

Use of Robotic Telepathology as an Adjunct to Frozen Section Consultation

Principle Investigator: Keith J. Kaplan, M.D.
Project Manager: Thomas R. Bigott

ABSTRACT

Background

Telepathology allows consultation between pathologists and physicians and includes the study of images from gross surgical pathology specimens as well as histopathology and cytology specimens.

Methods

Medical treatment facilities at Fort Belvoir, VA, Fort Bragg, NC, and Fort Knox, KY will each receive an Illumea FiberPix Internet System. This system uses a standard PC to connect a microscope to the Internet, allowing pathologists at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) in Washington, DC, to view and navigate the slides.

The remote site provides slides of the specimen and broadcasts the images on the FiberPix System where WRAMC pathologists will access it and make a diagnosis. The glass slide will be sent to WRAMC for a concordance diagnosis. The agreement between the telepathology diagnosis and glass slide diagnosis will be evaluated

Results

This project has the potential for improved diagnostic accuracy and faster turnaround times that once implemented will increase patient care and provide significant cost savings.

Conclusions

This project provides an objective measure to evaluate new technology, and will be useful as a prototype for future efforts by the U.S. Army at providing second consultation capabilities to many more patients than is currently possible.