

Healthcare → Result Update → January 30, 2025

DLPL's Q3FY25 results were largely in line with street/our estimates, with Swasthfit continuing to grow 25%+ YoY for six quarters. Return of double-digit revenue growth in DLPL's core Delhi NCR offset the muted performance of Suburban (9% revenue growth with EBITDAM of 12.3%). With competition hiking prices (both online and organized chains), and the management continuing to prioritize volume growth over pricing, we build in 12% revenue CAGR over FY25-27E. Margins should remain stable with operating leverage and higher Swasthfit contribution offsetting the network investments. A strong net cash balance sheet, industry leading margins, and improving return ratios provide comfort on valuations. We retain BUY with revised down Dec-25E TP of Rs3,250 (4.4% cut, based on DCF), implying Dec-26E PER of 43x.

Dr Lal Pathlabs: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)									
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E				
Revenue	20,169	22,266	24,592	27,467	31,098				
EBITDA	4,899	6,093	6,796	7,436	8,541				
Adj. PAT	2,389	3,577	4,236	4,850	5,835				
Adj. EPS (Rs)	28.7	42.8	50.7	58.1	69.9				
EBITDA margin (%)	24.3	27.4	27.6	27.1	27.5				
EBITDA growth (%)	(12.6)	24.4	11.5	9.4	14.9				
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(30.7)	49.4	18.4	14.5	20.3				
RoE (%)	14.8	20.0	21.2	21.5	22.5				
RoIC (%)	21.8	28.4	33.2	37.0	38.6				
P/E (x)	100.3	67.2	56.7	49.5	41.2				
EV/EBITDA (x)	47.8	38.0	33.5	30.1	25.6				
P/B (x)	14.4	13.0	11.6	10.1	8.7				
FCFF yield (%)	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.7				

Source: Company, Emkay Research

In-line quarter; double-digit growth in core markets

For Q3FY25, DLPL reported an in-line quarter, with revenue increase of 11% YoY on the back of sample volumes increasing 11% YoY and flat realizations. Patient volumes grew 3% YoY. Gross margin expanded marginally by 25bps, which can be attributed to the continued uptick in contribution of the Swasthfit portfolio. EBITDA margin, however, contracted by 30bps YoY to 25.8% on account of employee expenses growing 16% YoY as the company added employees in the sales, marketing, and infrastructure teams. D&A expenses declined 1% YoY on account of lower capex intensity, coupled with other income increasing 37% YoY and finance cost reducing 24%, leading to PAT increasing 18% YoY. The company has announced an interim dividend of Rs6/sh for the quarter. Net cash on books stood at ~Rs11.2bn. Suburban ramp up continues to be patchy, with revenue growing 9.2% and EBITDA margin at 12.3% vs H1 margin of 17-18%.

Outlook and risks

With the return of double-digit revenue growth in DLPL's core Delhi NCR market and plans of adding 15-20 labs in FY25, we believe the current growth trajectory would improve for DLPL. While network investments (employee additions and SG&A expenses) and subdued margins at Suburban led to margins contracting by 30bps on a YoY basis, we believe higher contribution from Swasthfit and operating leverage will result in stable margins over FY25-27E. Factoring in the Q3FY25 results, we marginally tweak EBITDAM by 70-90bps over FY26/27E. Lower depreciation on account of tapering capex intensity, however, results in PAT CAGR of 18% over FY24-27E. Strong balance sheet (net cash of Rs11bn), improving return ratios (ROE/ROCE at 23%/25%, respectively, in FY27), and robust cash generation (OCF as a % of EBITDA at 88% in FY24) lend comfort on valuations. We retain BUY on DLPL, with revised down Dec-25E TP to Rs3,250 (DCF), implying Dec-26E PER of 43x. **Key risks:** Increased competition in the organized market from growing hospital chains, predatory pricing from any market participants, and adverse regulatory ruling around pricing cap for healthcare services.

