

Anatomic Pathology Slide Storage System

Summary

Retention periods for pathology slides vary depending on applicable Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), state and federal regulations, as well as requirements related to clinical education, patient care, and quality improvement initiatives. It's not uncommon, though, for hospitals to store samples indefinitely. However, traditional storage methods may compromise slide integrity by way of becoming dirty, scratched or stuck together. These and other issues can be prevented through the use of this invention for protective slide covers, or sleeves, which are inexpensive to manufacture and easy to incorporate into the clinical setting.

Key Investigator

Amin Mohammad, PhD

Field

Pathology

Technology

Microscope Slide
Separation Devices and
Methods

Key Features

- Prevents slides from sticking together, getting scratched, and collecting dirt
- Supports anatomic pathology slide storage quality control initiatives
- Easy and inexpensive to manufacture and incorporate clinically

Stage of Development

Preclinical, prototype

Status

Available for licensing

Patent Status

US Patent 8,634,134

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Market

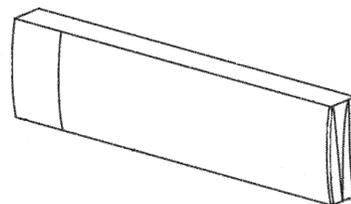
Health systems conduct large quantities of surgical excisions and biopsies each day. Each sample obtained through these procedures generates, on average, six glass microscope slides. Slides are sent to a pathology department for review, analysis and/or storage. Scott & White Healthcare, for example, adds approximately 200,000 anatomic pathology slides to storage each year. While retention periods for pathology samples vary, many hospitals store slides indefinitely or for extended lengths of time.

Many hospitals continue to use traditional storage systems in which slides are placed in long metal drawers. With traditional systems, wet slides may stick together and ultimately compromise sample integrity. At Scott & White, this problem occurs approximately two percent of the time. Other risks include slides becoming scratched or dirty.

Because new slide storage systems may be expensive and time consuming to adopt, it's necessary a solution for traditional storage be developed. Proper storage and handling can help microscope slides remain in tact and in good condition.

Technology

The technology is a device for improved pathology slide storage. Protective slide covers, or sleeves, resist dirt and scratching, and prevent slides from sticking together in traditional storage facilities. The sleeves are easy and inexpensive to manufacture, and can be seamlessly incorporated into a laboratory storage facility. The protective sleeves can be customized for type of material and number of storage slots, as necessary. In addition, the sleeves can be easily labeled to allow quick reference and identification of a group of related slides. A further advantage includes safe slide retrieval, as the protective sleeves reduce the risk of fingers getting cut on a slide's glass edge.



One Embodiment of the microscope slide separation device in a folded position.