

29th – 30th November 2013 | Hamamatsu TIGA Center BioQuant, Heidelberg University

Whole Slide Imaging in Diagnostic Pathology

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Institute of Pathology & TIGA Center University of Heidelberg Heidelberg, Germany





VM in Pathology

- Teaching and training
 - Courses on site and remote
 - Examinations
 - collections
- Research
 - Basic research
 - Biobanking/TMA/consortional logistics
- Diagnostic translation
 - Consensus/reference cases
 - Quality assessment/roll out/
 - Parameters for diagnostic imaging/assay evaluation
- Clinical diagnostic application





Institute of Pathology University of Heidelberg

- Largest German Academic Pathology
 - ~300 Employees
 - >8 Mio € Third Party Funding p.a.
 - Leading Molecular Diagnostics
- >6000 m2 Clinical and Research Space
- >20 separately funded Research Groups
- Part of >20 funded Research Programs
- > 1500 Impact Points (2012)
- Leading German Tissue Bank (>1300 Projects)
- Biomarker Development and Translational Diagnostics Program
- Diagnostic Trial Center
- Virtual Microscopy Center







Clinical Service

- Largest University Pathology in Germany (>70.000 entries; serving 20 hospitals)
- 32 MDs, 17 Board certified
- Dedicated Specialists for all entities
- Structured Training Programs
- QM, Accreditation (since 2007)
- Specific Administration (Clinical, Research)
- >20 tumor boards/CPC per week
- Reference/2nd Opinion Center



Evo – Revo in Diagnostic Pathology

Evolution (evidence based)

- Identify areas of obvious benefit
- Evaluate and test impact
- Specific (sectoral) implementation

Revolution (dogmatic)

- Throw away microscopes
- No more physical archiving
- Complete electronic workflow (reporting, training)
- Comprehensive implementation

Special thanks to J. Shwartz and O. Eichhorn, Pathology Vision 2010

Revolution I

The anti-innovation enemy *or* throw off your chains discussion

It has taken us 500 years to get to this point!!

1595: 1st Compound Microscope



1680s: English Tripod Microscope

Microscope

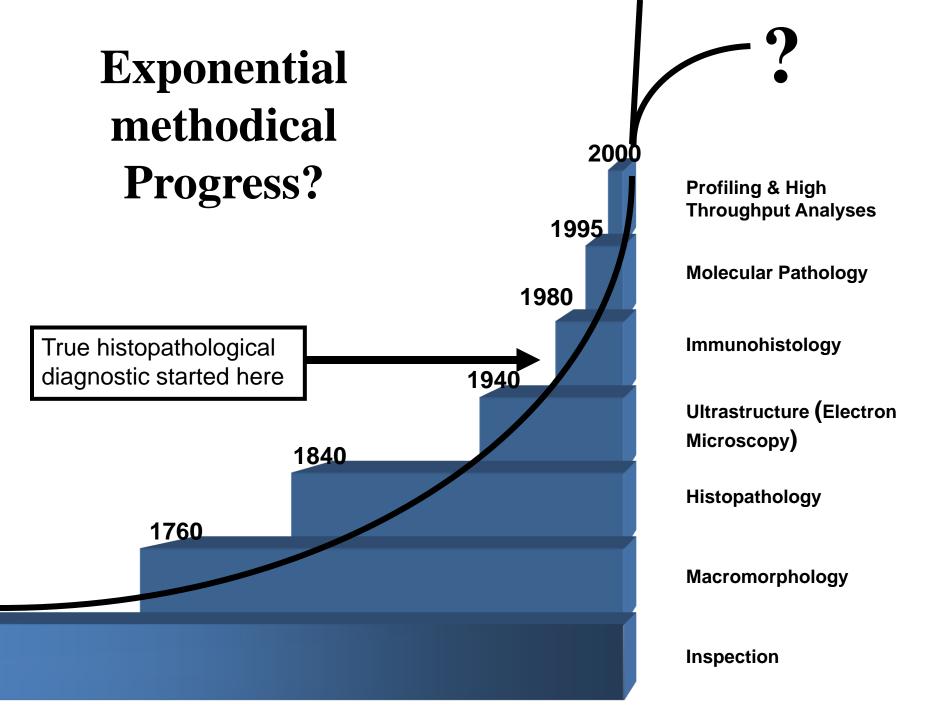
Mid-1700s: Cuff-style microscope; 1st to provide ease of use and accurate focusing mechanisms





1998: State of the art contains accessories for DIC, fluorescence, polarized light, phase contrast, and photomicrography

Pathologists need a bias for action



Some will always see the glass as half full



- Slower than current microscopy
- Adds a step to the process
- Pathologists resist change
- Has not been fully vetted in the literature
- Capital investment barrier is high
- Operating costs may exceed current practice
- Lack of stands; non-interoperable solutions
- No integration with existing AP systems

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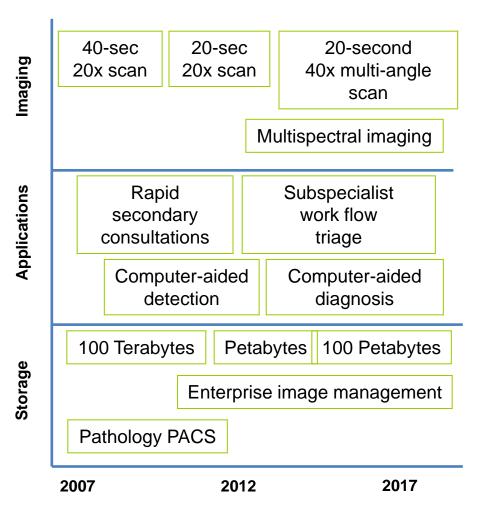


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What is wrong with that ? or

Do you believe your budget comes out of the money machine?

