**Current Cytopathology Practices in Korea: A Nationwide Survey by the Korean Society for Cytopathology 2018**

Yosep Chong1,2, Sungam Kim1,2, Yoon Jung Choi1,4, Eunkyung Han1,5, Haeyoen Jung1,6, Soon Won Hong1, Hoon Kyu Oh1,4, The Fellowship Committee of Quality Improvement of the Korean Society for Cytopathology1

1The Committee of Quality Improvement of the Korean Society for Cytopathology; 2Department of Hospital Pathology, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul; 3Department of Pathology, Samsung Medical Laboratories, Seoul; 4Department of Pathology, National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital, Ilsan; 5Department of Pathology, Seoul Clinical Laboratories, Seoul; 6Department of Pathology, Eomche Reference Laboratories, Inchon; 7Department of Pathology, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul; 8Department of Pathology, Daejeo Catholic University, Daejeo, Republic of Korea

The purpose of this study
- This nationwide study presents the statistics representing the current cytopathology practices in Korea until 2018.
- This data will be valuable for predicting future changes of the cytopathologic practices in Korea.

The questionnaire
Annual 4 times of QA programs
17 members (1 CT)

This nationwide study presents the statistics for cytopathologic samples, inadequacy, gynecologic cytology diagnoses of gynecologic samples, inadequacy, gynecologic histology correlation data for 2018.

The diagnostic accuracy test using gynecologic slides and the sample adequacy assessment using 5 consequent gynecologic slides.

The Committee for Quality Improvement in the Korean Society for Cytopathology:
- 17 members (1 CT)
- 148~211 institutes have participated (211 in 2018)

**OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this study
- This nationwide study presents the statistics representing the current cytopathology practices in Korea until 2018.
- This data will be valuable for predicting future changes of the cytopathologic practices in Korea.

**METHODS**

The questionnaire collected from 211 cytopathologic laboratories.

- Annual statistics for cytopathologic samples, diagnoses of gynecologic samples, inadequacy, gynecologic cytology-histology correlation data for 2018.
- The diagnostic accuracy test using gynecologic slides and the sample adequacy assessment using 5 consequent gynecologic slides.

**RESULTS**

- Total cytopathologic exams are increasing (Ann. growth 7.2%).
- The non-GYN samples are gradually increasing (up to 24%).
- The cytopathologic exams covered by the commercial laboratories are increasing as well (38 to 78%).
- The LBP ratio is increasing in all samples except GYN and body fluid samples death in the commercial laboratories (above 20%).

**CONCLUSION**

- Average diagnosis concordant rate is about 85% with a major discrepancy rate being less than 1%.
- While the compliant rate is the highest in thyroid FNA (95%), it was lower in urine (85%), other FNA (83%), and the lowest in gynecology (78%).
- In this study, we found the continuous quality improvement using the annual survey and internal & external QC programs in the Korean society for cytopathology has been gradually attributing the better quality performance in cytopathology practices by enhancing the diagnostic accuracy.
- However, high ASC/SIL ratio in a few institutes should be further watched as the nationwide cancer incidence is decreasing.
- Active intervention and surveillance in quality control of each institution must be continued.