



Virtual Microscopy 2009 DVD Participant Satisfaction Survey

prepared by

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Date of issue: December 2009



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Introduction

The RCPA QAP Pty Ltd is committed to providing services to enhance education, training and continuing professional development in Pathology. Virtual microscopy has been established in some countries as a valuable tool for these purposes, and we are proud to be able to offer this service to our participants and the wider scientific community. One aspect of this service is the production of digital versions of the morphology survey slides of the General Haematology program. These images can be delivered on DVDs.

Purpose

In November 2009 a DVD containing images of the October morphology survey slides was dispatched to all subscribers of the Haematology morphology program. Participants were asked to examine the images and complete a questionnaire about that experience. All instructions and clinical histories were provided on the same DVD.

Results

DVDs were dispatched to 525 laboratories, but only 14 completed the questionnaire.

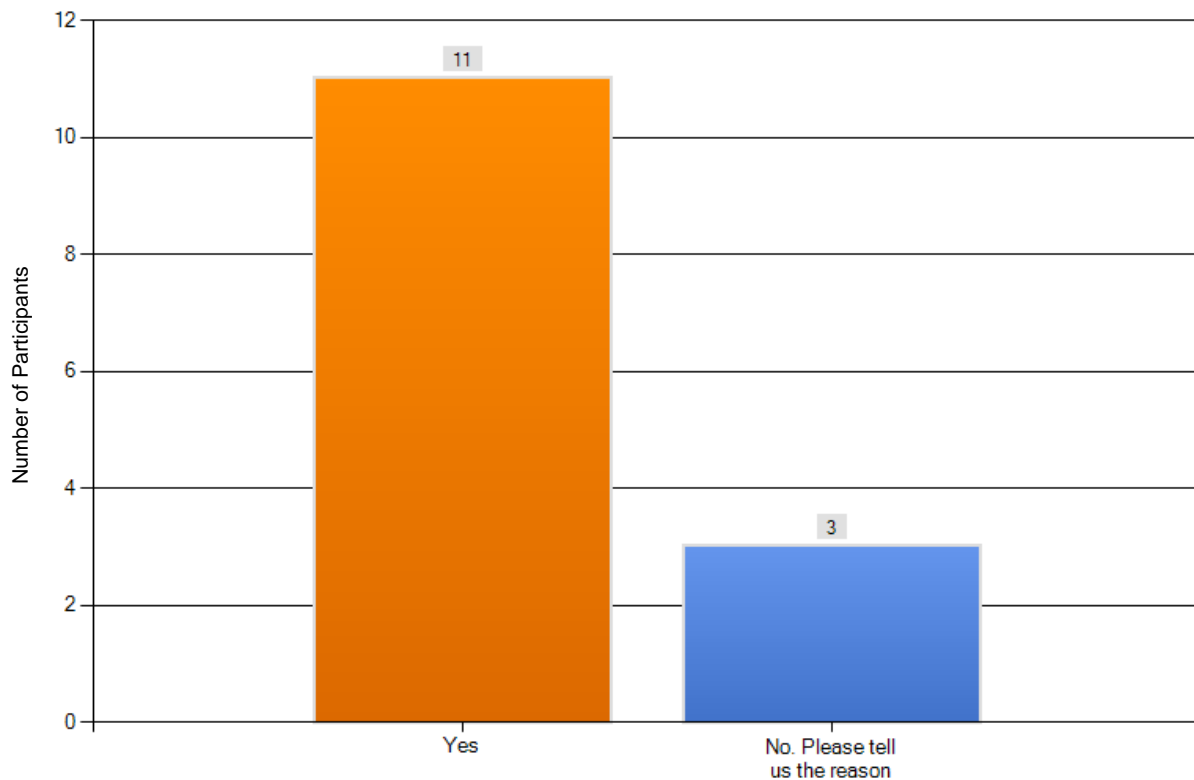
The results are summarised below.

Question 1 was a request for the participant number



Question 2

Did you copy the contents of the DVD onto your computer hard disc and view these COPIED images?

