

**TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
DEPARTMENT OF CYTOPATHOLOGY
EQAS-DIAGNOSTIC CYTOPATHOLOGY**

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Cytopathology Tata Memorial Hospital was established in 1951, by Dr. D. J. Jussawala, former Director of Tata Memorial Centre and Founder Honorary Secretary of Indian Cancer Society. The laboratory was started as a collaborative effort of the Indian Cancer Society and the Medical Division of the Department of Atomic Energy. The Department of Cytopathology became part of Tata Memorial Centre in May 1972 and merged with the Department of Pathology in February 1978.

It was accredited by the Indian Academy of Cytologists in 1980 as a laboratory offering specialized diagnostic services and later in 1984 as a training and examination centre in Cytopathology.

Professional competency of Cytopathologists and Cytotechnologists is vital for offering accurate diagnosis. Competency can be assessed by regular and periodic proficiency tests. Participation in External Quality Assurance Scheme (EQAS) is one of the pre-requisites for accreditation and quality control. However, EQAS Cytopathology service is not readily available in India.

Considering the need of EQAS Cytopathology in India, the Department of Cytopathology, TMH initiated this service in 2007 with only a few participants. Over the years this program has grown extensively and at present, more than 300 laboratories (400 participants) from all over India are registered for this programme. Currently the programme covers the diagnostic aspects in cytopathology. Since 2016, two cycles of EQAS Diagnostic Cytopathology per year have been introduced.

Although started as free of cost in 2007, the EQAS Cytopathology has become a paid service since 2013.

Institute/Participants have to pay one time enrollment fee of Rs. 5000/- + Rs. 900/- (@18% GST) = Rs. 5900/- (Rupees Five Thousand and Nine Hundred only) and annual service charge of Rs. 2000/- + Rs. 360/- (@18% GST) = Rs. 2360/- (Rupees Two Thousand and Three Hundred Sixty only) per participant.

This amount is Non-refundable & Non-transferable.

**EQAS Diagnostic Cytopathology Service Charges for the Year 2022
FOR NEW REGISTRATION**

Particulars	Amount	GST @ 18%	Total Amount (Rs.)
Registration fee (One-time payment)	5000/-	900/-	5900/-

For New Registration	Registration fee + GST @ 18%	Annual fee for signatory + GST @ 18%	Total Amount (Rs.)
Registration fee + One signatory	5900/-	2360/-	8,260/-
Registration fee + Two signatories	5900/-	4720/-	10,620/-
Registration fee + Three signatories	5900/-	7080/-	12,980/-
Registration fee + Four signatories	5900/-	9440/-	15,340/-
Registration fee + Five signatories	5900/-	11800/-	17,700/-
Registration fee + Six signatories	5900/-	14,160/-	20,060/-

RENEWAL SERVICE CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 2022

Particulars	Amount	GST @ 18%	Total Amount (Rs.)
One signatory	2000/-	360/-	2360/-
Two signatories	4000/-	720/-	4720/-
Three signatories	6000/-	1080/-	7080/-
Four signatories	8000/-	1440/-	9440/-
Five signatories	10000/-	1800/-	11800/-

For payment please go to our official website www.tmc.gov.in or click on this direct link https://tmc.gov.in/m_conference_new/Conference/Onlinereg?confid=6762

Payment can be made either by Credit card, Debit Card only.

Net banking option is not available for this purpose.

Renewal charges have to be paid in December every year for the continuity of EQAS membership for the next year.

Kindly note that the payment will be accepted only for individual labs/institute.

Combined payments for multiple labs/institute will not be accepted.

If any laboratory / institute wishes to get more than one signatory evaluated, a sum of Rs. 2360/- (Rs. 2000/- + Rs. 360/- @18% GST) (Two Thousand and Three Hundred Sixty Rupees only) per each additional signatory will be charged. Those interested may please send us the details of the additional signatories (Name, Qualification, Designation, Email ID, Mobile No.) as early as possible.

Only registered participant will be allowed to evaluate the slides. In the absence of registered participant no other person will be allowed to evaluate the slides.

At the time of slide evaluation, separate evaluation forms should be sent by each signatory if more than one signatory is registered for evaluation. The feedback for each evaluation form will be provided separately.

EQAS Diagnostic Cytopathology is an annual program which starts by 1st January and ends by 31st December every year. The program consists of circulating a set of actual cytology slides (gynaec, non-gynaec and FNAC cases) among the participants. The pertinent clinical data and format of evaluation is sent to the registered email ID of the participant. After evaluation, the slide box is to be couriered from one participant to another as per the schedule intimated to the participants.

At the time of evaluation, participants should NOT label the slides or should NOT put any mark on the slide.

Since the same slide box is circulated to all the participants, it is absolutely necessary that the slides should be **evaluated within 2 working days of receipt of the same**, so as to maintain the continuity of the cycle among all participants within 1 year. The slide box has to be transported carefully so that the glass slides should remain intact. In case any participant receives glass slide in broken condition, kindly inform program co-ordinator immediately at (cytology@tmc.gov.in) and also the previous participant, so that the reason for the breakage can be found out.

The list of participants will be formed as per geographical distribution of the labs to facilitate fast transport. The reception of slide box and generating feedback reports will be completed within the same year. However, the time of receiving the slide box may depend on the number of participant in the same year. Each participant will be intimated the list of participants and tentative schedule of their turn.

Kindly note that the duly filled evaluation forms should be submitted to us by email (cytology@tmc.gov.in) within a period of **2 days** of receiving the slide box. Delayed evaluation forms may not be considered for the analysis and feedback.

During the cycle, (Jan-Dec 2022) if there is any change in the email id, Mobile No., name and address of the participating lab and the signatory please inform us well in advance to ensure the smooth transport of the slide box from one participant to another.

It has been observed that, the signatory of the lab / institute registered with us for the EQAS often leaves the lab without proper hand over/take over with the new signatory, resulting in unexpected delay. Therefore, all participants are requested to inform us any change in the signatory, well in advance to prevent the logistics problems.

TMH-EQAS Cytopathology also includes regular CMEs for participants as an appropriate corrective measure for the diagnostic errors. It offers the participant a platform not only to assess professional competency among fellow participants but also provides opportunity to update and share the knowledge and skills in the field of clinical cytopathology. The CME program also aims to educate practicing pathologists and cytotechnologists who are not registered EQAS members.

TMH EQAS Cytopathology also provides opportunity for re-screening the slides for participants with scores average or below average. However, the requirement needs to be pre-confirmed as per the convenience of participant and TMH.

Kindly mark your envelopes / email with **"EQAS Diagnostic Cytopathology"** while sending any EQAS correspondence to TMH.

The feedback will be sent to the participant after the evaluation forms are received by us.

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For any queries / suggestion kindly email at cytology@tmc.gov.in

With warm regards

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