

"Single Institution Digital Pathology Implementation Experience and Future Visions"

Flodr P, MD, PhD
DCMP FMD and FH Olomouc
Czech Republic









Conflict of interest statement

Roche Diagnostics, Roche Molecular Systems, Santa Clara, CA



Evolution to digital pathology

Increasing amount of professional tasks in current medicine is a challenge for a building up time saving and more precise workflow with a broad access to medical informations (clinics, labs, imaging) in tumor boards with subsequent record with experts' decisions and conclusions



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization

Convert something into a digital format into bits and bytes (binary arithmetic, Gottfried Leibniz 1679)



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization

What can be converted into digital signal

Image

Picture

Document

Sound



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitalization

Converts working process due to the advanced digital technologies





Evolution to digital pathology

Digitalization

Replaces analogue or offline system (paper, whiteboards, backwards projector, light microscopes)

Allows progress of working model that provide value-producing opportunities

Expands new medicine horizons in multidisciplinary communication including relevant medical decisions



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization and digital transformation of pathology

Digitization fixing the past

Digitalization focusing on the present

Digital transformation creating the future



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization and digital transformation of pathology

Standardization

Modularization

Customization

Flexibility

Efficiency

Interoperability





Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization and digital transformation of pathology

Current medical informations reside in **disparate or isolated hospital databases or source systems** (electronic medical records, laboratory information systems, picture archiving and communication system - PACS)



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization and digital transformation of pathology

Requirements



Pathology Lab Digital Transformation

Requirements	Instrumental	Human	Consumables
Basic	Barcoding, slide scanning, high resolution displays, ergonomic workstation, efficient servers, storage and networking	Training and cognisance of digitalised processing, digital image diagnostic confidence, diagnostic algorithms, on-site and remote reporting choice	Compatible barcoding stickers, slides for scanner racks, standard staining procedures
Advanced	Specimen and diagnosis based automated processing, IF scanning	Personalisation of offered digitalised processes, computational aided image analysis, usage of third party applications	Specimen volume adapted automated processing, laser engraver barcoding
Future	Al virtual slides viewing and diagnostic screening, multiplex and 3D imaging	Bioinformatics and statistics diagnostic analysis, case clustering and review reporting, augmented reality usage	Fully automated and standardised gross specimen processing with 3D construct, hologram barcoding



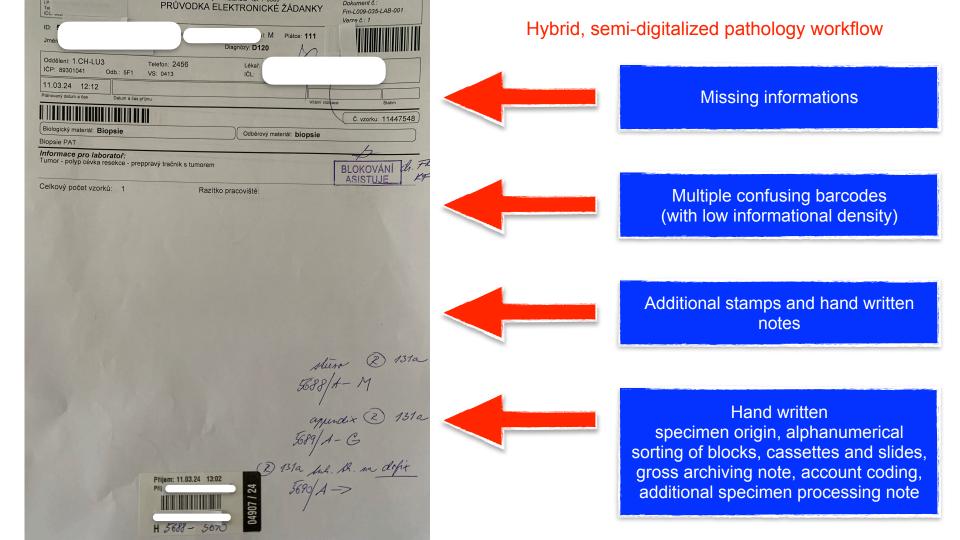
Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization and digital transformation of pathology

