

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE ON PRACTICAL CYTOPATHOLOGY ONLINE COURSE USING WHOLE SLIDE IMAGING

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Introduction:

Digitization is a reality in surgical pathology as primary diagnosis, but it is still a challenge in cytology. **The aim of this study is to explain our experience in an "ongoing" practical course using whole slide imaging digitalized cytological cases. This course offers self-studying cases in advance.**

Material and Methods:

The course has 6 monthly sessions of different topics and 5 cytological cases with several slides each (Figure 1). The cases were digitalized using a Roche Ventana DP200 Slide Scanner (Figure 2) and the images were uploaded to Roche Ventana Vector platform (Figure 3) to self-study and to review by the expert in a virtual mode through the Cisco Webex platform (Figure 4).

123 participants have enrolled in the course from several cities from Spain, Switzerland and Belgium (Figure 5). We used a Google Forms to ask all participants about their satisfaction in the quality of the images, virtual teaching method and individual practical sessions.

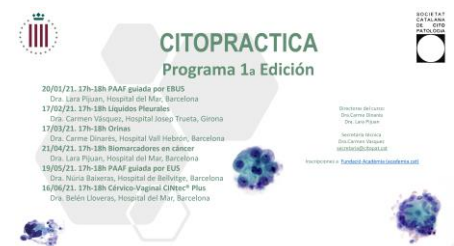


Figure 1. *Citopractica* 1st Edition Program.

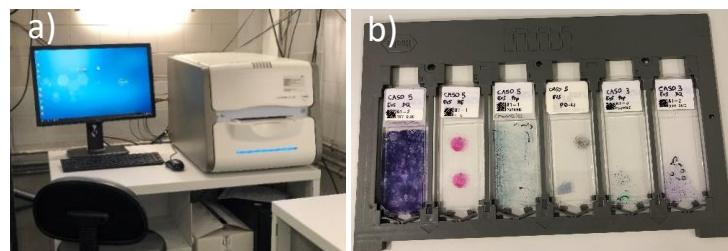


Figure 2. a) Roche Ventana DP200 Slide Scanner, and b) cases.

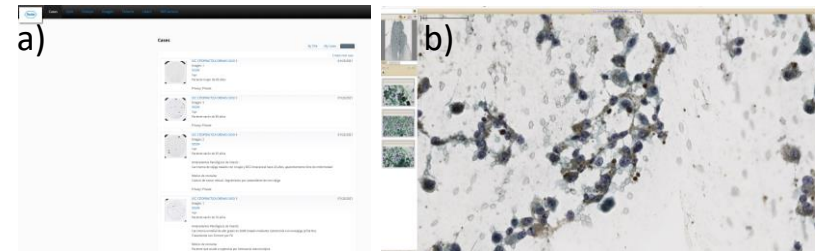


Figure 3. a) Roche Ventana Vector platform, and b) some images of one case.



Figure 4. Cisco Webex platform during online session.

Results:

We received 46 answers from 58.7% cytotechnicians, 17.4% pathologists, 10.9% cytotechnician students and 8.7% pathology residents.

65.2 % had previous experience reviewing digitalized cases and valued as excellent or good (44.4% and 46.7%) the quality of the images (Figure 6a). The satisfaction with the screening of the digitalized slide is good (53.3 %) and excellent (24.4 %).

The majority of participants are satisfied with the virtual format of the course (56.5% excellent and 38.6% good) as well as with the specialist-led session (56.8% excellent and 38.6% good) (Figure 6b). Being able to access to the cases before and after the session was value as useful and 95.7% would repeat course and format.

Conclusions:

We demonstrate the possibility to learn cytology using whole slide imaging cases. Virtual mode is an effective tool to increase participation between participants form different cities.



Figure 5. Distribution of assistants.

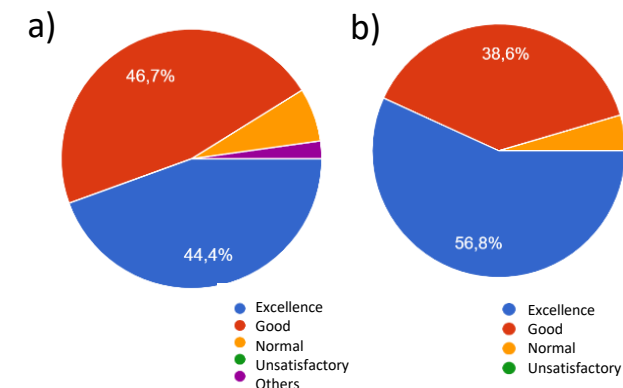


Figure 6. a) Satisfaction in the quality of the images, and b) satisfaction with the specialist-led session.