

First Experience in International Teleconsultation in Cardiovascular Pathology

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BACKGROUND: *Telepathology uses telecommunication technologies to transfer images, clinical and anamnestic data to specialized centers particularly for teleconsultation and continuous education. Remote consultation via e-mail can be used for so-called store-and-forward telemedicine. The pathologist is in a position to make maximum use of the potential of Internet for transmitting both texts and images from one end of globe to the other.*

MATERIAL AND METHODS: *The selected histological images of two cases: Aortal cystic medial necrosis and Benign metastasizing leiomyoma. (H&E, elastin van Gieson. Masson trichrome and immunostains) at various levels of resolution were prepared in the Department of Pathology of the Institute of cardiovascular diseases of Clinical Center of Serbia.*

The colored images were prepared in the Department of Pathology of Clinical Center "Bezanijska Kosa" by CCD color video camera installed on a LEICA Q500win system for image analysis. The captured image files were converted into compressed JPEG format and attached to e-mail messages, which contained patients' information and sent through the Internet to the Department of Pathology, Thoraxklinik, Heidelberg, Germany, for telepathology consultation and interpretation.

RESULTS: *In our cases telepathology consultation by ordinary e-mail was useful and successful. No additional photos were requested. There was diagnostic concordance between original and telepathological main diagnosis.*

CONCLUSION: *Our first results estimate usefulness of international consultation by e-mail.*

KEY WORDS: *Telemedicine, Telepathology; Second opinion; E-mail teleconsultation*

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