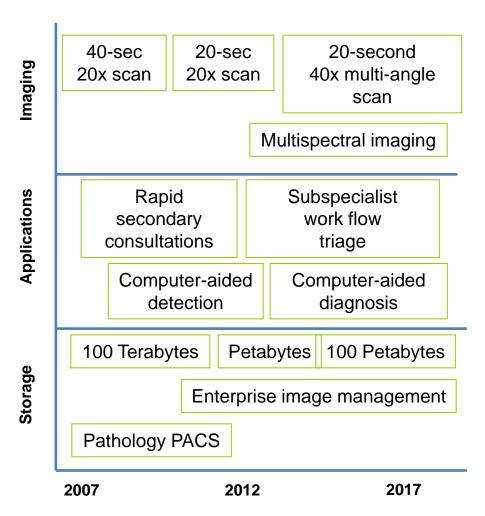
It's just a matter of time



* Source: Sg2 T3 Virtual Slide Imaging



It's just a matter of time





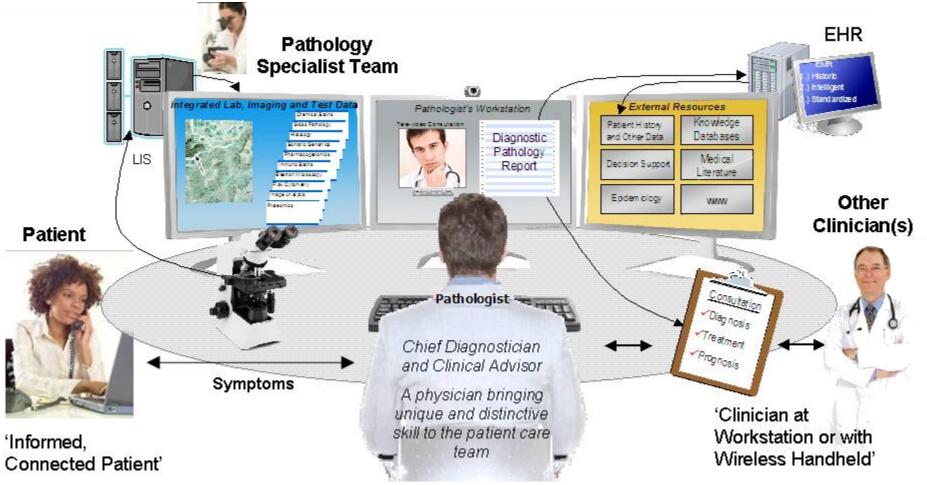
Do you calculate your travel time from Munich to Hamburg by the maximal speed of a Ferrari?

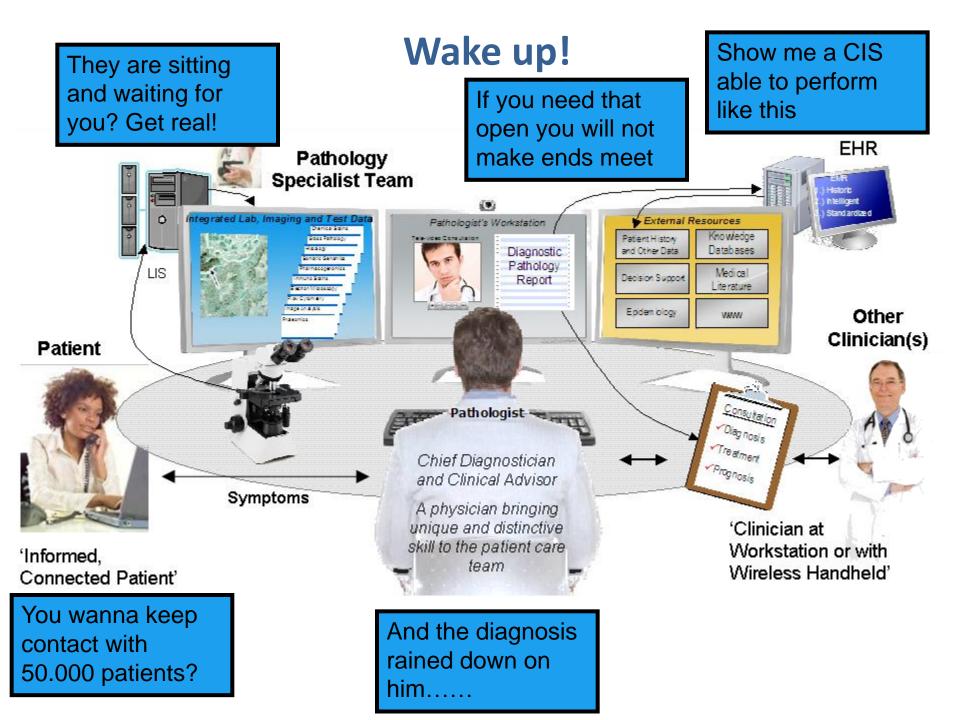
It's time to bust out



..and maximize use of all tools available to us to assume new and expanded roles

Our Vision





Revolution II

The life style argument



REAL MEN DO PATHOLOGY



Digital Pathology

3

Coffee!

10

Modern Pathologis

Its a Question of Attitude but..

- ..the diagnostic workload is still the same
- ..the way to the coffee machine has still the same distance
- ..have you seen the microscope at the right side?

Marketing but not realistic

Revolution III

The raisin-picking extrapolation argument

Pathologist T&M Study Goal

Hypothesis: Inefficiencies exist in the pathologists' workflow that can be improved by an all digital workflow.