Current appeal



Analog workload accumulation(s) and consequent downtime in case(s) viewing and reporting



Hybrid, semi-digitalized pathology workflow



Missing barcoding (more inf. dense QR code)

Haphazard localisation and different format and font of printed text

Differently printed and hand written additional date

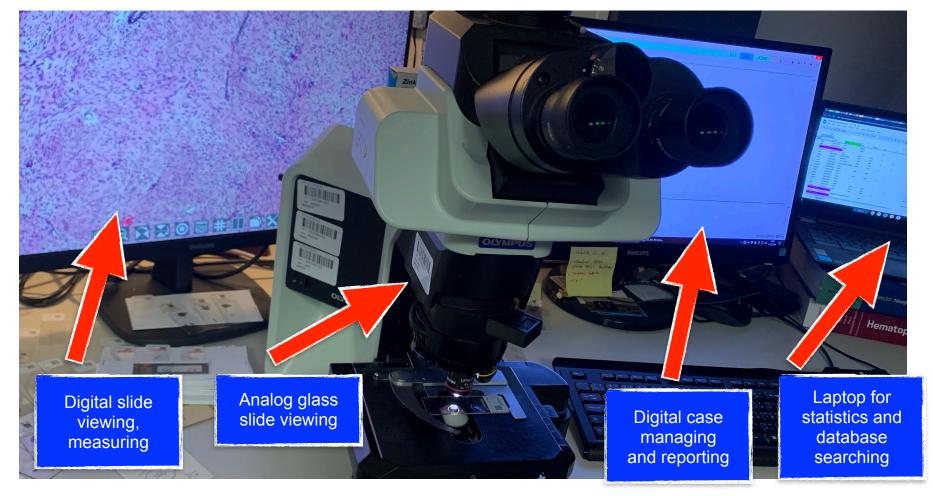
Hybrid, semi-digitalized pathology workflow



Missing barcoding, hand written signature, question mark, red dot, partly lost text of applied method, additional handwritten text on a paper



Hybrid, semi-digitalized pathology workstation



Hybrid, semi-digitalised pathology workstation



Pathology Lab Digital Transformation

Field of possible advantage

Swift slide reading, computer-aided slide reading, WSI

Swift case managing

Swift slide storage, searching in and retrieval from storage

Speeding up of case turnover

Easy case presenting

Easy additional methods ordering

Home office diagnostic reporting

Tracing case processes

Additional platform(s) application

Statistics and bioinformatics

Field of possible disadvantage

Network interruption

Failure of digital storage

External cassette and slide barcode

Internal barcoding failure (stickers)

Glass slide, covering slip, specimen cut irregularities, specimen out of covering slip

Scanning fault (glass slide sticking, breaking or dropping, barcode reading failure, focusing error, downtime duration

Workstation's displays

Slide reading irregularities



Pathology Lab Digital Transformation

Field of possible advantage

Swift slide reading, computer-aided slide reading

Swift case managing

Swift slide storage and searching in storage

Speeding up of case turnover

Case presenting

Additional methods ordering

Home office diagnostic reporting

Tracing case processes

Additional platform(s) application

Statistics and bioinformatics

Field of possible disadvantage

Network interruption

Failure of digital storage

External cassette and slide barcode collision

Internal barcoding failure (stickers)

Glass slide, covering slip, specimen cut irregularities, specimen out of covering slip

Scanning fault (glass slide sticking, breaking or dropping, barcode reading failure, focusing error, downtime duration

Workstation displays resolution

Slide reading irregularities



Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization and digital transformation of pathology

Multidisciplinary tumour board applications

Navify@ - NTBS Roche modular, integrative bridge across databases, multidisciplinary access

