Synoptic Reporting for Hematopathology

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Introduction

Synoptic reporting has been implemented in multiple pathology subspecialties to improve efficiency, accuracy, and provide an adjunct learning tool for trainees in academic institutions. The College of American (CAP) synoptic reports provide easily accessible, practical cancer checklists to standardize surgical pathology reports. We have recently completed the implementation of a synoptic reporting system for all sections of hematopathology including: bone marrow aspirate and biopsy, flow cytometry, coagulation, lymph node pathology, and peripheral blood smear.

The synoptic reporting system was first introduced in July 2008 and was expanded through its completion in June 2011. The residents and fellows used the system since its origination to generate reports which were then reviewed by faculty before final verification. Evaluation of the synoptic reporting system in early phase of this project by users has been overwhelmingly positive with all users (20 out of 20) reporting a marked improvement in completeness of the reports, a significant reduction in typographic errors and turn-around-time (40%), greater accuracy, and favorable reviews regarding the effectiveness of the system. Our evaluation of the synoptic reporting system is still under progress to cover different panels in all sections.

Results

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Conclusion

We have demonstrated that a synoptic reporting system for hematopathology is practical, efficient, and effective at all training levels in our academic institution. It is our intention that this reporting system can be applied to multiple sections of hematopathology and help to standardize reporting for training purpose.