A before-and-after study of <u>actual</u> impact in pathology is in-progress, therefore the first study goal was to identify the <u>potential</u> opportunity.

Pathologist T&M Study Context Experience from Radiology

Radiology realized significant improvements in productivity as the most significant value-add from PACS implementation.

"Since the introduction of PACS, reporting times have decreased by 25% and the productivity improved by 18%."

Mackinnon AD, Billington RA, Adam EJ, et al. Picture archiving and communication systems lead to sustained improvements in reporting times and productivity: results of a 5-year audit. *Clinical Radiology* 2008; 63; 796-804.

"...overall Radiology Department productivity increased by 12%, TAT improved by more than 60%. Timelier patient care resulted in decreased lengths of stay.... A well-planned PACS deployment simplifies imaging workflow and improves patient care throughout the hospital while delivering substantial financial benefits."

Nitrosi A, Borasi G, Nicoli F, et al. A filmless radiology department in a full digital regional hospital: quantitative evaluation of the increased quality and efficiency. *Journal of Digital Imaging* 2007; 20(2); 140-148.

Differences to Radiology PACS

- Complete production of intermediate required – add on procedure
- Less interdisciplinary use of specific imaging product;
 - exclusive use by pathologist; no clinician interprets path slides; the report matters
 - no need to store in electronic file
- More storage space required (10x)

Pathologist T&M Study Context Similarity of Pathology and Radiology

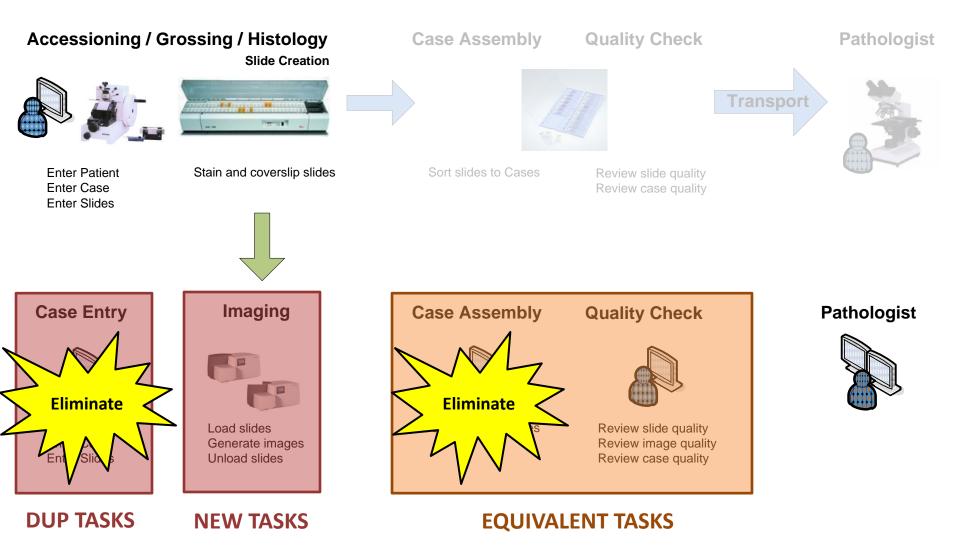
The challenges pathologist experience from managing slides is similar to the challenges radiologists experienced with film.

Unjustified extrapolation





Histology Lab T&M Study Context Digital Workflow – APLIS & Barcode Integrated



Pathologist T&M Study Results Identified Opportunities for Time Savings

Matching:

- Matching paperwork to case
- Matching new stains ordered upon arrival
- Tracking receipt of ordered slides
- Re-checking slide to case match

Reduced Error Correction:

- Transporting case to correct pathologist
- Obtaining correct or missing paperwork
- Reducing duplicate slides ordered
- Picking up wrong slides / missing slides

Retrieving Prior Cases:

- Sending request for prior case
- Context switch away from current case
- Tracking receipt of requested prior cases

Transporting Cases:

- Giving for Pre-Signout Q/A
- Packaging cases for consult

Organizing Cases:

- Prioritizing cases for review
- Dividing with residents and fellows
- Tracking which cases are ready for review
- Tracking cases for conferences

Querying for Cases:

- Checking mailbox for new cases
- Checking if STAT cases have arrived
- Checking if Frozen Section cases are ready
- Visibility of overdue cases

Searching for Cases:

- Searching for cases when receiving phone call
- Searching for "orphan" slides
- Pulling cases for re-review at final sign-out
- Passing cases between residents and fellows

Communication:

Sending ROI images vs. co-scheduling time at scope

T&M Study Conclusions

Routine use of an all-digital workflow shows...

Opportunity to **increase available pathologist time** from workflow savings Observed average **13.4% per pathologist** in addition to savings from secondary effects, frozen sections, tumor boards, consults, slide review

• Quality, Profitability, Lifestyle

Opportunity to **eliminate case assembly tasks** in the lab Observed average **18.5% FTE per lab**

• Offset some of the additional time required for new Imaging tasks

Efficiency of pathology department has **downstream effects** Clinician Efficiency and Patient Care

• Patient satisfaction, timely treatment, reduced length of stay

Does this relate to REAL Diagnostic Situation?