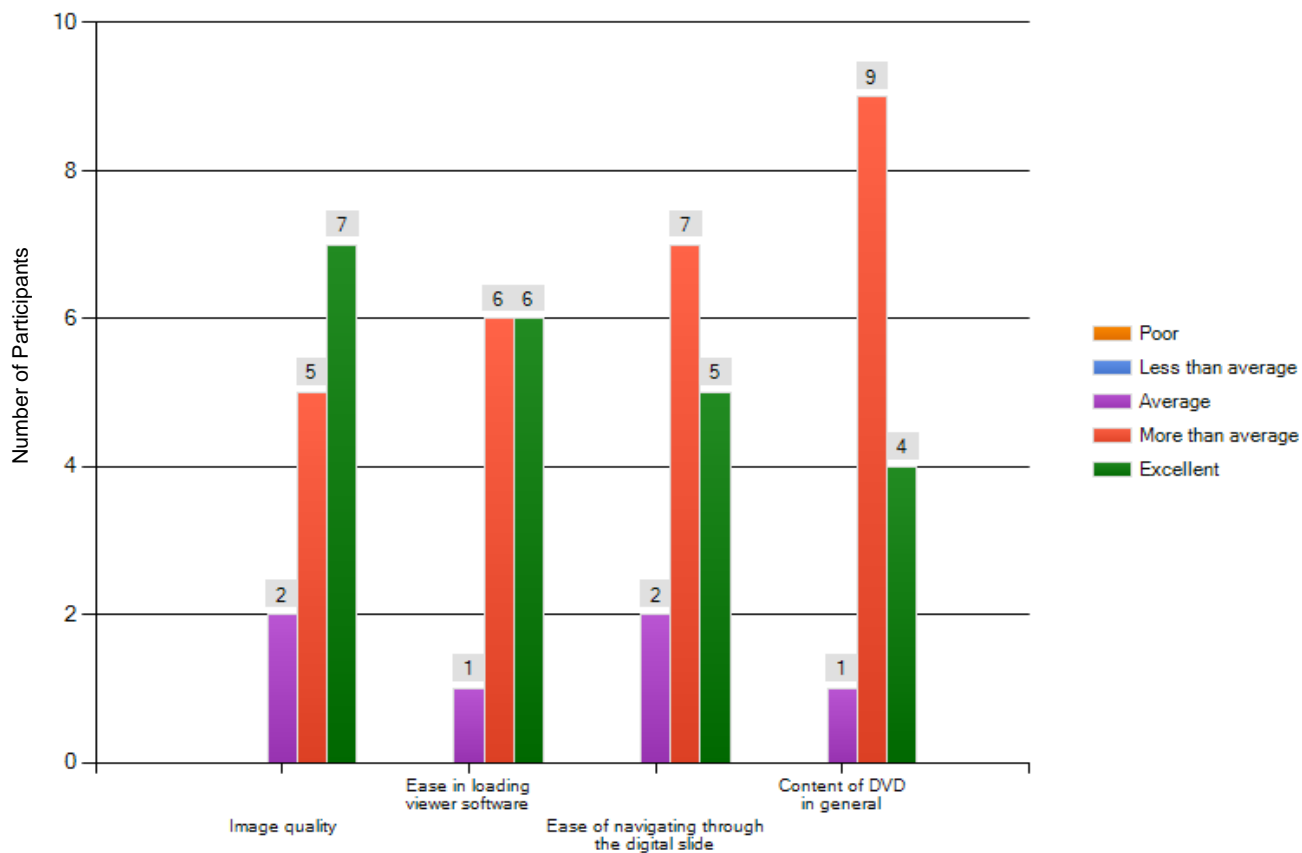


Participants who did not copy the contents of the DVD onto their hard disc stated that the information was easily accessed from the DVD.



Question 3

Please rate the following:

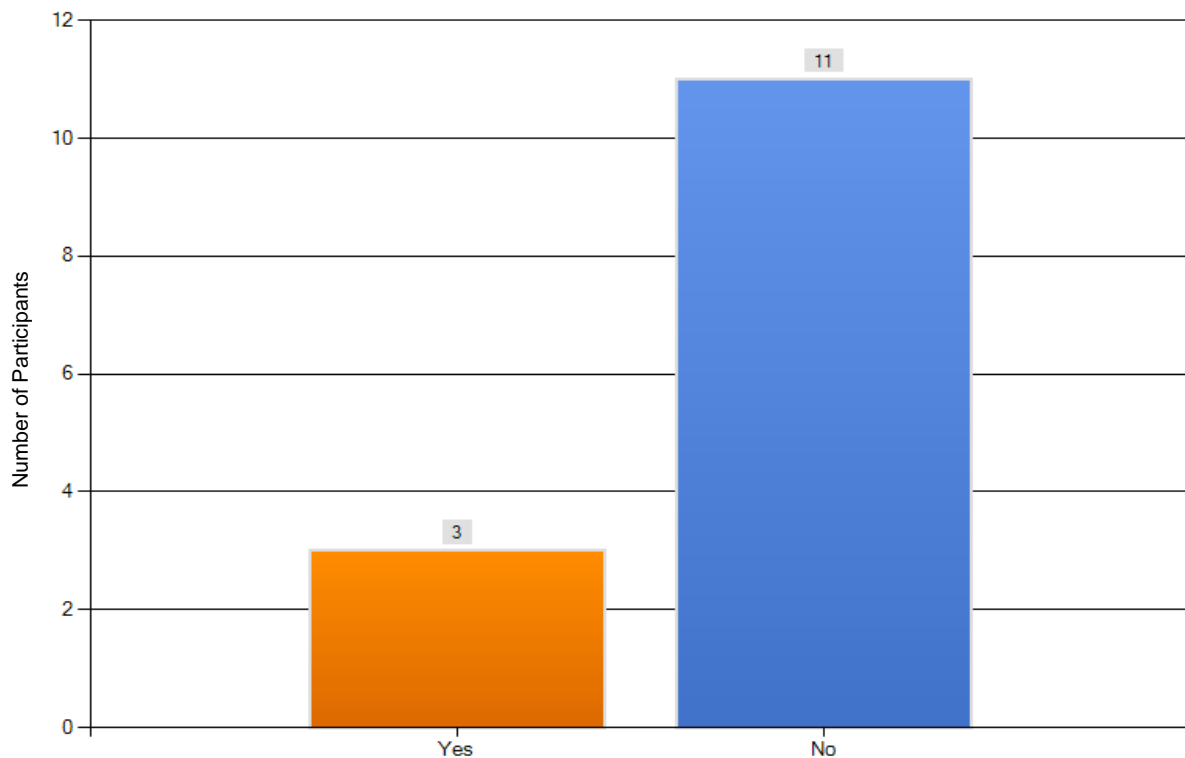


The majority of participants rated the image quality, ease of loading software, ease of navigation through the digital slide and the contents of the DVD in general as “more than average” to “excellent”.



Question 4

Would you prefer online viewing of the digital images?