Target Price – 12M	Dec-25
Change in TP (%)	(4.4)
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Upside/(Downside) (%)	12.9
CMP (30-Jan-25) (Rs)	2,877.9

Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	3,654
52-week Low (Rs)	1,943
Shares outstanding (mn)	83.6
Market-cap (Rs bn)	241
Market-cap (USD mn)	2,777
Net-debt, FY25E (Rs mn)	-12,653
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	-
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	594.3
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	6.9
Free float (%)	-
Nifty-50	23,250
INR/USD	86.6
Shareholding, Dec-24	
Promoters (%)	53.9
FPIs/MFs (%)	26.8/13.2

Price Performance							
(%)	1M	3M	12M				
Absolute	(2.6)	(5.5)	16.2				
Rel. to Nifty	(1.0)	(1.0)	7.6				

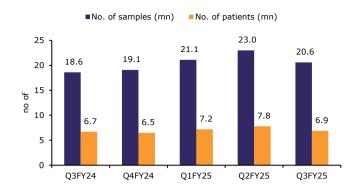


Anshul Agrawal anshul.agrawal@emkayglobal.com +91 22 6612 1228

Abin Benny abin.benny@emkayglobal.com +91 22 6624 2413

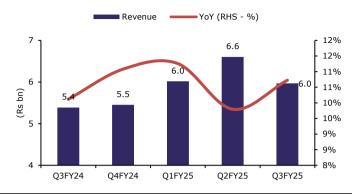
Story in Charts

Exhibit 1: Sample/patient volumes improve 11%/3% YoY



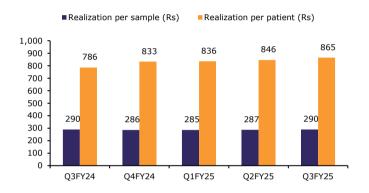
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Core business registered 11% YoY topline growth



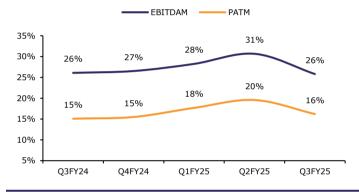
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Realizations improved on account of better product mix...



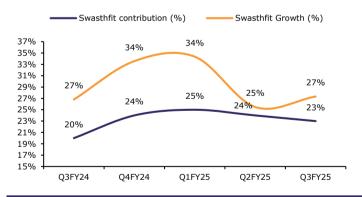
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: ...with margins stable on a YoY basis



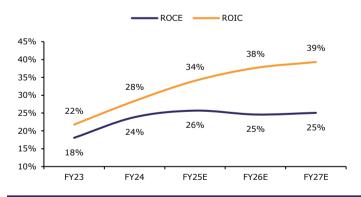
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: Swasthfit continues to grow at a fast rate



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 6: Return ratios are expected to improve, with tapering capex intensity



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 7: Summary of quarterly financials

Particulars (Rs mn)	Q3FY24	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	YoY	QoQ
Net sales	5,389	6,602	5,967	11%	-10%
Operating Expenses	(3,983)	(4,577)	(4,427)	11%	-3%
Medical consumable costs	1,070	1,273	1,170	9%	-8%
Employee Costs	1,090	1,240	1,264	16%	2%
SG&A expenses	1,823	2,064	1,993	9%	-3%
EBITDA	1,406	2,025	1,540	10%	-24%
Margins	26.1%	30.7%	25.8%	-1%	-16%
Depreciation	(360)	(353)	(355)	-1%	1%
EBIT	1,046	1,672	1,185	13%	-29%
Other Income	183	219	251	37%	15%
Interest	(70)	(60)	(53)	-24%	-12%
Extra ordinary items					
PBT	1,159	1,831	1,383	19%	-24%
Tax	(337)	(523)	(402)	19%	-23%
PAT	822	1,308	981	19%	-25%
Adj PAT	822	1,308	981	19%	-25%
Minority interests	9	16	14	56%	-13%
PAT (reported)	813	1,292	967	19%	-25%
EPS	9.74	15.5	11.6	19%	-25%
(%)	Q3FY24	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps)
Gross Margin	80.1%	80.7%	80.4%	25	-33
EBITDAM	26.1%	30.7%	25.8%	-28	-486
EBITM	19.4%	25.3%	19.9%	45	-547
РВТМ	21.5%	27.7%	23.2%	167	-456
PATM	15.1%	19.6%	16.2%	112	-336
Effective Tax rate	29.1%	28.6%	29.1%	-1	50