Immediate technological challenge

NAVIFY® Portfolio

Electronic Medical Records

Diagnostics (LIS)

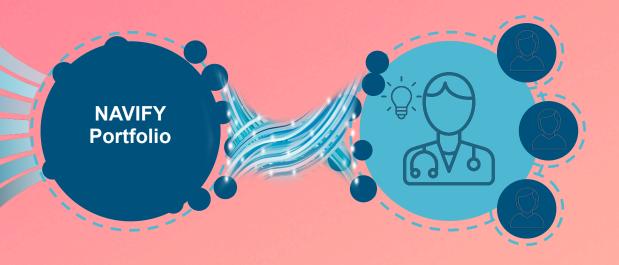
Molecular data

Imaging (PACS)

Clinical trials

Publications

Digital pathology



NAVIFY® Portfolio

Electronic Medical Records



Diagnostics (LIS)



Molecular data

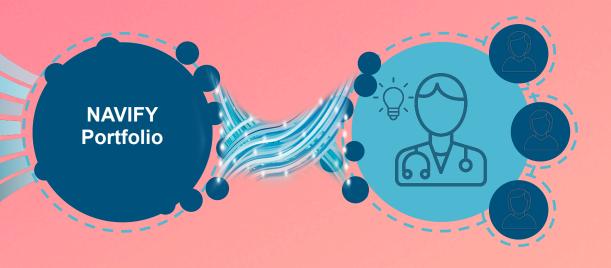
Imaging (PACS)

