Reviewer's report

Title: Current usage and future trends in Gross Digital Photography in Canada.

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Reviewer: George Yousef

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Current usage and future trends in gross digital pathology in Canada by Horn et al.

This is an interesting study in which the authors surveyed a number of pathology laboratories across Canada to assess the current utilization and future potential usage of digital imaging for pathology gross specimens. Interestingly, the results show that digital photography is utilized at most institutions in Canada by both pathologists and pathology assistants. The authors identify a number of current applications future new prospects for the use of digital imaging. The importance of the study stems from the fact that pathology informatics and digital pathology is becoming a hot topic in pathology practice and recent trends worldwide point out to the steadily increased utilization of pathology informatics. It is important to define a specific application for this technology.

Minor comments
1. Few typographical and grammatical errors need to be fixed, for example the third line of the background section should read as “macroscopic and microscopic levels”.
2. The Conclusion section (page 10) is better labeled as “Discussion and Conclusion”.
3. It will be useful if the authors also mention the recent establishment of pathology informatics interest group that is directed through the Canadian Association of Pathologists as an initiative to organize the pathology informatics activities across the entire country.
4. The first part of the Result section is a little confusing (86.2% vs. 90% vs 86.2% and again 90%). These 2 sentences appear to be repetitive.
5. The third paragraph of page 8 appears little confusion (30% vs. 1.7% for the routine use of digital pathology).
6. In Figure 4, the authors need to clarify the difference between the concerns about the image quality vs. the diagnostic quality.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests