



2018-2019

BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Small Biopsy in Cytopathology Task Force

Description: Core needle or forceps biopsies are being increasingly introduced as an adjunct in the diagnostic workup of patients presenting with mass lesions in various visceral sites and soft tissues. A successful procurement of these “small biopsies” often depends on an immediately preceding FNA onsite assessment, guiding the clinician/radiologist to the ideal location for targeting the tissue biopsy sample. However, in many practices cytopathology loses the ownership of such samples as well as the billing rights for a variety of reasons and such biopsies are then reported separately from the FNA cases by Surgical Pathology .

This special task force will investigate the underlying reasons for the prevailing issue in clinical practice and propose a strategy so that Cytopathology would retain the assessment/reporting and billing of these small biopsy samples.

2018-2019 Initiatives

- Survey and investigate the issue of small biopsy reporting and billing when done separately from a concurrently performed FNA procedure in cases of pancreas, lung, salivary gland and soft tissue lesions. Advise the board about strategies as to how Cytopathology practices could retain these small biopsy samples.
- Prepare a “white paper” to be published online as well in the JASC by November 2019.

Small Biopsy in Cytology Task Force

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