

Comment on: Histopathological assessment of the gallbladder after routine cholecystectomy is essential for high-quality healthcare

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Dear Editor

Dr Poller emphasized the need for routine histopathological assessment of the gallbladder after cholecystectomy¹, which is entirely different from the suggestion advocated by Bastiaenen *et al.* However, their discrepant opinions provided crucial references for clinicians owing to lack of common consensus regarding the relationship between safety and cost of selective histopathology following cholecystectomy.

No doubt, the pathology service is an essential component of any healthcare system, and medical decision-making extensively involves data generated from histopathological reports. However, the debate about routine histopathology arises from the reality of a shortage of experienced pathologists and the limitation of global healthcare resources. Thus, we should focus on solving these problems instead.

Devices for automatic specimen processing and staining have been used in pathology laboratories for some time. Moreover, many hospitals worldwide are now switching to digital pathology, which includes digitizing histopathological, immunohistochemical, or cytological slides using whole-slide scanners as well as data capturing, management, analysis, and interpretation of these digitized whole-slide images. Besides, integrating artificial intelligence (AI) application into digital pathology has considerable merits over traditional

practice, such as empowering spatial investigation while provoking highly accurate, unbiased, and persistent data retrieval that pathologists can approach remotely. This progress would ensure the identification of discrete malignancy, hidden from both the human eyes and touch. Thus, we advocate routine histopathology of cholecystectomy specimens.

More and more countries are granting funds to accelerate the acceptance of this technology. The significant effect of AI on healthcare, the lowered costs of digitalization, and the accessibility of digital images are now stimulants for digital pathology to succeed.

Adoption of this advanced technology in the pathology workflow is not going to take over the role of the pathologists but provides backup for them and enhances their ability to diagnose. This improved performance leads to better resource allocation and increases cost-effectiveness.

Disclosure

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Reference

1. Poller DN. Histopathological assessment of the gallbladder after routine cholecystectomy is essential for high-quality healthcare. *Br J Surg* 2022;**109**:299–300



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