

Research paper 18

RP 18

Continuous grading of postgraduate trainees' performance reflects their success at the end of training formal assessment: a single-centre experienceB. A. G. G. Mahendra¹, D.S. Ediriweera², W.G. Hettiararchchi², S.J. De S. Hewavisenthi¹¹Department of Pathology, ²Centre for Health Informatics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Introduction: The web-based histopathology reporting system (WBHRS) used in the unit for routine histopathology reporting is utilized to monitor and evaluate the daily work of postgraduate trainees (PGT) by a continuous grading (CG) system.

Objectives: To assess the association between the CG of the PGT by the trainers and the results of the end of training formal assessment (ETFA) conducted by the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo.

Methodology: Reporting pathologists routinely assess each case reported by trainees with regard to the macroscopy, microscopy, diagnostic approach/accuracy and overall report writing, considering both the complexity of the case and level of training, using a predesigned four-scale grading system (excellent-A, good-B, average-C, below average-D). The data from January 2018 to April 2022 were collected from the WBHRS. The association between CG and success at the ETFA was assessed using an odds ratio.

Results: The performance of fourteen PGT (2-MDpart-I, 5-MDpart-II, 7-post MD) was included in the study. A total of 8019 cases were rated as A-117, B-3296, C-4381 and D-225. Twelve PGT got through MD part-1, and all seven got through MD part-II in their first attempt. Compared to PGT having "C" or "D" grades, those having "A" or "B" grades showed an odds ratio of 1.7 (1.4–4.0, P<0.001) of being successful at the ETFA.

Discussion and conclusion: The grades obtained during the training are a reliable indicator of the PGT's success at the ETFA. Therefore, if the WBHRS system is updated to alert the trainers on the PGT who obtain a higher number of "D" grades, this can be used as a guide for periodic counselling of the underperforming PGT to improve their weaknesses.

Keywords: postgraduate training, histopathology, assessments, continuous grading

Corresponding author: Prof Gayana Mahendra
Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
baggmahendra@yahoo.co.uk



This is an open access article licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). (CC BY-SA 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are attributed and materials are shared under the same license.