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 8: Actuals vs estimates (Q3FY25)

(Rs mn)	Actual Estimate Consensus (Emkay) estimate		Vari	ation	
			(Bloomberg)	Emkay	Consensus
Revenue	5,967	5,933	5,973	1%	0%
EBITDA	1,540	1,543	1,578	0%	-2%
EBITDA Margin	26%	26%	26%	-19 bps	-60 bps
PAT	981	931	996	5%	-1%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 9: Change in estimates

Particulars	FY25E			FY26E			FY27E		
(Rs mn)	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change
Revenue	24,558	24,592	0.1%	27,554	27,467	-0.3%	31,478	31,098	-1.2%
EBITDA	6,949	6,796	-2.2%	7,715	7,436	-3.6%	8,867	8,541	-3.7%
EBITDA Margin	28.3%	27.6%	-66 bps	28.0%	27.1%	-92 bps	28.2%	27.5%	-71 bps
PAT	4,284	4,236	-1.1%	4,954	4,850	-2.1%	5,931	5,835	-1.6%

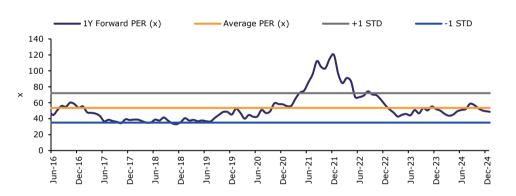
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 10: We value Dr Lal Path Labs at Rs3,250

	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY30E	FY35E
Revenue	22,266	24,592	27,467	31,098	43,925	77,132
Growth	10%	10%	12%	13%	12%	12%
NOPAT	3,338	3,823	4,272	5,015	7,846	14,332
Non-cash items	1,436	1,437	1,504	1,576	1,733	3,082
Change in WC	(204)	75	93	176	189	303
Capex	(512)	(560)	(560)	(580)	(680)	(1,156)
FCFF	4,057	4,776	5,308	6,187	9,088	16,561
WACC	10.7%					
Terminal growth	6%					
PV of CFs (FY24-45E)	113,814					
PV of terminal value	122,879					
Total EV	236,692					
(Less) Net debt - FY25E	(12,653)					
Total equity value	249,345					
Total no of shares - Dec-24 (mn)	84					
Target price - Dec-25E (Rs)	3,250					

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 11: Dr Lal Path Labs is trading below its long-term 1YF PER



Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

Call Highlights

- The management target 7-8% volume CAGR on the back of lab expansion in metros and Tier 1 regions over the medium term.
- The management stated that no immediate price hikes are planned despite rising costs (due to inflation and higher import prices for reagents). Instead, the company is focusing on optimizing geographic and test mix for improving margins and expanding franchise-based collection centers (now contributing ~45% of revenue), in order to increase reach with lower operational costs.
- Q4 is expected to be stronger on account of growth potential of well packages, as more patients avail annual wellness testing.
- The West has been growing faster than the national average, and now contributes ~15% to overall revenue. The South remains a weaker segment for the company, and the management plans to focus aggressively on this region, both organically and inorganically.
- Swasthfit has been a major growth driver for the business and the management continues to aspire for increasing the share of bundled packages beyond 25-30% of total revenue.
- Delhi NCR has shown double-digit growth for two consecutive quarters now. The management is leveraging this momentum to further strengthen its foothold in high-margin urban areas.
- The company's effective tax rate remains at 25% but due to lack of deriving benefits of goodwill impairment, the tax rate is 29%.
- The diagnostic sector is transitioning from unorganized to organized players, with consolidation trends visible.
- NCDs account for ~65% of deaths in India and result in a 2% GDP loss annually. Timely screening and preventive health management are crucial for controlling NCDs, creating long-term demand for diagnostic services.
- The industry has stabilized after aggressive discounting by some players in previous years. Hospital chains entering retail pathology pose a competitive challenge, but their pricing strategies are limited by their need to match their higher internal hospital pricing.