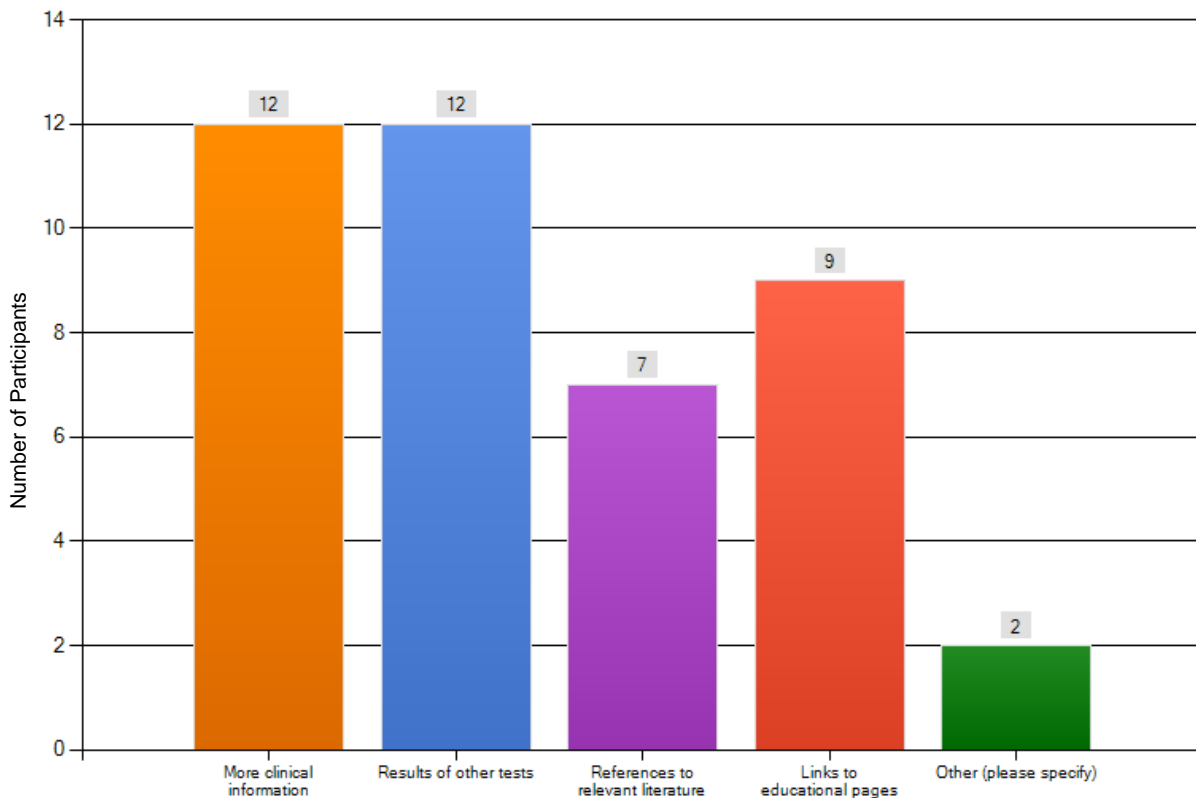


The majority of participants indicated that they would prefer not to view the digital images online.



Question 5

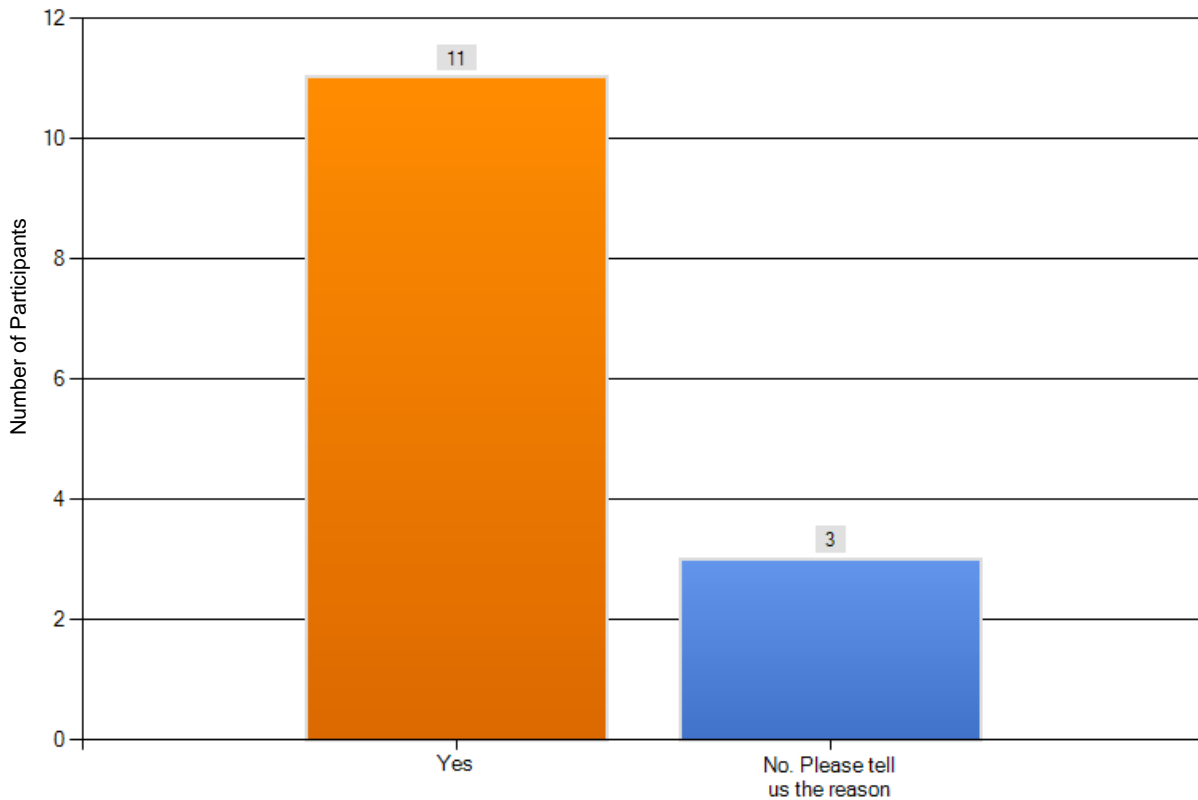
Please indicate any additional material that you would find useful on a virtual microscopy DVD.