- Improvement potential of 13-18 % under ideal workflow conditions is useless under practical conditions; minimum required would be 50%
- Improvement potential only existing under supervised, ideal and streamlined workflow condition; this is not the real situation
- Requires coevolution of automated workflow procedures (barcode tracing; completely automated slide labelling etc.), thus complete new lab investment and restructuring
- Asymmetric workload reduction (doctor vs. tech) personel structure?
- Add on procedure which extends waiting time in high throughput centers; postpones case management
- Increases problems with low quality slides, recurrent procedures, necessary special case management. Huge problem for error management
- Investment in instruments (scanners), space, and personel

Disadvantages by far outweight benefit of general implementation and necessary prerequisites do not exist

The Revolutionary Approach

It is nice to have visions, but the revolutionary approach is

- Dogmatic
- Neglects reality and imperfectness
- Not amenable to real world financing, staffing, and personalities

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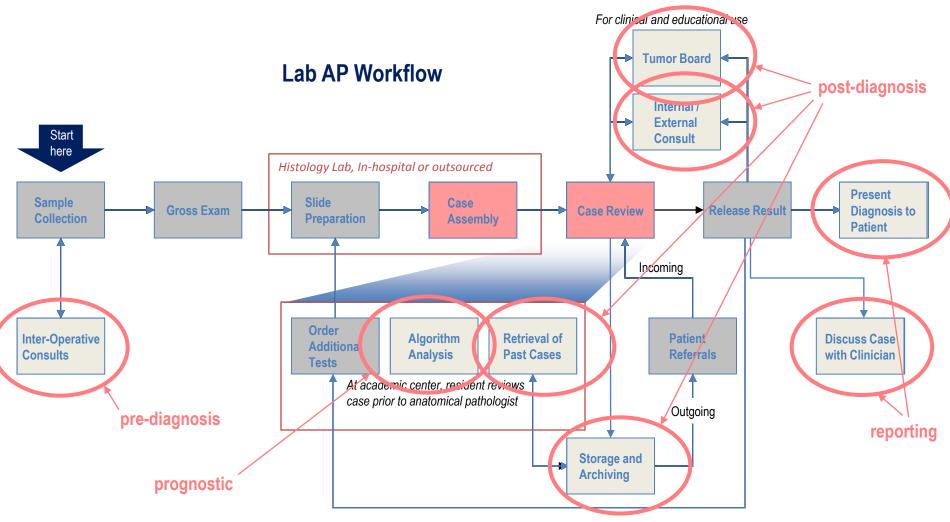
Revolution (dogmatic)

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My Dogmas

- Only intimate knowledge of a field and its situative context generates optimized solutions
- The better is the enemy of the good *but* theoretical (,obvious') improvements very rarely translate in true objective situative improvements
- Diagnostic pathology is true life and not a test lab
 - optimized medical results with high efficiency
 - Cope with all possible problems (QM, trouble shooting)
- Pathologies are up and running and adjusted to current needs
- But future needs are foreseeable
- Pathologists are in principle conservative (guardians of medical knowledge and treatment) but receptive
- First generation solutions are never good

Lab Anatomic Pathology Workflow



Agenda

- Archiving, Documentation
- Remote Cryosection Service
- Tumor boards/clinico-pathological conference
- Teleconsulting
- Quantitative diagnostic image analysis (Immunohistology, FISH)
- VM in clinical trials



Archival / Retrieval Store by VM but not Glass Slides!



no significant reduction of physical archive

- blocks
- old cases
- mixed storage (VM/physical)
- storage capacity >>10 pByte
- storage costs are manageable and are much lower than VM full costs
- saved storage space is of little use
- some legal restrictions

Positive:

• Potential to simplify and speed up archiving to some extent and reduce storage space and archiving material

Incentive: low but not negligeable

Archival / Retrieval save consult cases – risk management

Here is the problem



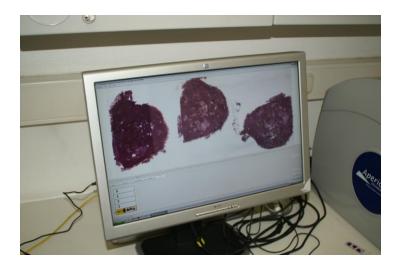
- organisational not methodical problem
- IT **increases** but not reduces personal organisational problems
 - lack of traceability
 - lack of physical attachment
 - more space to hide

Supports archiving of structured persons but dramatically increases problems with poorly structured personel

Incentive: low (principally high but danger outscores advantage)

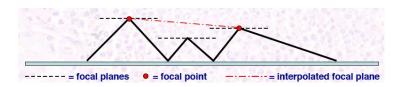
Remote intraoperative Cryosection Service for outside Hospital

- Pilot: Sentinel-LN in Mammary Carcinoma (Bruchsal; 30-40' by car)
- Requirements: Cryo-Histo-Lab, TA
- Sampling/Macro by Surgeon
- 3 cryo sections + Cytology
- Scanning by TA
- Lab time ~ 10'
- Since 2 years
- Now service for 2nd outside hospital



Intra-Operative Consults Value of Digital Pathology

- Enables remote interpretation
- Reduces travel / simplifies logistics
- Reduces OR-time/costs



- More time consuming for analysing pathologist
- Availability and speed of central and decentral IT
- Quality of sections; reduced feedback and correction potential
- Potential focussing problems
- Dependency from remote macropreparation
- Additional potential for discordant histo-diagnoses
- Many formal problems (refunding, certification, liability)

Applicability only under specific restricted conditions Not compliant with official certification rules (institute, breast crenter)

Tumor Boards/Clinico-pathological Conferences remote access / participation

- Reduce time / simplify process for preparation
- Enable remote access / participation
- Improve presentation of case information
- No requirement for decentral projection microscope
- No slide transport

- Infrequent case presentation at tumor boards; cpc is not generally part of patient management
- Slides used for this purpose are less than 0.5%



Suitable, but limited application

Consultations shipping and handling



- Help in low level health services (any help welcome)
- 2. Service for remote, developed health service areas (just the distance)
- 3. Practical advice (what to do)
- 4. True teleconsultation

1-3: VM helpful but highly context dependent

How about 4?

