A Synoptic Reporting System for Peripheral Blood Smear Interpretation.

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INTRODUCTION

Checklists such as those provided by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) are frequently used to generate surgical pathology reports (1). Web-based synoptic reporting systems that incorporate such checklists have been shown to improve efficiency, reduce turnaround time, and decrease reporting errors (2). Synoptic systems for hematologic neoplasms and bone marrow reporting have also been described with similar results (3,4).

To date, such a system has not been described for the reporting of peripheral blood smear findings. Peripheral blood smear reports often encompass a broad spectrum of complex hematologic changes. This can be challenging both for practicing pathologists and pathology trainees attempting to create a peripheral blood smear report that is both accurate and concise while including all pertinent findings. Consequently, there is a need for such a system to aid in peripheral blood smear reporting and assisting trainees in rendering optimal peripheral blood smear reports.

DESIGN

We have developed a web-based synoptic reporting system that can be used alone or incorporated into a laboratory information system (LIS). The system contains a knowledge-base encompassing 150 peripheral blood smear report templates covering a wide range of findings.

The synoptic panel consists of 45 key findings seen in different cell types. Users access the system on the Internet (www.hemepathreview.com) and select relevant attributes from drop-down lists to obtain a short list of report templates with findings that match those of the case under consideration. These templates are used to create a draft which can then be edited online to create a final report.

REFERENCES