

# An Evaluation of the Utility and Efficiency of PathPresenter as a Method of Presenting Digital Surgical Pathology Unknown Conferences

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## BACKGROUND

The Surgical Pathology Unknown Conference (SPUC) is a widely used and key educational tool for training in the field of Anatomic Pathology. As resident programs grow in number of trainees, as well as in size of medical campuses, the standard method of using glass slides for the preparation and presentation of SPUCs is becoming more difficult. The ability to make digital copies of slides resolves several of those difficulties; however, it also creates caveats of its own, such as the necessity for specialized scanners, computer software, and storage solutions. There are several commercial platforms available that aim to aid in this process, and experience is being gained from their implementation. Although these are potential advancements in educational paradigms, little is known about how the end user (residents) prefer these advancements. Our study evaluated the online platform PathPresenter for presenting SPUCs compared to digital image review using base Aperio, versus the traditional glass slide model.

## DESIGN

- Residents were presented with a series of SPUCs using PathPresenter, Aperio base, and traditional glass slides.
- Residents were surveyed regarding preferences in key categories on a scale of 1 to 10 for each of the three methods
  - Likelihood to prepare
  - Access to slides
  - Preparation efficiency
  - Retention
  - Likelihood to review
  - Participation
  - Slide visibility & quality
  - Overall presentation flow
- Overall preference of method also given
- Comparison of methods by t-test, assuming unequal variances with alpha value of 0.05

## EXAMPLE SPUC QUESTION

- Scan with any mobile device



## RESULTS

- Responses received from 16 residents
- Statistically significant higher preference for PathPresenter over Original slides in categories of:
  - Likelihood to prepare
  - Access to slides
  - Preparation efficiency
  - Likelihood to review retrospectively
  - Participation
  - Slide visibility & quality during presentation
  - Overall presentation flow
- Statistically significant higher preference for PathPresenter over Aperio in categories of:
  - Access to slides
  - Slide visibility & quality during presentation
  - Overall presentation flow (Figure 1)
- For overall preference, 14 residents preferred PathPresenter and 2 had no preference (Figure 2)

## DISCUSSION

Given the results of this small, single-program study, if already producing digital slides for surgical pathology unknown conferences, PathPresenter may provide additional utility, including increased quality of experience, better flow of presentation, and overall access to materials. How and when to utilize digital slide software is an important topic for residencies to discuss.