Clinical trials

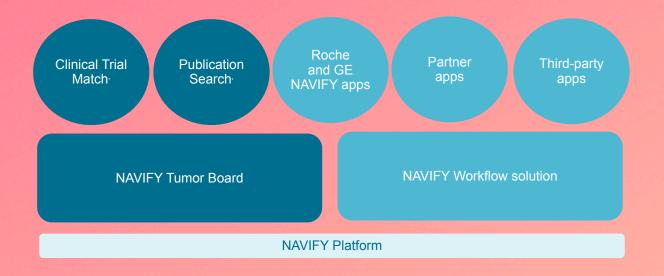
Publications

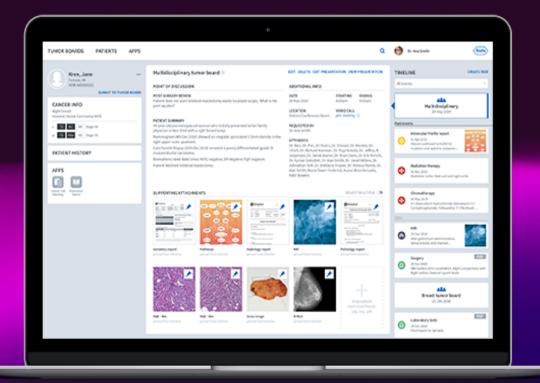


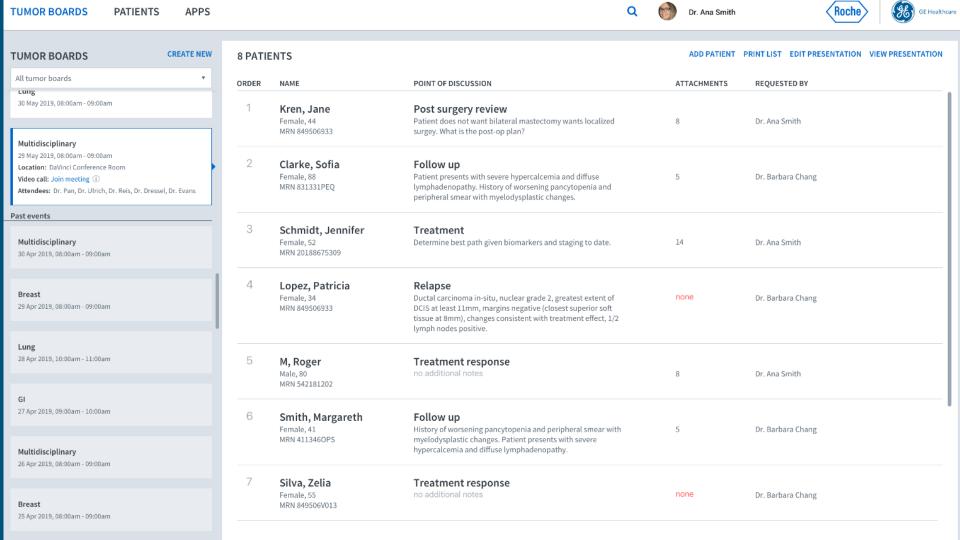
Digital pathology

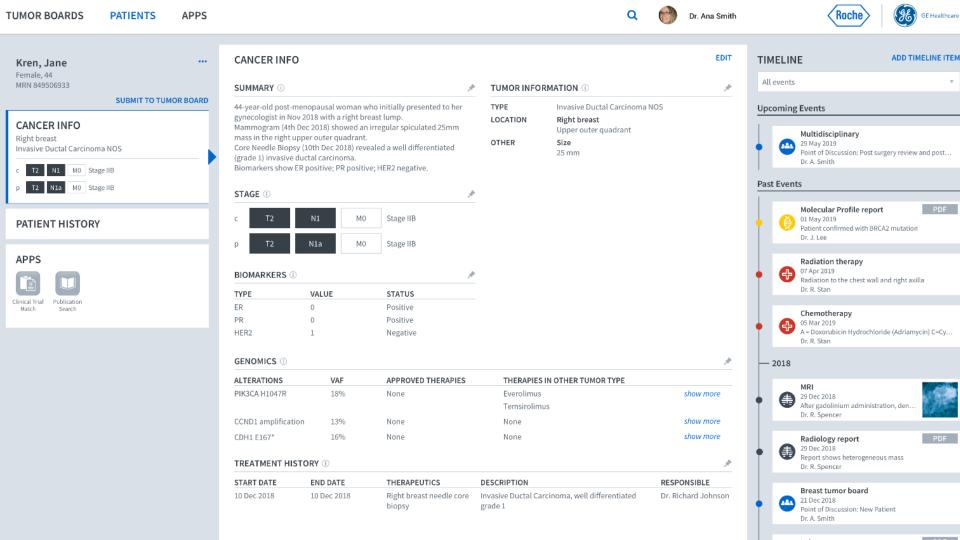


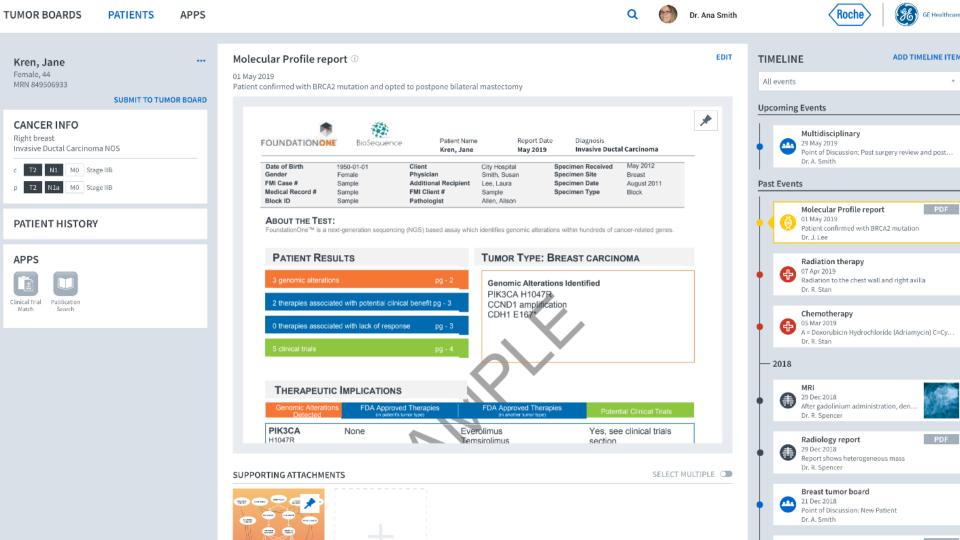
NAVIFY® Platform

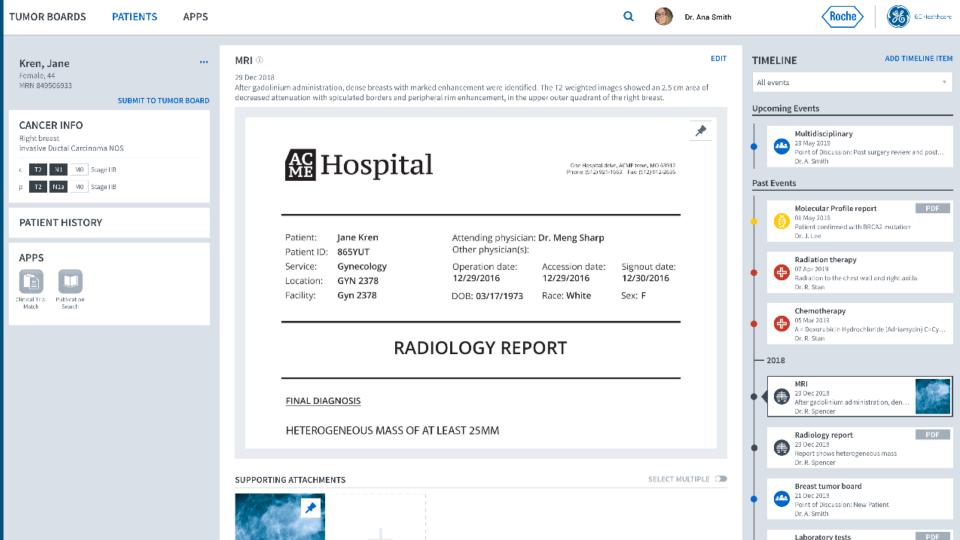


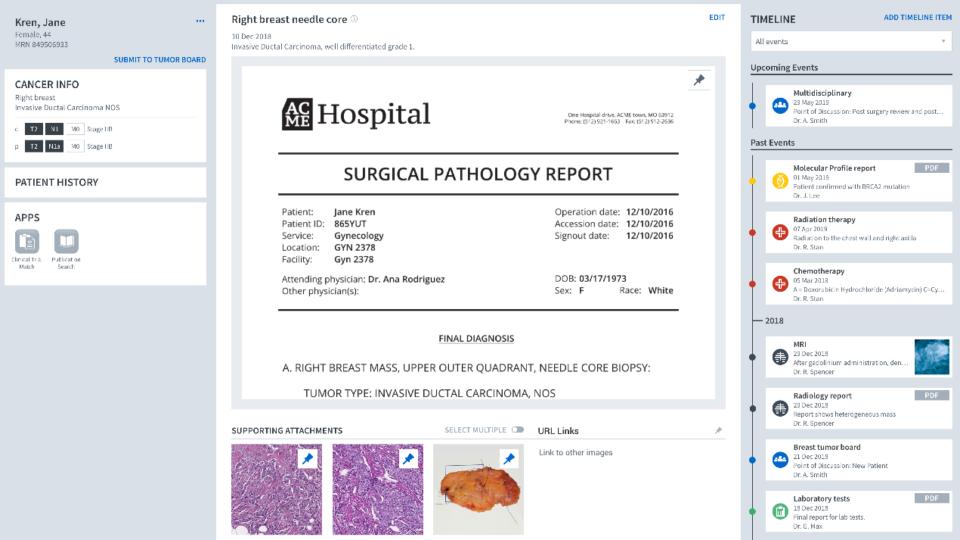


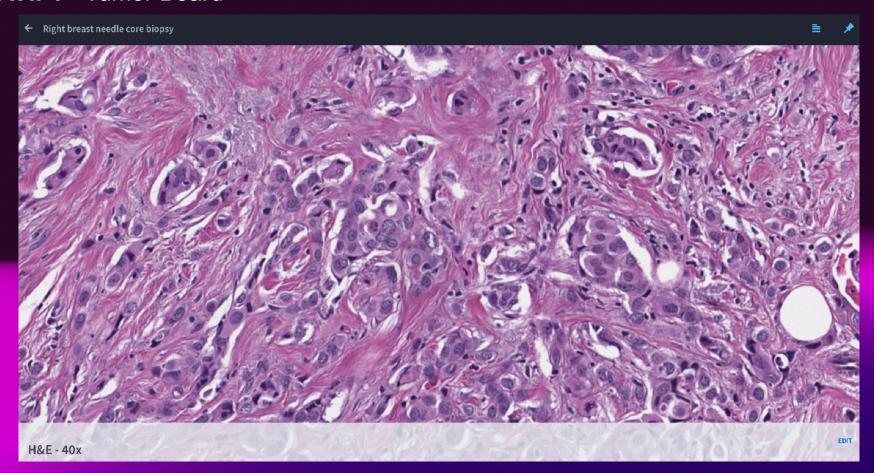


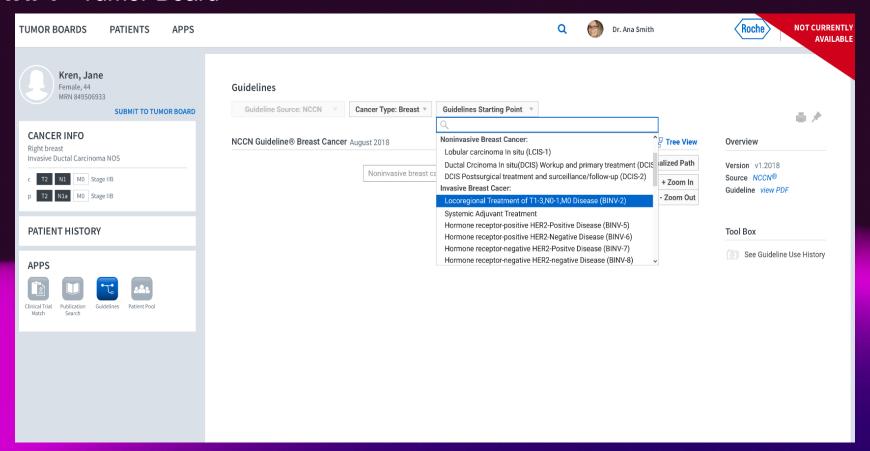


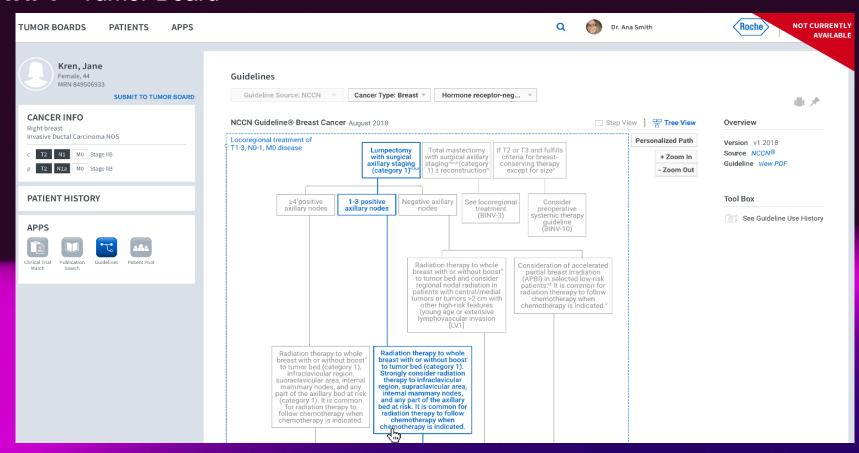


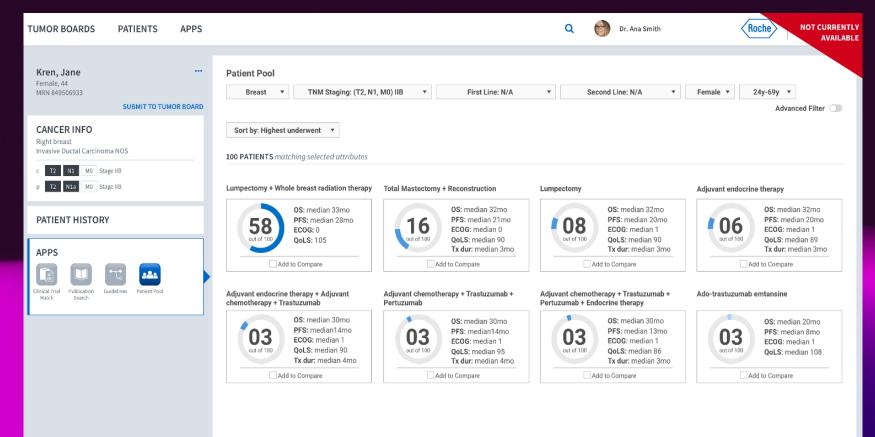














Evolution to digital pathology

Digitization, digitalization, digital transformation of pathology workflow accelerates flexibility, accessibility