Teleconsultation

Transfer of slides and blocks

Advantages

- Identical conditions; liability
- Additional stains and tests
- Improvement of quality possible; adjustment to own artifacts
- Archiving (Compliance with CP archiving system and case documentation)
- Billing (no category; partial service)
- Integration in own case collection possible (incentive)
- Selectivity barrier (no ,Email contamination')

Disadvantages

- Higher TAT
- Higher logistic effort
- Transport costs, double lab costs
- Possible loss or destruction

Expert Teleconsulting

- VM helps in advising
 - Possible diagnoses
 - Possible solutions

• VM currently unable to replace expert teleconsulting

- Lack of incentive (blocks retaining/research pay-off, billing)
- Lack of owns laboratory performance
- Logistic drawbacks (registration, compliant archiving/ documentation)
- Liability problems

The more of the open questions are solved, the more cases may be amenable; total replacement is unlikely

Routine Consultation in Territorial State: U of Arizona Medical Center 2008



Havasu Regional Medical Center

316 Miles



University Medical Center Tucson, AZ



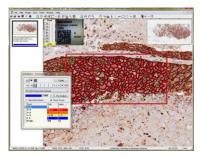
Telepathology-refractory Diagnoses

Pathologists	Total cases in general	Deferred cases	Total cases excluding the pathologist's subspecialty	Total deferred cases excluding the pathologist's subspecialty	Deferral rate in general	Deferral rate excluding pathologist's subspecialty
Gastro Intestinal	501	24	344	17	4.79%	4.94%
Heart and Lung	369	30	321	25	8.13%	7.78%
Renal	188	24	150	22	14.79%	14.67%
Soft Tissue	174	37	165	36	21.26%	21.81%
GYN	166	12	161	12	7.23%	7.45%
Renal	139	12	109	10	8.63%	9.17%
Endocrine	85	9	83	9	10.59%	10.84%
ENT Path	84	6	76	6	7.14%	7.89%
Dermatology	58	7	50	5	12.07%	10%
Breast	51	4	50	4	7.84%	8%

IHC/ISH automated Assessment

- Specified technology, work flow, and collective
- Work flows are up to it
- High pressure to provide quantitative data
- Reliable quantitative data can be produced
- Marriage of VM and image analysis
- Parallel processing

- Requires highly elaborate segmentation programs
- Needs tedious adjustment to every single test
- Additional standard incubation
- Only stepwise (testwise) implementation possible



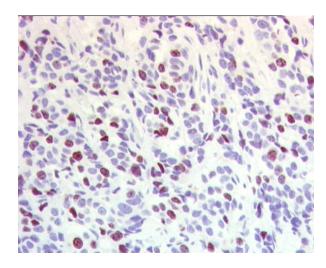
Nevertheless, this is the proof of principle!

Applications

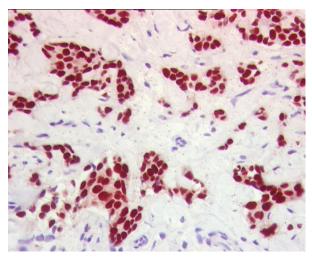
- Proliferation index (endocrine/mammary)
- Receptor expression (ER, PR, Her2)
- Novel markers
- Trial associated analyses!
- Cytology
- Histology parameters

- Tumor entity adjusted tumorstroma segmentation
- Technology (IHC, FISH, CISH)
- Signal type (yes/no, intensity, subcellular compartment, distance etc.)
- Area selection
- Standard
- Artifact recognition

Immuno-Tests Breast Cancer



Ki67: yes/no



ER/PR: yes/no; intensity

Keine Färbung zu sehen oder weniger als 10% der Tumor- zellen zeigen eine membran- ständige Anfärbung.	0	Negativ
Eine schwache oder kaum sicht- bare Membranfärbung ist in mehr als 10% der Tumorzellen zu sehen. Die Zellen zeigen eine nur unvollständige Membran- färbung.	1+	Negativ
Eine schwache bis moderate komplette Membranfärbung wird in mehr als 10% aller Tumorzellen festgestellt.	2+	Schwach Positiv
Eine starke, die komplette Membran umfassende Färbung wird in mehr als 10% aller Tumorzellen beobachtet.	3+	Stark Positiv

Her-2:intensity and continuity of membranous signal, # of positive cells

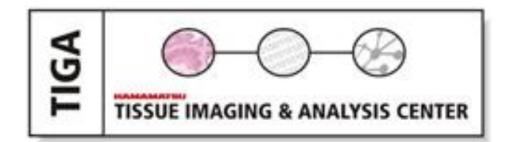
Conclusion

- Diagnostic pathology offers many useful applications for VM
- Pathology is an innovative discipline open for REAL improvement
- Comprehensive implementation of VM into diagnostic pathology is not useful and would require enormous surplus resources with unpredictable consequences. Benefits are vague and uncertain even on long run.
- Implementation has to be focussed for well defined application areas
- Potential users without impact in other areas (research, training, tech dev) other applications should wait for better solutions (hardware, software, data storage)
- Implementation requires coevolution in many different areas (refunding, lab workflow, legislation, hospital and personel management etc.) for positive development

