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Higher costs and increased expenditure on time and resources are limiting factors

Increasing requirements for specialisation and diagnostic quality in pathology, on the one hand, and the importance of pathology findings for treatment planning, on the other, call for new solutions in pathomorphological diagnostics. One important starting point is the fast-paced opportunity for digitisation along with communication systems that facilitate the storage and transfer of large data volumes.

These open up new opportunities in pathology summarised by the term digital pathology. 'The term stands for procedures which facilitate improvements in quality and improved exchange with colleagues in the same field who may have a different or special expertise in certain areas. It also serves the improvement of communication with hospitals, both internally and across larger distances,' explains Professor Hans-Peter Sinn MD, who works at the Institute of Pathology at Heidelberg University Hospital.

Telemedicine in pathology used to be termed 'telepathology'. But this only means that a diagnosis is carried out over a certain distance for conventional preparations. It has a historical background, as there were efforts in the 1990s to transmit diagnostic images via bundled ISDN lines or similar, i.e. using out-dated means that have long been abandoned due to the unsatisfactory technology and



Professor Hans-Peter Sinn MD, from the Division of Gynaecopathology, Heidelberg University Hospital

Is everything positive, then? By no means! 'The process of digitisation is unstoppable, but in the case of routine pathology has only just begun and poses particular challenges to this field. This concerns, for instance, the lack of standardisation of platforms, image formats and interfaces of virtual microscopy with pathology- and hospital information systems.'

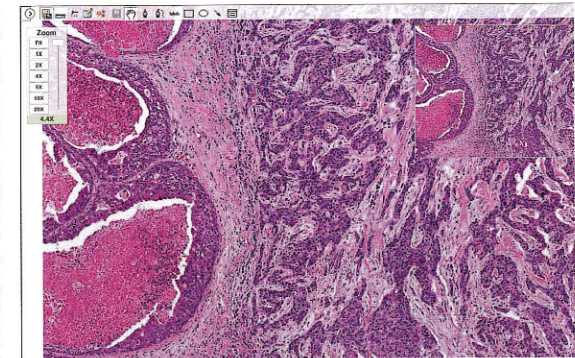
Currently, there is also a lack of non-proprietary solutions for the networking of subsystems for molecular pathology as well as immuno-histochemistry.'

Furthermore, financial aspects also play an important role. It would be misleading to assume that digitalisation and electronic provision of histological preparations and results definitely lowers costs per se by, for example, assuring that duplicate examinations are avoided. 'This is not

# Telemedicine in pathology

Sinn is essentially in favour of further digitisation, which, as said, he believes to be unstoppable. However, he warns against being naïve about this: 'The introduction of telemedicine on a broader scale primarily improves the quality of care, and only secondarily the efficiency.'

'In the future this is going to result in the opportunity to work more objectively and in a more networked manner through the increased digitisation of medical results. Therefore, the patient has the potential advantage of improved care, but higher costs and significantly increased expenditure regarding time and resources are limiting factors, particularly for pathology.'

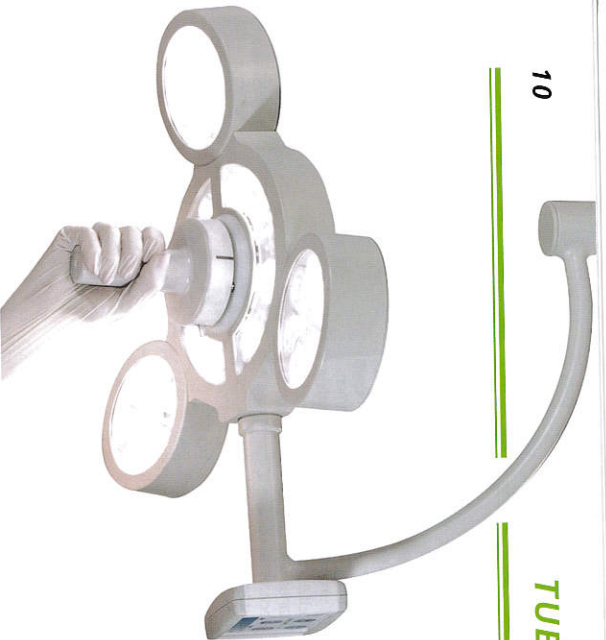


Telepathological depiction of a breast tumour in virtual microscopy

Follow our light

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# LED optics bring shadow-less light

Cold light, long life, low energy consumption

StarLED3 NX is based on the next generation LED technology, assuring cold light, long life and low energy consumption, the Italian firm ACEM Medical Company reports. Suitable for surgical and operating theatre applications, it is ideal for diagnosis, gynaecology, dermatology, general medicine and surgery, and the Endo function provides light for endoscopy. Due to the company's own LED optics the lamp provides a homogeneous and shadow-less light that directs beams according to needs.

This ACEM model has a light intensity of 130,000 lux with a low energy consumption of 69W and the firm estimates the life cycle of its LEDs to be about 50,000 hours. ACEM adds that the lamps' three reflectors produce a well-blended and intense cone of light focussable through the automatic adjustment of the light spot diameter. Its slim, practical and compact design makes it perfect for several uses.

The lamp is ergonomic, easy to move and to position and suitable for the laminar flows of the operating room.

With an easy-to-clean shape and material and removable, sterilisable and easy-grip handle assure cleanliness, and the functions – on/off, light



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intensity, depth of field, endo, size, and sync to synchronise controls, are all adjusted via the easy-to-read, ergonomic and easy-to-clean I-SENSE control touch panel.

The model can be wall- or ceiling mounted, (single, double configuration or with other StarLED NX lamps) and for trolley mounting the available ABPS rechargeable battery powered system, made by ACEM, is dedicated to power surgical lamps according to European Directive 93/42/EEC. The model, with ABPS, has the same performance and appearance, since the structure containing the battery is within the trolley base.

Full details: [www.acem.it](http://www.acem.it)

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