Dr Lal Pathlabs: Consolidated Financials and Valuations

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	20,169	22,266	24,592	27,467	31,098
Revenue growth (%)	(3.4)	10.4	10.4	11.7	13.2
EBITDA	4,899	6,093	6,796	7,436	8,541
EBITDA growth (%)	(12.6)	24.4	11.5	9.4	14.9
Depreciation & Amortization	1,502	1,436	1,437	1,504	1,576
EBIT	3,397	4,657	5,359	5,933	6,965
EBIT growth (%)	(25.0)	37.1	15.1	10.7	17.4
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	417	692	897	1,121	1,457
Financial expense	375	294	243	243	243
PBT	3,439	5,055	6,013	6,811	8,179
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	1,028	1,432	1,723	1,907	2,290
Minority interest	(22)	(46)	(54)	(54)	(54)
Income from JV/Associates	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	2,389	3,577	4,236	4,850	5,835
PAT growth (%)	(30.7)	49.7	18.4	14.5	20.3
Adjusted PAT	2,389	3,577	4,236	4,850	5,835
Diluted EPS (Rs)	28.7	42.8	50.7	58.1	69.9
Diluted EPS growth (%)	(30.7)	49.4	18.4	14.5	20.3
DPS (Rs)	12.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Dividend payout (%)	(41.8)	(56.0)	(47.3)	(41.3)	(34.3)
EBITDA margin (%)	24.3	27.4	27.6	27.1	27.5
EBIT margin (%)	16.8	20.9	21.8	21.6	22.4
Effective tax rate (%)	29.9	28.3	28.7	28.0	28.0
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	2,382	3,338	3,823	4,272	5,015
Shares outstanding (mn)	83.3	83.5	83.5	83.5	83.5

Source: Company, E	mkay Research
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Cash flows					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
PBT	3,439	5,055	6,013	6,811	8,179
Others (non-cash items)	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes paid	(1,028)	(1,432)	(1,723)	(1,907)	(2,290)
Change in NWC	50	195	706	365	483
Operating cash flow	4,560	5,354	5,485	5,622	6,427
Capital expenditure	(365)	(512)	(560)	(560)	(580)
Acquisition of business	0	0	0	0	0
Interest & dividend income	306	473	736	960	1,297
Investing cash flow	(2,873)	(243)	176	(600)	(4,283)
Equity raised/(repaid)	0	1	0	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	(1,090)	(1,534)	(833)	0	0
Payment of lease liabilities	(342)	(335)	630	272	307
Interest paid	(375)	(294)	(243)	(243)	(243)
Dividend paid (incl tax)	(1,000)	(2,004)	(2,004)	(2,004)	(2,004)
Others	1,255	201	236	284	285
Financing cash flow	(1,209)	(3,630)	(2,844)	(1,963)	(1,962)
Net chg in Cash	478	1,481	2,818	3,060	181
OCF	4,560	5,354	5,485	5,622	6,427
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	4,610	5,549	6,191	5,987	6,909
FCFF	4,195	4,842	4,925	5,062	5,847
FCFE	4,126	5,021	5,419	5,780	6,900
OCF/EBITDA (%)	93.1	87.9	80.7	75.6	75.2
FCFE/PAT (%)	172.7	140.4	127.9	119.2	118.3
FCFF/NOPLAT (%)	176.2	145.1	128.8	118.5	116.6