Figure 2, Overall Preference

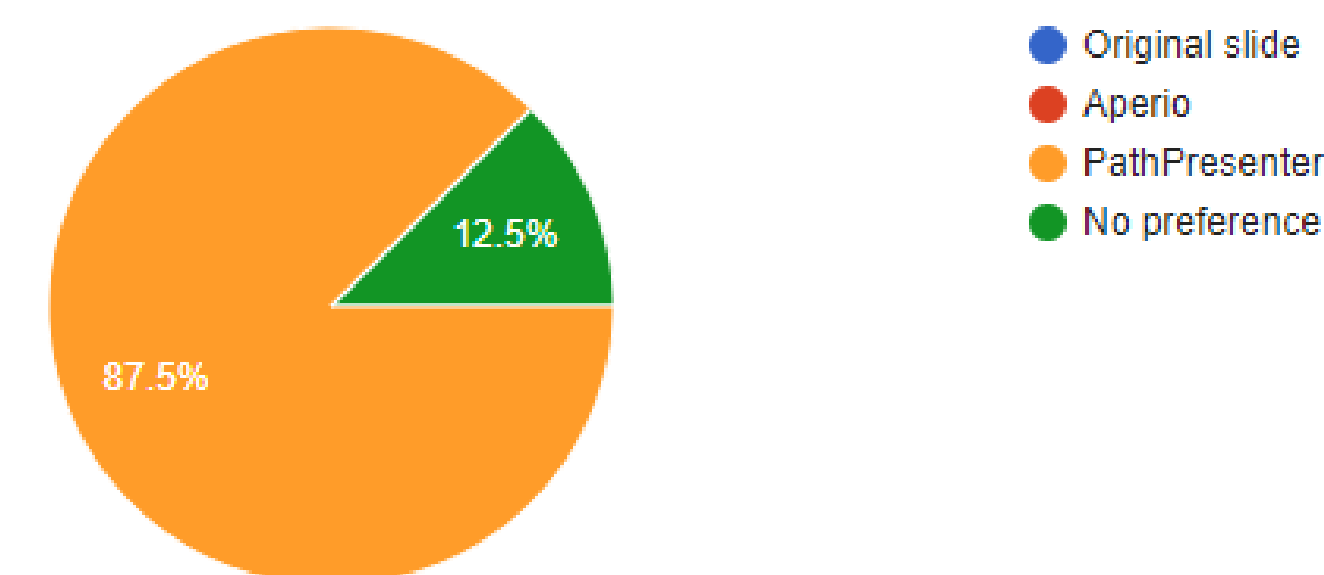
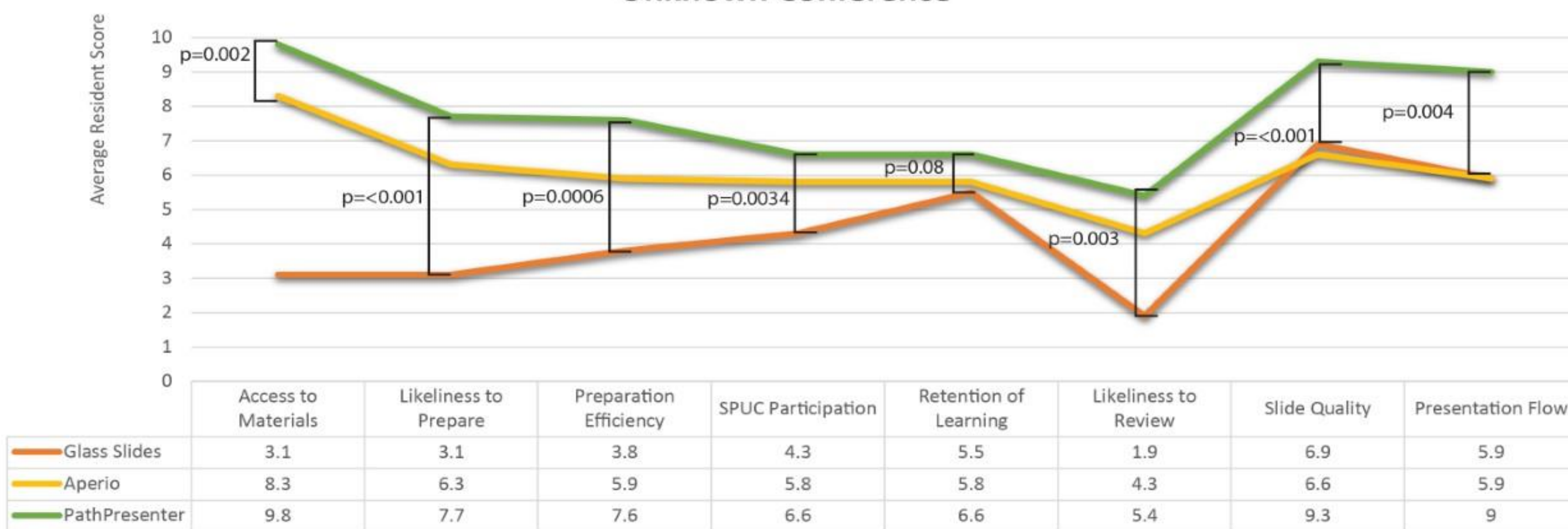


Figure 1, Resident Feedback

Resident Feedback on PathPresenter as a Mechanism of Surgical Pathology Unknown Conference



Average Scores Tabulated from 16 Responses