



Back to the Beginning: SNOMED CT Use in Surgical Pathology Microscopic Examination

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Audience

Persons interested in SNOMED CT applications in anatomic pathology, pathology documentation, post-coordinated expressions and system requirements to incorporate SNOMED CT into pathology systems.

Objectives

Attendees will gain insights into the user needs within the surgical pathology community as they pertain to structured, SNOMED CT encoded data capture and reuse. Furthermore, system design considerations capable of managing post-coordinated expressions and situations with explicit context will be discussed.

Abstract

SNOMED CT finds its origins in pathology. However, SNOMED CT is not broadly used in the practice of histopathology. Technology limitations and terminology shortfalls have been two contributing factors. Digital Whole Slide Imaging (WSI) offers a pathway for surgical pathologists to exam virtual slides and digitally document diagnostic findings. In addition, this new technology provides a mechanism to capture pathologist clinical utterances that require SNOMED CT concept development and, subsequently, to create computable pathology reports.

A clinical workflow using WSI to capture microscopic examination findings is presented. A process to inventory diagnostically important clinical statements and identify concept gaps within the current release of SNOMED CT is discussed. Exemplars of SNOMED CT conceptual deficiencies in histopathology are highlighted. A project road map that identifies technological requirements and software development needs to implement a functional system capable of creating computable pathology reports during a histopathology exam using WSI is presented.