Thank you

- Institute of Pathology, University of Heidelberg
- TIGA Center Heidelberg





Institute of Pathology Heidelberg

Vor- und Nachteile

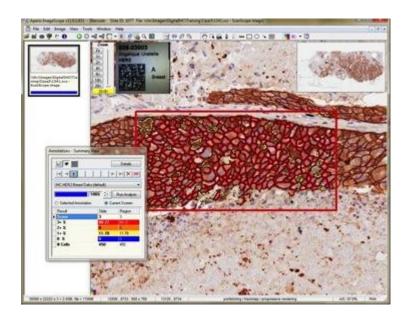
- VM für Schnellschnitte:
 - Anwendbar, wenn keine makroskopische Beurteilung erforderlich
 - Zeitaufwand vergleichbar mit konventioneller Technik
 - Beurteilung zeitaufwendiger
- VM für Telekonsultation
 - Vorteile:
 - Asynchrone Bearbeitung
 - Wesentlich bessere Bildqualität als klassische Telepathologie
 - Nachteile: Subjektiv unterschiedlich im Vergleich mit klassischer Mikroskopie

applications for Digital Pathology

- Archival / Retrieval
 - -Risk Management
 - -Decision Support
 - -Quality Control
 - -CAP / CLIA Compliance
 - -Clinician Communication
 - –Education
- Intra-Operative Consults
- Iumor Boards
- Cisins Siltertions

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IHC Quantification

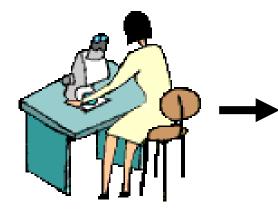


IHC Quantification value of Digital Pathology

Digital IHC quantification is U.S. FDA approved

Vorgehen bei Telekonsultation einzelner Fälle

Lokaler Pathologe (Sender, Institut A)







 Übertragen auf Webserver

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4) Anforderung der Konsultatin

1) Selektieren der Objektträger 2) Einscannen der Objektträger

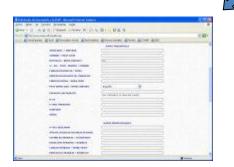
Vorgehen bei Telekonsultation einzelner Fälle



1) E-mail Benachrichtigung

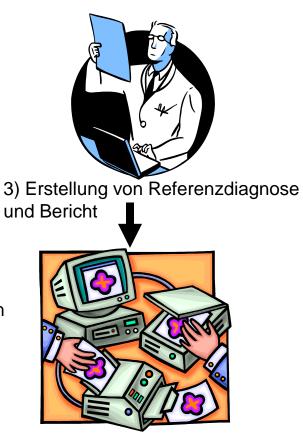


2) Fallreview im Webbrowser

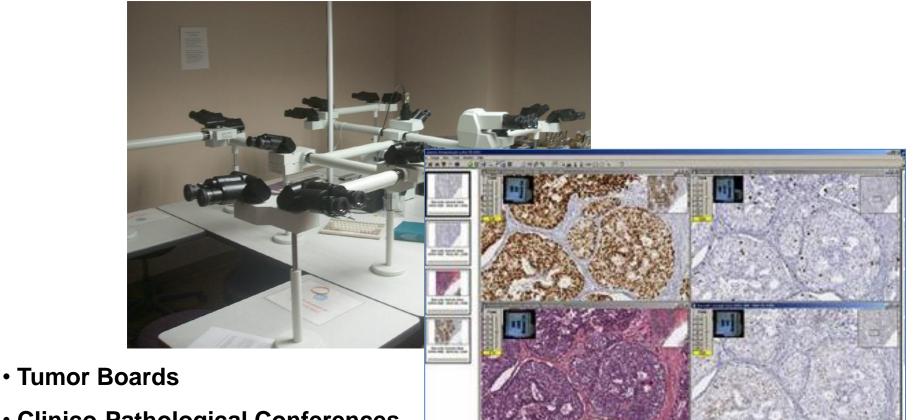


Anfordeerung zusätzlicher Daten

7) Übermittlung der Referenzdiagnose an den anfragenden Patholoen (Institut A)



Tumor Boards/Clinico-pathological Conferences remote access / participation



Clinico-Pathological Conferences

Archival / Retrieval save consult cases – risk management



Archival / Retrieval case archives – decision support



Pathologist T&M Study Results Additional Opportunities for Time Savings

Common current uses:

- Tumor boards
- Frozen sections
- Consultations

Secondary effects caused by delays from noted opportunities:

- Time re-orienting to case after waiting for prior case
- Phone-tag with ordering clinician after retrieving case

Level-loading work:

- Continuous flow of cases from lab to pathologist
- Distribute workload across locations

Surrounding personnel:

- Resident matching (observed 1:26:11)
- Administrator preparing cases (observed 1:35:43)
- Prior case retrieval and re-storage
- Slide transportation

Pathologist T&M Study Summary

13.4% opportunity for increase in available pathologists' time from **Workflow** is a significant value-add opportunity for implementing digital pathology in routine use

Example options for utilizing this time:

- Increase volumes without additional staff
- Increase utilization of patient history
- Increase rate of quality assurance review
- Improve recruiting and retention

Impact of **secondary effects** has opportunity to show significant additional opportunity Reducing dependence on **surrounding personnel** drives efficiency across department

