

LABORATORY MEDICINE/ ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

Definition	<p>Involves the diagnosis of the presence or absence of diseases by gross and microscopic examination of tissues removed from living or dead persons. It also involves cytological examination of exfoliated cells from surfaces or lumens of organs, fluids, secretions, as well as aspirated cells from solid organs.</p> <p>It covers Histopathology, Cytopathology, Autopsy and Forensic Pathology. It may also cover Molecular Pathology.</p>
Scope of Practice	<p>Anatomical pathologists are medical specialists who examine organs, tissues, and cells to determine the causes and effects of the disease. Anatomic pathology primarily consists of tissue evaluation—from individual cells from a Pap smear, a fine needle aspiration of a mass, or evaluation of the entire body in an autopsy, and everything in between.</p> <p>The anatomical pathologist's skills are fundamental to medical diagnosis, patient management, and research.</p> <p>Anatomic pathology includes gross dissection, macroscopic examination, and histologic evaluation of specimens, as well as preparation and interpretation of frozen sections. Gross dissection, or grossing of specimens, is the process by which specimens are prepared for processing, and then specimens are rendered into slides, from which a histologic diagnosis can be made.</p> <p>Cytopathology is the study of diseases on a cellular level, including examination of cells in: Pap smears, Fine-needle aspirations of masses, and Fluids such as pleural fluid or ascitic fluid from the abdomen. The cells obtained from body secretions and fluids, by scraping, washing, or sponging the surface of a lesion, or by the aspiration of a tumour mass or body organ with a fine needle, is examined under the microscope. A major aspect of a cytopathologist's practice is the interpretation of Papanicolaou-stained smears of cells from the female reproductive system (the "Pap" test). However, the cytopathologist's expertise is applied to the diagnosis of cells from all systems and areas of the body and in consultation with all medical specialists to distinguish malignant from benign, classify cells based on origin, and ultimately direct further action (or inaction) for the patient.</p> <p>This subspecialty also allows pathologists to use small amounts of patient tissue/specimen to make a diagnosis or to triage appropriate testing, and it provides opportunities for direct patient care. Cytopathologists can focus on their area of interest, but it's imperative that they keep themselves updated by constantly improving their research and education.</p> <p>Forensic pathology: Perform autopsies to determine cause of death.</p> <p>A forensic pathologist is an expert in investigating and evaluating cases of sudden, unexpected, suspicious, and violent death, as well as other specific classes of death defined by law. The forensic pathologist serves the public as coroner or medical examiner, or by performing medicolegal autopsies for such officials.</p>
Privileges	<p>An anatomical pathologist is eligible to be a director of an anatomical pathology unit inside a medical laboratory, or to work as an anatomical pathologist in an anatomical pathology unit.</p> <p>Anatomical pathologists are not eligible to lead a medical laboratory alone; they must work together with a licensed clinical pathology doctor.</p>
References	DHP Experts
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