ABPath CertLink® - Taking Great to Greater
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The American Board of Pathology (ABPath)

Background
ABPath CertLink (ABPCL) is a longitudinal assessment platform designed to support continuous learning and professional development. ABPCL is used to fulfill the assessment requirement for ABPath’s Continuing Certification (CC) Program.

Overview
The 2022 ABPCL End-of-Year Survey demonstrated a high degree of satisfaction from diplomates participating in the ABPCL program. It also identified opportunities for improvement that include keeping items up-to-date with new practice guidelines, improving image quality, and introducing new material. ABPath is implementing a sustainable and continuous quality improvement initiative that will deliver current and relevant content, higher-quality images, and the timely presentation of new content in the rapidly evolving field of pathology. The survey results and a description of the improvement process design are presented.

2022 ABPCL End-of-Year Survey Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABPath helps identify knowledge gaps.</td>
<td>2,693</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPCL helps me stay current in my specialty.</td>
<td>2,680</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPCL questions are useful learning tools.</td>
<td>2,669</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with the ABPCL platform.</td>
<td>2,670</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPCL question difficulty was appropriate.</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPCL questions assessed my judgment, going beyond factual recall.</td>
<td>2,656</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective
To implement a Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) process that supports CertLink’s goal of being an assessment of learning... for learning.

Survey Comments
The questions are good. Keep up the good work! This is an outstanding and essential tool in maintaining proficiency while earning CME!
Many of the images were blurry and of very low quality. Also, some of the questions were poorly worded.
Test questions need better review, there were a couple that were blatantly incorrect.
ABPath has done a great job making this process professionally relevant and educational.

Plan to Improve – The Rebuild Phase

The Maintenance Phase
After a sustainable 2-year pool of thoroughly-vetted items has been established, ABPath will transition to a QA/QI of the existing items and introduce new content every six months.

Future Considerations
• Administration of unscored items... for learning
• Journal article-based questions
• Virtual microscopy functionality
• PROF, SBP, and PBLI competency content introduction