

SS2-4 Survey on adopting digital pathology in Europe and Asia

Naoko Tsuyama¹, Daniel Gomes Pinto², Andrey Bychkov³, Junya Fukuoka⁴, Catarina Eloy⁵

¹Div. Pathology, Cancer Institute, Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, ²Serviço de Anatomia Patológica, Hospital Garcia de Orta, ³Dept. Pathology, Kameda Medical Center,

⁴Pathology Informatics, Nagasaki University, ⁵Dept. Pathology, IPATIMUP

Digital Pathology (DP) represents a revolutionary shift in the field of pathology, offering numerous advantages such as improved productivity in both clinical practice and academic research. However, DP's implementation is not without its challenges, including high upfront costs, issues with interoperability, concerns related to data security and privacy and more. Here, we present a comprehensive analysis based on a survey of 127 institutions from 28 countries in Asia and Europe (Pinto DG et al, medRxiv, 2023). Of these, 72 institutions are at various stages of adopting DP, while 55 have yet to incorporate it

The initial discussion outlines the overall trends in DP implementation. This is followed by a focused examination of the gaps between Asian and European contexts. Although the adoption of artificial intelligence is presently limited, it has been favorably received, suggesting its potential to significantly propel future DP uptake. Our data highlights DP's positive impact on the quality and efficiency of pathology services, fostering improved collaboration and education. Interestingly, the study reveals significant regional differences on certain aspects. Asian pathologists expressed higher levels of concern regarding potential delays in turnaround times associated with DP usage. Legal frameworks seem to influence the duration of whole-slide image storage, with European labs retaining them for less time than their Asian counterparts. Asian institutions exhibited a higher tendency to recruit additional personnel to facilitate the digital transition and were less likely to support remote working arrangements.

Our findings mark the ongoing global transition towards DP. Many institutions have commenced their journey into the digital realm by initially scanning biopsies for teaching or conducting tumor board reviews. The observed differences and commonalities across Europe and Asia underscore the need for region-specific strategies to successfully navigate this digital transformation. Through this presentation, we aim to offer in-depth insights into the intricacies of DP adoption across these two continents, contributing to the anticipation of future trajectories and challenges.