UPDATE IAC PROJECT WITH GE/OMNYX

IAC executive council meeting, Yokohama, May 28, 2016

Cytotechnologists have practiced annotating the 300 IGR slides in the GE/Omnyx system. The cytotechnologists found it relatively easy to adapt to using a digital imaging system for locating lesions and then for making diagnoses on these lesions. Specifically, the cytotechnologists are able to locate lesional cells with a high degree of reproducibility for locating HSIL. We are still testing to see if the cytotechnologists can locate cases with rare HSIL or if they can locate HSIL when there is heavy artifact (overlying blood, etc.).

Dr Stephen Raab is working now at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and have recently obtained the complete slide study sets (conventional and liquid-based) and all training tools of the University School of Cytotechnology which is closing. Thus, we will have approximately 10,000 slides that we can use for training purposes. These include numerous negative slides as well as multiple examples of all diseases at different difficulty levels. The next step is to create teaching modules from these sets by grading individual cases on difficulty level. We also have lectures and reading material that we could adapt for internet training.

A goal is to have trainees annotate the slides and then have the expert compare the trainee’s annotations with the expert's annotations to provide feedback for locating skills. Although it is easy to use the GE/Omnyx annotation system, this feature has been set up for secondary consultation services and not for education. Thus, multiple users are able to annotate, but it is more challenging to hide the annotations and then overlap the annotations with the expert's annotations for multiple users. The cytotechnologists are experimenting with methods to save annotations and then provide feedback. Dr Raab is examining the annotation systems of other vendor’s to see if they are all equivalent. This is a component that needs optimization.

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