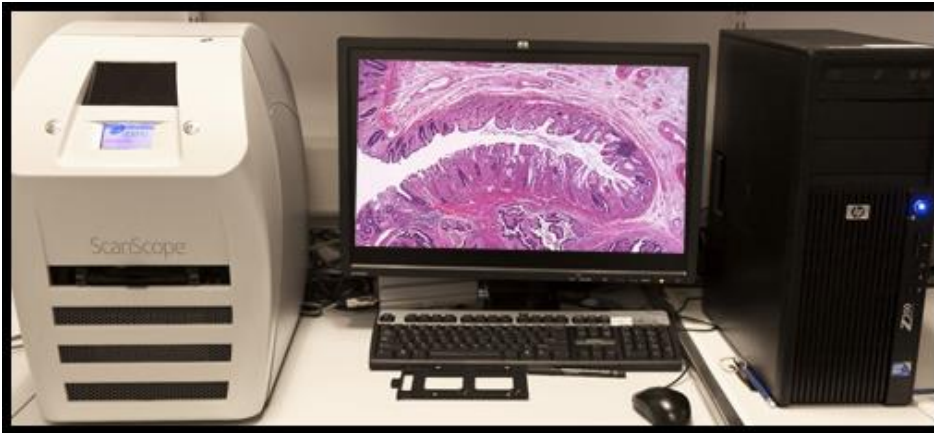




The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

Object 27: Virtual slide



What is it?

A virtual slide is a digital image produced by scanning a traditional glass slide at high resolution on a specialised scanner. Virtual slides are viewed on a computer and can be easily annotated and shared.

History

Virtual microscopy was introduced in the early 1990s but was limited by the processing and storage capacity of computers. Until recently, virtual slides have been used mainly for education. There is so much information in a virtual slide (several gigabytes) that the computer files generated are huge, limiting widespread use.

Pathology

As the processing and storage capacity of modern computers increases, the everyday use of virtual slides becomes more realistic. Many pathologists already view virtual slides regularly as part of External Quality Assessment (EQA) programmes. Potential advantages of virtual slides include improved patient safety, image analysis, increased ease of collaboration and more efficient archiving.

Find out more

Visit the [University of Leeds website](#) to see virtual slides of common cancers.