

THE VANGUARD VIEW

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Dr. Hillel Kahane M.D., FCAP, FCPE **Founder/Co-Owner of StarPath** **Talks to Us About the Benefits of Digital Pathology**

Tell us a little about yourself, Dr. Kahane?

I am a board-certified uropathologist and I have been practicing anatomic pathology for 30 years now. In July 2020, I co-owned and founded a digital pathology practice named StarPath (www.starpath.ai) with my partner Todd Randolph, M.D. Our group is part of PathNet of which we own 25% (www.pathnetlab.com).

What specialties do you serve?

Todd and I on a daily basis sign out urological specimens, mainly prostate needle biopsies using the Lumea platform (www.lumea.net). We service several large urology group practices throughout the United States. These groups send their tissue to one of our Digital Slide Processing Centers where the tissue is processed and digitized. We then review our cases using our iPad pros and annotate all of the prostate cancers using an i-pencil where we insert the appropriate Gleason Score to each tumor that we encounter.

What are some of the benefits of digital pathology?

The beauty of digital pathology is that it allows us to sign out cases remotely, anytime, and anywhere providing that we have internet access. A pathologist does not need to commute to and from an office or laboratory saving him/her precious time. That time can be used in signing out cases in addition to sharing cases digitally with other colleague pathologists on difficult or challenging cases.

Another advantage to digital pathology is that it allows for second opinions to be rendered almost in real-time providing that your expert consultant is also on your digital platform. This eliminates the need to package up slides, put them in a container, and then ship them off to your

consultant. Sometimes the slides arrive broken and may not be interpretable. I have seen this whole process take weeks before one gets a second opinion back while the patient just sits around anxiously waiting to find out what the diagnosis is.

Another advantage of digital pathology is the adoption of AI. We employ AI in all of our prostate cases. Once a pathologist is done reviewing a case, he/she can turn on the AI and check to see if the AI has picked up any suspicious areas that may have been overlooked in the original review. In this setting, the AI functions as a QA/QC tool.

I have worked with many AI algorithms where the Gleason Score is predicted and displayed to the pathologist. As the algorithms mature over time this would probably standardize Gleason Scoring worldwide.