Question 6

Would you be interested in subscribing to digital slides of new cases (i.e. case studies other than the morphology survey case studies) on DVD?

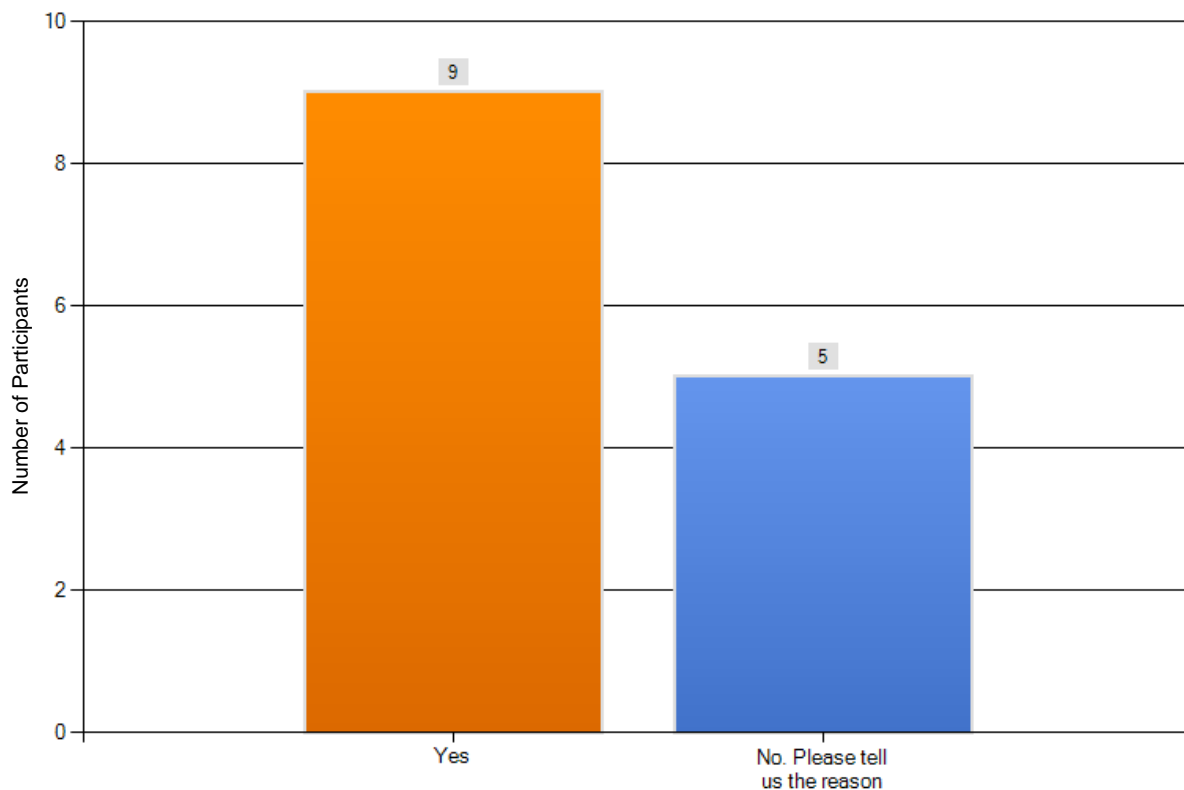


The majority of participants indicated interest in subscribing to digital slides of new cases on DVD. Those who were not interested expressed concerns of the costs involved.



Question 7

Would you be interested in subscribing to digital slides of new cases (i.e. case studies other than morphology survey case studies) online?



The majority of participants indicated interest in subscribing to digital slides of new cases online. Those who were not interested expressed concerns of the costs and internet issues they encounter at times.



Discussion

The feedback was positive in relation to the image quality, viewing software and contents of the DVD. The majority of participants preferred not to receive on-line delivery of these materials mainly due to concerns about support from their own IT systems, as well as the costs of internet usage. Most participants surveyed were interested in subscriptions to digital slides of survey cases either on DVD or online.

The overwhelming majority were in favour of digital slides on DVD as an educational tool as well as an adjunct to the morphology program, with a desire to still receive glass slides to assess their staff's competency in reading blood films.

Conclusion

Only 14 of 525 laboratories participated in this survey.

This response was too small to influence significant changes in the contents of the DVD. Based on these responses however, we will review the amount of clinical information and extra results provided with each case. The provision of links to educational sites and literature will be discussed at the next Morphology Review meeting.