ON-LINE CERTIFICATION PLATFORM FOR COLPOSCOPISTS ENGAGED IN CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME IN POLAND

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES:

Coverage and quality at each step of cervical cancer screening are the most important factors determining its effectiveness. In the last decade substantial progress has been made in quality assurance (QA) of colposcopy in many parts of the world. Certification may be a part of a comprehensive QA process in colposcopy. Here we present a description of an on-line certification platform for colposcopists working in CC screening in Poland and initial results from its roll-out phase.

METHODS:

Each year new set of single-choice questions based on cases including colpophotograms and clinical data, selected and agreed on by country-renowned experts in colposcopy are implemented into the platform. Colposcopists log into the platform and answer randomly presented questions within seven days without the possibility to reevaluate already answered questions. By now, two editions were performed, in 2020 and 2021. The platform also contains an educational part consisting of cases e.g. from previous editions. Participation is voluntary but will be obligatory from 2025 for all colposcopists working in the screening programme in Poland.

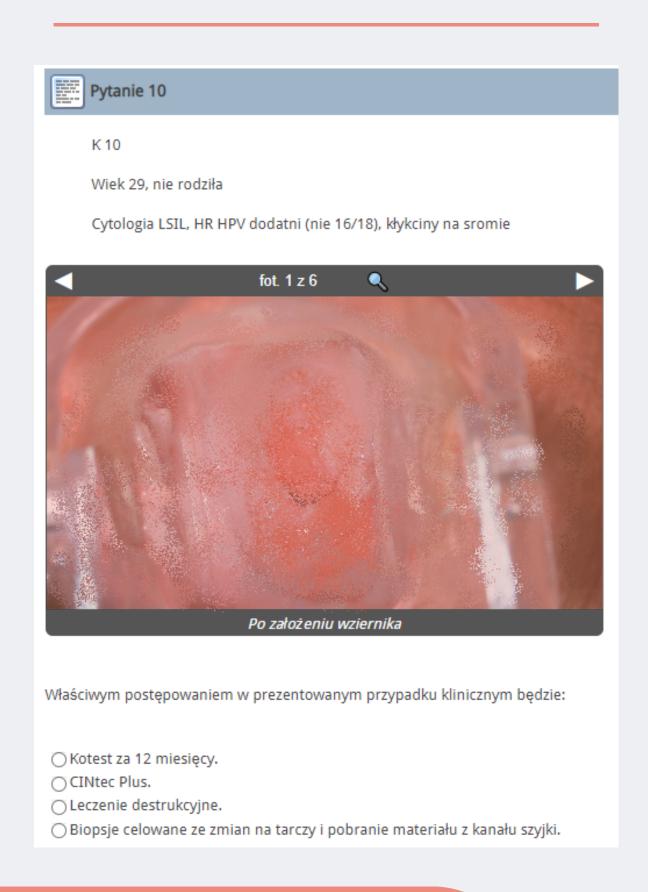
RESULTS:

8 and 26 colposcopists undertook voluntary certification in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Edition	Score		
	Min.	Max.	Average
2020	41,47 %	85,10 %	59,16 %
2021	44,03 %	81,27 %	70,73 %

CONCLUSIONS:

The use of an on-line certification platform for colposcopists is feasible in Poland as a part of the QA process. Obligatory participation should result in a full up-take of the platform among colposcopists who wish to work in the screening program. Because certification results below 50% occur, continuous training of colposcopists is required. Comparing results from certification platform with real-life colposcopy performance indicators in the screening program will make it possible to find out whether certification scores correlate with clinical performance.



CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

AUTHORS DECLARE NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST RELEVANT TO THIS ARTICLE.

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