

Telecytology as a learning tool

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⌘ The aim of this project is a research as complete as possible of cytology web sites on Internet with educational purpose.

AIM

1) The research has been taken on *Google* search engine: www.google.com;

2) Search nouns as keyword: nouns had to be the most concise as possible. The used keywords are: cytology web sites, cytology atlas, cytology and cytopathology journal, and cytology societies;

Methods

1) *Sponsor, scientific society, personal web page, academic institution or commercial site*: whether a website is sponsored by a Society, a particular product or interest group, the owner of the web site. Personal web page web sites can list the author of the information and biographical information.

2) *Society*: the name of the involved Society.

3) *Purpose*: to provide educational information, professional advice, promoting the profession of cytologists, encouraging the science of cytology. Many web sites provide information on topics of interest to the owner, as well as tutorials or opinions.

4) *Topic*: FNA, gynaecologic or non-gynaecology cytology.

5) *Target groups*: whether the web site is recommended to cytologists, cytotechnologists, cytology trainees or students, laboratory personnel.

Criteria

6) *Access*: public, only registered members, any payment fees required.

7) *Educational resources*: each web site has been checked whether with or without educational purpose or to improve academic success.

8) *Imaging*: static or dynamic as virtual slides.

9) *Passive or interactive*: some web sites have just slides to look but no possibility to have an interactive approach. Other web sites allow the visitors to take quizzes or view solutions previously hidden, in order to test trainees or students.

Criteria

- ⌘ The number of web sites is about 671,000 results for each keyword. Sites with only histopathology have been excluded.
- ⌘ Based on the above mentioned criteria, the number of web sites considered adequate is 31.

Results

- ⌘ There are numerous web sites available
- ⌘ Aims are different
- ⌘ Few are available in multiple languages
- ⌘ Cytology is notoriously more difficult to comprehensively scan
- ⌘ Too few web sites are completely free to use
- ⌘ Few offer interactive e-training
- ⌘ However it is getting better all the time!

Conclusions