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The scope for a rapid digitiser of mammograms and other large-file, high-resolution images

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A new high-speed, high-resolution digitiser has provided a facility with which new means of communication and interaction become possible.

1. The DicomNow Digitiser camera system will scan mammography film at a 16-bit depth in less than 1 second.
2. The thresholds for compression of mammogram images have previously been confirmed at a ratio between 65:1 and 80:1.
3. New opportunities for transmission between centres; difficult analogue films can be digitised quickly, then compressed and sent for consensus/arbitration views from an expert panel or submitted to computer-aided diagnosis.
4. Applications to multidisciplinary team meetings in which all types of images, patient information and pathology are shared via any Internet link in a virtual meeting room.
5. The speed of DicomNow and the compression system removes time limitations for telemedicine communication speeds in mammography.
6. Archive potential to reduce storage cost and support disaster-recovery initiatives.
7. Modular training programmes will benefit students with access to high-resolution images via the scanning and compression technology.
8. Higher level studies of subtle features of image interpretation for validated case studies.

Each of these elements will be expanded to illustrate the effects of high-speed digitising on breast cancer management.