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## Automated analysis of tissue microarrays

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Analysis of histological sections of disease tissues has traditionally relied on pathologist-based scoring. In an Advanced Online Publication in *Nature Medicine* Camp *et al.* describe techniques to automate the analysis of tissue microarrays that contain hundreds of tumour tissue sections arrayed on glass slides (*Nature Medicine*, 21 October 2002;doi:10.1038/nm791). Their approach, nicknamed AQUA (Automated Quantitative Analysis), involves a set of algorithms that can distinguish subcellular compartments and quantitatively assess protein localisation. Validation experiments demonstrated that the AQUA methodology is at least as good as conventional pathologist-based evaluation. Camp *et al.* used this technique successfully to assess estrogen receptor immunohistochemistry of breast carcinoma samples and nuclear beta-catenin expression in colon cancer.

## References

1. *Nature Medicine* , [<http://www.nature.com/nm>]
2. Tissue microarrays for high-throughput molecular profiling of tumor specimens,
3. Yale Cancer Center Tissue Microarray Facility, [<http://www.yalepath.org/dept/research/YCCTMA/tisarray.htm>]