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Building pathology capacity in sub-saharan Africa to improve breast cancer diagnosis and treatment: Training laboratory technicians in high-quality manual immunohistochemistry

Background/Objective

Breast cancer mortality worldwide is highest in sub-Saharan Africa where an estimated one third of deaths over the next decade are preventable with improved diagnosis and treatment. To address the need for increased pathology capacity and a skilled workforce, we developed an educational program aimed at training pathology technicians in high-quality manual immunohistochemistry (IHC).

Methods

We mobilized faculty consisting of pathologists, an immunologist, a breast surgeon, laboratory technicians and a non-profit from Australia, Ethiopia, Germany, Kenya, South Africa, and USA. We conducted a baseline assessment across 11 countries on the available space, equipment, and human resources using a five-point Likert-scale.