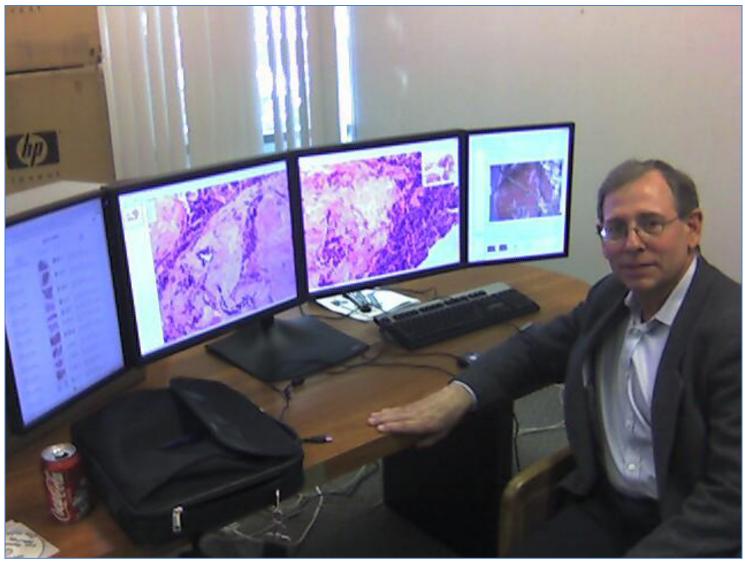
Scoped for analysis in before-and-after study

Additional analysis of **Slide Review** efficiency opportunities is suggested from radiology

"Time-motion analysis showed a reduction of 16.2% in the overall time required for soft-copy interpretation of CT compared with that of film."

Reiner BI, Siegel EL, Hooper FJ, et al. Radiologists' Productivity in the Interpretation of CT Scans: A Comparison of PACS with Conventional Film. *AJR* 2001; 176; 861-864.

Digital Signout



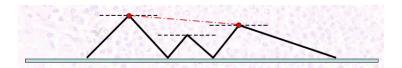
Consultations



VM in der Schnellschnittdiagnostik

Probleme

- Zeitaufwand bei multiplen Schnellschnitten
- Verfügbarkeit und Geschwindigkeit der Computernetze (zentral und peripher)
- Qualität der Schnittpräparate
- Beurteilung zeitaufwändiger als unter dem Mikroskop



-----= interpolated focal plane

= focal point

= focal planes

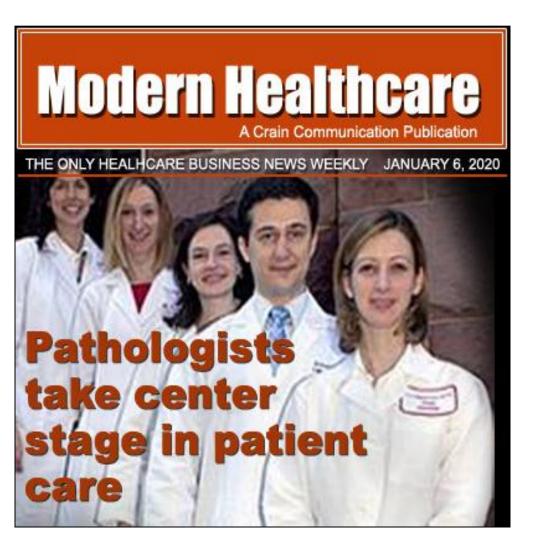
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 - -Education
- Intra-Operative Consults
- Iumor Boards
- Disinstitutions

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IHC Quantification





Necessity is the mother of all innovation...and adoption

		 Reduce time from biopsy to 		
	ast updated at 8:03 AM on 24/06/08	diagnosis		
P	Pathology labs first	 Increase productivity 		
	o be cut, inquiry told	• Expand access to expertise and		
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But	<u>« HHS awards contracts to test e-health records exchange Main Aperio Announces Eu Seminar Series »</u>	Iropean Digital Patholog		
en:	February 18, 2008			
	Toronto's Michener Institute adding digital slide ima	ages to EHR		
	The Michener Institute is adding digital laboratory slide images to the EHR By Jerry Zeidenberg			
	Toronto's Michener Institute, an educational centre for applied health sciences, has started integrating digitized Health Record system. It's one of the first sites in the country to do this.			
	"Typically, you do not see digital microscopy in the health record," commented Dr. Karim Bandali, vice provost	t of the Mitcher and		
	Digital slide technology has the potential of becoming a very important tool for pathologists who analyze patie – of serious diseases, including cancer and blood disorders. "Digital microscopy is a major piece, and integratin development," said Dr. Bandali.	A STATE OF THE STA		

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Digital Imaging expands our tool kit and extends our reach

- Broaden practice statewide, regionally, internationally
- Extend expertise with CAD
- Collaborate with peers; possibly increase demand for 2nd opinions
- Improve your value as the gatekeeper for subspecialty expertise and for patient information, and integration of diagnostic data from *any* source
- Better serve patients



Archival / Retrieval



Archival / Retrieval

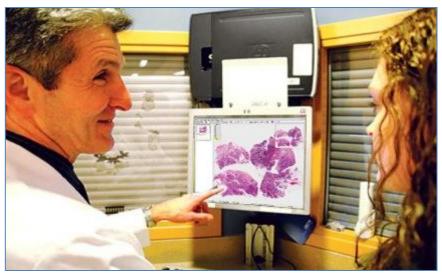


Clinical applications for Digital Pathology

- Archival / Retrieval
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IHC Quantification



Applications for Digital Pathology

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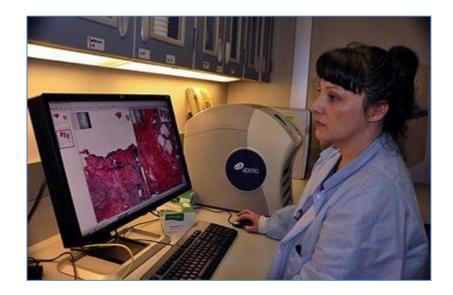
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IHC Quantification



