



Telepathology in emerging countries pilot project between Italy and Egypt

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Abstract

Introduction: Pathological examination includes gross & microscopic examinations at different magnification. Through the steps of examination, we obtain many images that can be used for telepathology. Telepathology is the practice of pathology at a distance, viewing images on a monitor rather than directly through a light microscope. It can be used for primary diagnosis, second opinion, quality assurance and distance learning. Telepathology is classified into Static, Dynamic, Hybrid and Whole Slide Imaging [WSI]. We have a successful experience in Egypt in applying the static & dynamic techniques in a pilot project between the Italian Hospital in Cairo [NPO] and the Civico Hospital in Palermo.

Methods: This project began in 2003 and continued till now. From the second year 2004, Ospedale S. Giovanni e Paolo Hospital in Venice, Charing Cross Hospital in London and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre Health System [UPMC] in USA participated actively in our project. During the past 5 years we consulted on many problematic pathological cases with these different specialized pathological centres in Italy, UK & USA.

Results: In addition to the highly specialized scientific value of consulting on the cases and exchanging knowledge, we saved a lot of time & money and succeeded in providing our patients with a better medical service.

Discussion/Conclusion: We are now in the process of establishing a Digital Telepathology Centre [DTC] in the pathology department, Cairo University using the latest technique of telepathology which is Whole Slide Imaging [WSI]. We believe that it will help us to improve and extend diagnosis for our difficult pathological cases and will facilitate increased E-learning opportunities for staff and students both in Egypt and in the longer term in the wider Eastern Mediterranean.

Keywords: Telepathology, Egypt, Italy.