Source:	Company,	Emkay	Research

Balance Sheet					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share capital	834	835	835	835	835
Reserves & Surplus	15,829	17,658	19,944	22,843	26,728
Net worth	16,663	18,493	20,779	23,678	27,563
Minority interests	332	361	361	361	361
Deferred tax liability (net)	(375)	(425)	(425)	(425)	(425)
Total debt	2,367	833	0	0	0
Total liabilities & equity	18,987	19,262	20,715	23,614	27,499
Net tangible fixed assets	2,004	1,994	1,983	1,996	1,941
Net intangible assets	3,562	3,026	2,524	1,937	1,342
Net ROU assets	2,006	1,436	1,232	1,024	838
Capital WIP	30	40	40	40	40
Goodwill	5,478	5,482	5,482	5,482	5,482
Investments [JV/Associates]	0	0	0	0	0
Cash & equivalents	8,154	9,441	12,653	16,701	21,904
Current assets (ex-cash)	2,198	2,338	2,458	2,606	2,734
Current Liab. & Prov.	4,464	4,849	5,675	6,188	6,799
NWC (ex-cash)	(2,266)	(2,511)	(3,217)	(3,582)	(4,065)
Total assets	18,987	18,925	20,714	23,614	27,499
Net debt	(5,787)	(8,608)	(12,653)	(16,701)	(21,904)
Capital employed	18,987	19,262	20,715	23,614	27,499
Invested capital	10,804	9,444	8,022	6,874	5,555
BVPS (Rs)	200.0	221.5	248.8	283.6	330.1
Net Debt/Equity (x)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.9)	(2.2)	(2.6)
Interest coverage (x)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
RoCE (%)	18.1	23.8	25.1	24.3	24.9

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Valuations and key Ratios					
Y/E Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
P/E (x)	100.3	67.2	56.7	49.5	41.2
P/CE(x)	61.6	47.9	42.4	37.8	32.4
P/B (x)	14.4	13.0	11.6	10.1	8.7
EV/Sales (x)	11.6	10.4	9.3	8.1	7.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	47.8	38.0	33.5	30.1	25.6
EV/EBIT(x)	68.9	49.8	42.5	37.7	31.4
EV/IC (x)	21.7	24.5	28.4	32.5	39.3
FCFF yield (%)	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.7
FCFE yield (%)	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.9
Dividend yield (%)	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
DuPont-RoE split					
Net profit margin (%)	11.8	16.1	17.2	17.7	18.8
Total asset turnover (x)	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1
Assets/Equity (x)	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
RoE (%)	14.8	20.0	21.2	21.5	22.5
DuPont-RoIC					
NOPLAT margin (%)	11.8	15.0	15.5	15.6	16.1
IC turnover (x)	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.4
RoIC (%)	21.8	28.4	33.2	37.0	38.6
Operating metrics					
Core NWC days	(9.3)	(11.8)	(11.8)	(11.8)	(12.5)
Total NWC days	(9.3)	(11.8)	(11.8)	(11.8)	(12.5)
Fixed asset turnover	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9
Opex-to-revenue (%)	53.5	52.4	52.4	51.9	51.5

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst	
24-Oct-24	3,049	3,400	Buy	Anshul Agrawal	
07-Oct-24	3,460	3,600	Buy	Anshul Agrawal	
07-Aug-24	3,275	3,500	Buy	Anshul Agrawal	
19-Jun-24	2,679	2,800	Buy	Anshul Agrawal	
10-May-24	2,348	2,800	Buy	Anshul Agrawal	
07-May-24	2,323	2,800	Buy	Anshul Agrawal	

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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7th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar - West, Mumbai - 400028. India Tel: +91 22 66121212 Fax: +91 22 66121299 Web: www.emkayglobal.com

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