

Tissue Microarray Evaluation The VM TMA Evaluator

TMA Evaluation using the light microscope has several disadvantages. Positioning the spots manually can easily be wrong and relocating spots is time-consuming. Furthermore, the evaluation can only be done from one person in one location at a time.

An alternative is the evaluation using virtual slides/ whole slide images, meaning completely digitised slides in highest resolution. That overcomes not only those limitations but also brings a considerable simplification and evaluation support:

- Once the spots are defined, they can easily be positioned and displayed again.
- Evaluation is limited to the sole quantification. Positioning and displaying spots is done by the software automatically.
- The virtual slides exist only once on a server. Access to them over intranet is always possible for each authorised person from anywhere in the network.

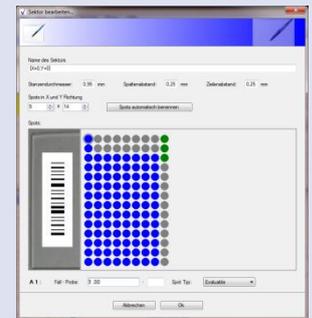


Image above:
VM TMA Evaluator, dialogue to set a layout

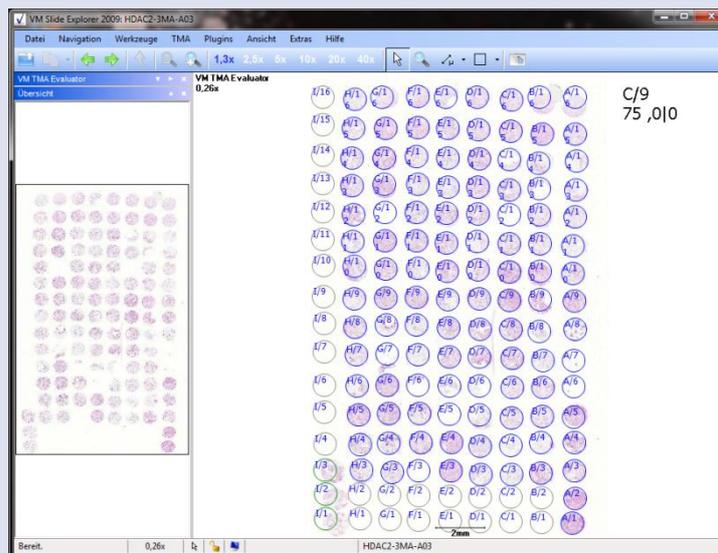


Image left:
VM TMA Evaluator, adjusted TMA Array

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Requirements for TMA evaluation with virtual slides:

- One-time digitalisation of TMA slides
- Virtual Microscope Software and VM TMA Evaluator

VM TMA Evaluator Components of the Solution

Digitalisation of TMA Slides

There are several ways for digitalisation of your TMA slides:

- You already have a slide scanner. Our software supports all major virtual slide formats.
- You want to purchase your own slide scanner. We are co-operating with all major vendors and can arrange a combined solution.
- Alternatively, we can also scan your TMA slides as a service.

Server and Storage

For saving the large digital TMA slides you will need a storage and for providing them on intra- and internet a server. You may either use your existing hardware or we would make a proposal for a new hardware environment.

Software

The VM TMA Evaluator is installed locally on a windows PC. As host it needs the Virtual Microscope „VM Slide Explorer 2010“ by VMscope GmbH.

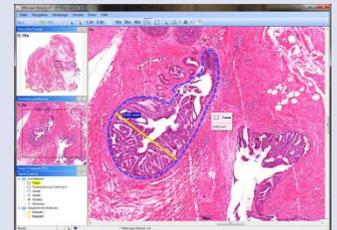


Image above:
VM Slide Explorer 2010

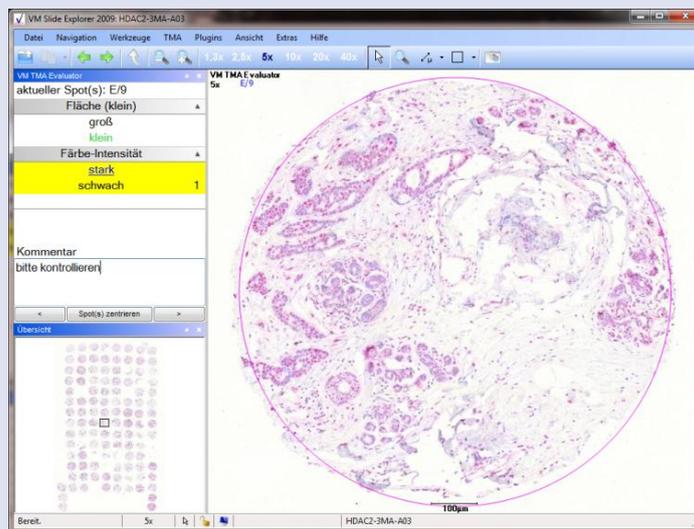


Image left:
VM TMA Evaluator,
evaluation mode

The Functionality

- Definition of the array, the spot-IDs and positions as well as the case data for a TMA series.
- Automatic detection of the array and the spots.
- Evaluation with automatic display of the spots.
- Arbitrary definition of evaluation parameters.
- Export of the results to MS Excel.
- Printing of the layouts as scheme for the TMA assembly.



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