and effectivity of all inward and outward processes with constant standardization, simplification and traceability of all operational steps



Evolution to digital pathology

We are facing the beginning of healthcare, health science, medical lecturing and training integral digital transformation



Evolution to digital pathology

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

- Abraham Lincoln -



Evolution to digital pathology

References:

- 1. Guo C, Ashrafian H, Ghafur S, Fontana G, Gardner C, Prime M. Challenges for the evaluation of digital health solutions-A call for innovative evidence generation approaches. *NPJ Digit Med.* 2020;3:110. Published 2020 Aug 27. doi:10.1038/s41746-020-00314-2
- 2. Kelley LT, Fujioka J, Liang K, Cooper M, Jamieson T, Desveaux L. Barriers to Creating Scalable Business Models for Digital Health Innovation in Public Systems: Qualitative Case Study. JMIR Public Health Surveill. 2020 Dec 10;6(4):e20579. doi: 10.2196/20579. PMID: 33300882; PMCID: PMC7759439.
- 3. Knaup P, Harkener S, Ellsässer KH, Haux R, Wiedemann T. On the necessity of systematically planning clinical tumor documentation. *Methods Inf Med.* 2001;40:90–8.
- 4. Krishnankutty B, Bellary S, Kumar NB, Moodahadu LS. Data management in clinical research: An overview. Indian J Pharmacol. 2012;44:168–72.
- 5. El Saghir NS, Keating NL, Carlson RW, Khoury KE, Fallowfield L. Tumor boards: Optimizing the structure and improving efficiency of multidisciplinary management of patients with cancer worldwide. *Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book*. 2014:e461–6.
- 6. Jahn SW, Plass M, Moinfar F. Digital Pathology: Advantages, Limitations and Emerging Perspectives. J Clin Med. 2020 Nov 18;9(11):3697. doi: 10.3390/jcm9113697. PMID: 33217963; PMCID: PMC7698715.
- 7. Kiran N, Sapna F, Kiran F, Kumar D, Raja F, Shiwlani S, Paladini A, Sonam F, Bendari A, Perkash RS, Anjali F, Varrassi G. Digital Pathology: Transforming Diagnosis in the Digital Age. Cureus. 2023 Sep 3;15(9):e44620. doi: 10.7759/cureus.44620. PMID: 37799211; PMCID: PMC10547926.