

e-mail communication from Barbara Keller:  
Statistics are attached:

"PROS/CONS"

PROS-

- a. The most important "pro" of the Maryland Cytology Proficiency Testing Program (MCPTP) is the identification of a group of pathologists with a high failure rate, pathologists that do not work in concert with a cytotechnologist (see statistics). Due to the few number of gyn cytology slides they see throughout the year, these pathologists are not able to maintain their proficiency and consequently fail the test. Pathologists are not trained to locate cells, as cytotechnologists are, also accounting for the high failure rate.
- b. Pathologists who fail and do not have the interest or the capability to continue to sign out gyn cytology withdraw from the program and remove themselves from signing out gyn cytology slides in the future.
- c. The logistics of operating the MCPTP results in very few problems. This could be because we are a smaller program run by one person. There are no communication problems between the labs and the coordinator. There is mutual earned respect between the laboratory personnel and the coordinator. Both parties do their best to ensure that the testing process is painless and not obtrusive.
- d. The MCPTP conducts their tests on site. This ensures that the proper individuals are tested and that no consultations between examinees takes place.
- e. The passing rate and scoring grid is appropriate. The percent of failures and the decline in failure rates over time reflects a believable standard.

CONS-

- a. The complaint I receive the most is having to continually take the test annually even after having passed the test for a number of years. My suggestion would be to have the test given every other year after the examinee has successfully participated in the test for five years in a row. If a year is missed or a failure takes place, the examinee is tested annually again until the test is passed for the next five years.
- b. There is a possibility that a person could "fall thru the cracks" by changing employment and the new employer not guaranteeing that the new hire has successfully taken the test within the last year.