



SATELLITE ACTIVITIES

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Virtual microscopy: a tool for the Italian Pathology Society (SIAPEC IAP) activities

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Abstract

Introduction: The Italian Society of Anatomical Pathology and Diagnostic Cytopathology (SIAPeC) represents the Italian division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP). The association is a scientific and non-profit organisation incorporating all Italian pathologists. The SIAPeC role is to : promote the scientific, technical and cultural development of the operators in Anatomical Pathology and Cytopathology; to ensure that the scientific and professional education and training of the members is up-to date; the establishment of quality and safety standards for laboratory personnel and the creation of reference centres. Other major objectives of the SIAPeC include ensuring the interaction between medical doctors in anatomical pathology and in similar fields as between other international anatomical pathology societies, including the exchange of scientific/technical documents and information.

Methods: Virtual slide technology is used to facilitate e-learning of the members via the SIAPeC's website and for verification of diagnostic concordance. Also, regional and supra-regional tele-pathology networks in Italy have been established to obtain rapid second opinion from specialists.

Results and conclusion: After 10 years of experience in dynamic tele-microscopy and 5 years experience with virtual slides, these technologies have turned out to become an integral part of pathology practice changing professional education and information exchange in a favourably way.