

Will there be pathologists in 2030 or only AI?

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UEG Week Berlin 2025

Presentation

Histopathology

IBD

Nurses

October 5, 2025

A pathologist argues that AI digital pathology will augment rather than replace pathologists by 2030, enabling objective quantification, uncovering subtle patterns, and predicting molecular signatures while human oversight remains essential for complex diagnosis.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker stated that AI digital pathology enables augmented pathology by increasing granularity of histological features, providing objective quantitative assessment, uncovering patterns invisible to the human eye, and predicting molecular signatures.
- Studies presented showed that AI on H&E slides predicted gene signatures correlating with response to therapy in advanced HCC and identified microsatellite instability status in gastrointestinal cancers.
- The speaker reported that AI-assisted reads by expert pathologists were superior to unassisted reads for assessing lobular inflammation and hepatocellular ballooning in metabolic associated liver disease.
- Quantitative fibrosis tools like Q fibrosis detected significant changes in HBV patients that semi-quantitative Ishak scoring missed, according to the speaker.
- The speaker stated that in 2030 pathologists will highly probably work alongside AI rather than be replaced, but pathologists need to evolve, and human oversight remains critical for validating AI findings and handling rare or ambiguous cases.
- Challenges include the need for fully digital pathological labs, validation in high-volume data, addressing pre-analytical variability in staining and scanning quality, and ethical and legal responsibility issues.

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