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Never stop wondering. When cells become art on the slides.

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BACKGROUND

The Victoria's Cells project emerged from the need to enhance the training of healthcare personnel and to guide patients through their understanding of diseases with comfort and compassion. By transforming cellular images into art, we create a bridge between scientific knowledge and emotional accessibility, using color and shape to make the reality of illness more palatable.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cytological pictures, including Papanicolaou staining, processed with conventional and liquid-based cytology (LBC).

RESULTS

The resulting images serve as powerful visual tools that communicate the significance of studying cells and their diagnostic roles. They emphasize the importance of prevention, which is our strongest weapon in the fight against disease. By merging science and art, we reframe cellular images into captivating works of art. These representations, though emotionally striking, break down barriers of fear and address even the most uncomfortable aspects of illness in a thought-provoking manner.

Visual analogies facilitate an internal journey for patients and students alike, easing their experiences with disease. Participants express fascination with this artistic interpretation, particularly the section featuring atypical cells that resemble monsters, eyes, or grotesque tongues. This imaginative approach fosters a more conscious and engaged collective commitment to building a healthier future, reminding us that health is our most valuable asset. For instance, a mycetes resembling a starfish and helps to understand fungal infections just as a turtle or a dog symbolise a viral infections. An eagle of atypical cells make you look down in a positive way, while other cellular images provide educational insights, each carrying its own empathetic meaning.

DISCUSSION

Cytopathology is fundamentally a visual science. Various initiatives have explored the artistic dimensions of cytological patterns and morphology, using these images to promote the intersection of art and cytology during conferences and on social media. This current project is a novel tool for those engaged in oncological prevention, merging the scientific and artistic visions of cytopathologist Dr. Vittoria Lombardo.

The project employs a simple yet engaging language that draws parallels between cellular images and the real world. Utilizing visual aids for educational purposes is not new in medicine; for example, sculptures have long served anatomical learning.

A fetus composed of orangeophilic squamous cells symbolizes this project, showcasing the blend of science and art.

Conclusions: Recognizing and appreciating visual representations can simplify and enhance the study of cytology, ultimately promoting prevention and treatment. This approach fosters empathy between doctors and patients, aiding in problem-solving within healthcare communities.

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