

# Histopathology is Not for Me: A Cross-Sectional Study Exploring Sudan’s Junior Doctors’ Perceptions About Histopathology

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## Background

- Unlike some other branches of pathology, cellular pathology is almost completely dependent on trained pathologists.
- In Sudan, there is a lack of trained histopathologists to meet the healthcare system's demand[1].
- This is the first study to explore Sudanese junior doctors' perceptions of histopathology (HP) as a career choice, including their views on the potential impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in this field.

## Methods

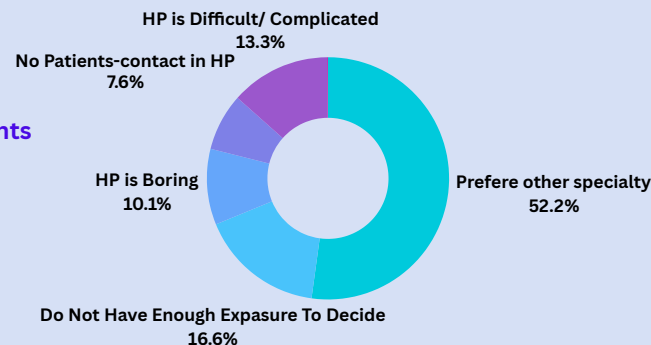
- A cross-sectional study was conducted using a structured questionnaire to collect data from junior doctors who had not commenced specialty training, were currently practicing in Sudan, and had graduated within the past five years.
- The study was carried out between 15/04/2024 and 30/05/2024.

## Results

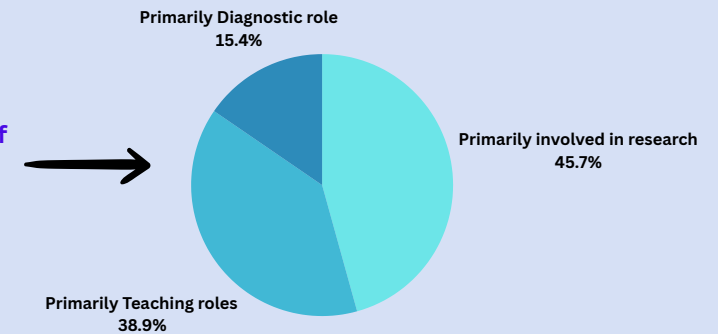
- **416** junior doctors graduated from 42 universities participated, with a median 12 months of practical experience.
- **57.2%** were familiar with histopathology as a speciality.
- **68%** had formal education/training in histopathology.
- **84.6%** were not interested in Histopathology as a future Carrier.

WHY?

### Main Factors Preventing Participants From Pursuing Histopathology:

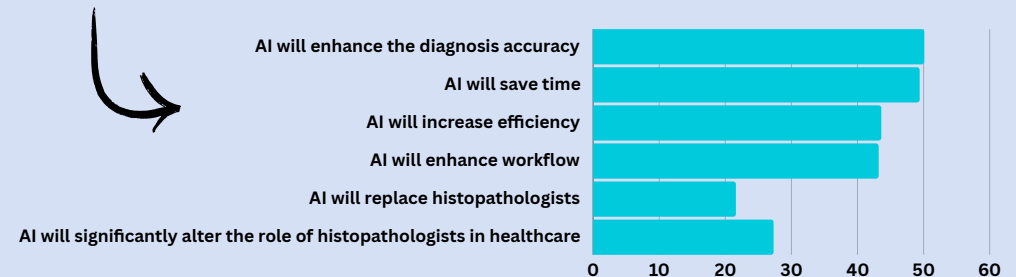


### Participant’s Perception of Histopathologist Responsibilities:



- **82.2%** believed histopathologists significantly contribute to patient care.
- Most of the participants (**60.5%**) thought that histopathologist have a good work-life balance, only **32.4%** thought that histopathology has a favorable work environment.

### Participant’s Perception Regarding the Implementation of AI in the Field:



## Conclusion

- The study reveals a general lack of interest in histopathology among junior doctors, primarily due to preferences for other specialities, and limited exposure.
- There is cautious optimism about AI’s role in enhancing diagnostic accuracy and efficiency, though concerns about job displacement persist.
- Further studies are needed to explore these trends in greater depth.

## References

[1] Gafer et al., 2016, Cancer Care in Sudan. Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-22912-6\\_13](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-22912-6_13)