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 - CAP / CLIA Compliance
 - Clinician Communication
 - Education
- Intra-Operative Consults
- Tumor Boards
- Consultations
- IHC Quantification
- Digital Signout



Tumor Boards



Archival / Retrieval

value of Digital Pathology

- Risk Management
 - Easily retrieve all case information
- Decision Support

 Instantly retrieve / compare to previous cases for same patient

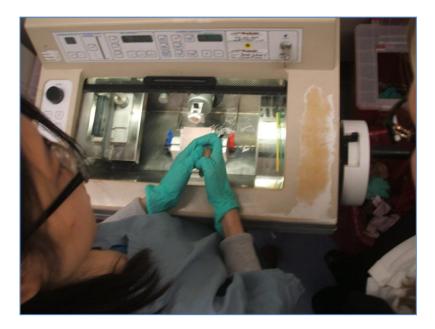
- Quality Control
 - Simplifies selection / routing of cal for internal overreads
- Clinician Communications

- Improves turn around time for patients reading lab, major medical center

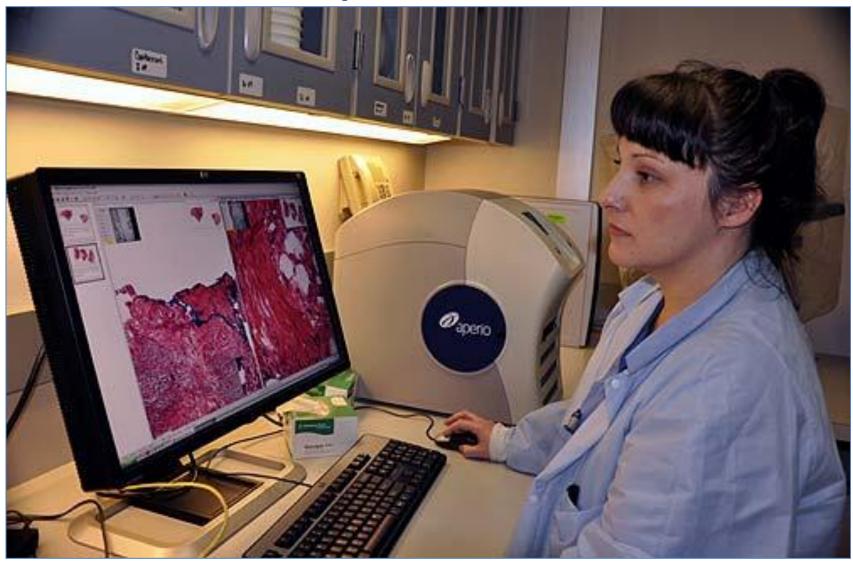


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Intra-Operative Consults reduce travel, simplify logistics



Intra-Operative Consults



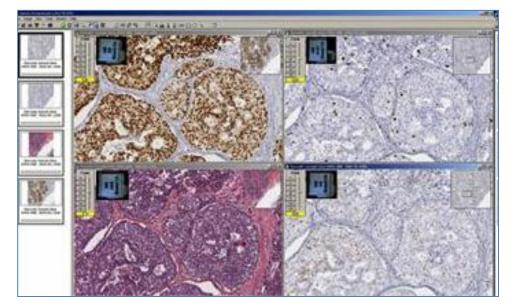
Consultations value of Digital Pathology

- Faster turn around time, leads to competitive advantage
- Improved workflow
- Save cost / effort of mailing
- Permanent record of consul
- Physical slides never lost



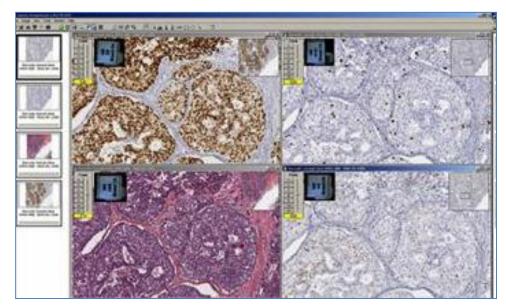
Tumor Boards Value of Digital Pathology

- Reduce time / simplify process for preparation
- Enable remote access / participation
- Improve presentation of case information



access all slides for case, display interactively

Tumor Boards Value of Digital Pathology

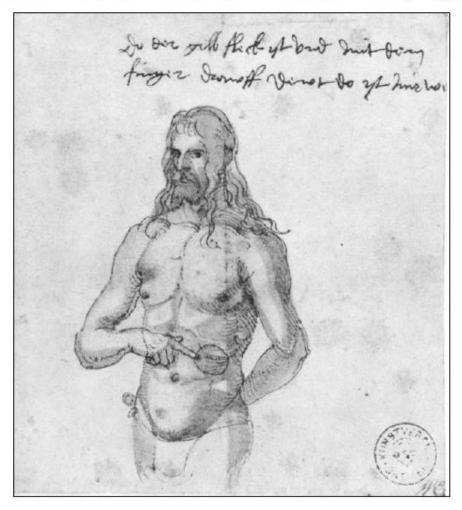


access all slides for case, display interactively

Telekonsultation

Sketch by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), depicting his Splenomegaly.

Hand geschrieben: Do der gelb fleck ist vnd mit dem finger drawff dewt do ist mir we, also "Da der gelbe Fleck ist und (ich) mit dem



applications for Digital Pathology

- Archival / Retrieval
 - -Risk Management
 - -Decision Support
 - -Quality Control
 - -CAP / CLIA Compliance
 - -Clinician Communication
 - –Education
- Intra-Operative Consults
- Tumor Boards
- Cioins diltations

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IHC Quantification

