

**EQA SCHEME IN GENERAL HISTOPATHOLOGY**Supported by the Faculty of Pathology, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

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**GENERAL NOTES**

The answer sheet may be saved onto your desktop as a Word document and your responses entered into the saved document.

Please **return the completed saved document by email to [histo@ieqas.ie](mailto:histo@ieqas.ie)**. Returning documents by email enhances confidentiality.

Please **enter your PIN** and the date you completed your response on **each page** of the answer sheet.

**HOW TO ENTER YOUR RESPONSES**

Members are asked to select cases for EQA purposes on the criterion that a single working diagnosis should be possible on the basis of the H&E section provided, in conjunction with the accompanying details.

Therefore, ideally **you should offer a single working diagnosis as your response for each case**, ignoring the weighting column and the boxes marked 2. and 3.

Some respondents feel that they cannot offer a single diagnosis for a given case and that in their opinion a differential diagnosis is more appropriate. If this is the case, up to three differential diagnoses may be offered but if respondents provide a differential diagnosis instead of a single working diagnosis, this must be submitted giving a relative weighting to each of the differential diagnoses, such that the relative weightings offered add up to 10. If a differential diagnosis is offered without a weighting, an equal weighting will be assumed.

Any other comments with additional information you may wish to offer, additional studies you think desirable, regarding the quality of the material or the appropriateness of the case may be entered in the 'Comments' section only. However, **the 'Comments' section is recorded only and not scored.**

**Responses will be scored** (taking account of the weighting given if there is a differential diagnosis offered) as follows:

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Correct or acceptable response  |
| 0.5 | Responses that are incomplete or deficient or contain a minor error of no clinical significance |
| 0   | Incorrect response  |

For a diagnosis to be deemed correct/acceptable, there must be at least 80% agreement among members' responses on a correct/acceptable response. Otherwise the case is considered unsuitable for EQA scoring purposes and each response is arbitrarily scored as 1.

An hypothetical example of a case with different responses submitted and how these were scored is attached.

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**Submitting responses and scoring of responses: an hypothetical example of a case**

Case: skin tumour on face, submitted as trichoepithelioma.

**Response No 1**

Diagnosis	Weighting (only if necessary; must add up to 10)
1. Trichoepithelioma	
2.	
3.	

**Response No 2**

Diagnosis	Weighting (only if necessary; must add up to 10)
1. Benign skin tumour	
2.	
3.	

**Response No 3** (differential diagnosis offered, each diagnosis must be given a relative weighting, the total of the weightings adding up to 10)

Diagnosis	Weighting (only if necessary; must add up to 10)
1. Basal cell carcinoma	8
2. Trichoepithelioma	2
3.	

**Response No 4** (differential diagnosis offered, each diagnosis must be given a relative weighting, the total of the weightings adding up to 10)

Diagnosis	Weighting (only if necessary; must add up to 10)
1. Trichoepithelioma	5
2. Benign skin tumour	5
3.	

**Response No 5**

Diagnosis	Weighting (only if necessary; must add up to 10)
1. Basal cell carcinoma	
2.	
3.	

At the participants' meeting:

- >80% of responses are of trichoepithelioma; this response is judged correct and is scored 1
- Benign skin tumour is considered only partly correct and is scored 0.5
- Basal cell carcinoma is considered incorrect and is scored 0

**Scoring of response no. 1 = 1**

**Scoring of response no. 2 = 0.5**

**Scoring of response no. 3 = 0.2**

First differential diagnosis, basal cell carcinoma = 0, weighting 8 out of 10 = score 0x0.8 = **0**

Second differential diagnosis, trichoepithelioma = 1, weighting 2 out of 10 = score 1x0.2 = **0.2**

**Scoring of response no. 4 = 0.75**

First differential diagnosis, trichoepithelioma = 1, weighting 5 out of 10 = score 1x0.5 = **0.5**

Second differential diagnosis, benign skin tumour = 0.5, weighting 5 out of 10 = score 0.5x0.5 = **0.25**

**Scoring of response no. 5 = 0**