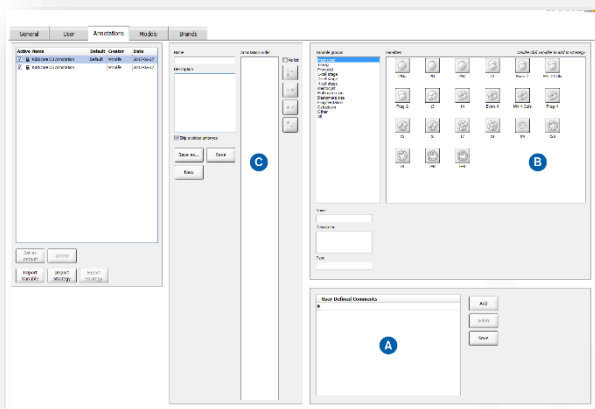
On the left-hand side of the page you can import variables or strategies as well as activate strategies which have already been designed.

A very useful feature is the "Skip avoided embryos" check box in the centre of the page. Activating this check box will help streamline the annotation process by excluding all embryos marked with this button ☒ from the workflow.

Setting up your strategy
When setting up an annotation strategy for clinical use, we recommend to include only variables that are used for final embryo evaluation, e.g. through model application.
Only variables relevant to your decision on whether to transfer, freeze or avoid an embryo should be included in the strategy that you create for clinical use.

In order to have a sense of consistency during the annotation process, we recommend to design your strategy to first annotate PN, then all timing variables and finally all variables related to morphology. This will enable you to follow the uninterrupted development of each embryo up until the day of transfer.
Alternatively, if you perform annotations on a daily basis (e.g. if you decide daily whether to continue culturing the embryos) you may instead find it useful to list the variables in a temporal order, first listing the variables that you expect to see on the first day of culture followed by the variables that you expect to see on the second day of culture, etc.

Tips & Tricks for Guided Annotation
A new strategy may be created by using an existing strategy as a basis. Simply mark the existing strategy on the list, enter a name for the new strategy, and add/remove variables or change their order of appearance on the list. This also applies to imported strategies, including the strategies used for KIDScore models. This will be useful if you want to include one or more additional variables used for embryo evaluation in your clinic.

If your clinical workflow involves daily decisions on whether to continue the cultivation you may benefit from creating daily models, each model reflecting the events expected to occur on that specific day.

Figure 1: The Settings -> Annotations tab