

CUSTOMER CASE

"We require prompt care to meet KTQ quality accreditation. The new technology from Agfa HealthCare means that diagnostic findings are available in a day, which is a significant contribution to speeding up the process."

*Dr. Hans Bender,
Head of Radiology and Nuclear
Medicine*



Bethanien Hospital, Moers, Germany

Mobile DR solution improves ICU patient comfort

ICU patients require special attention with a minimum of movement to facilitate recovery. Germany's Bethanien Hospital turns to a trusted partner's innovative DR technology to help support that goal.



“A well-established partnership and impressive innovations – that is how we see the cooperation with Agfa HealthCare. That is also why we became a reference hospital.”

Marcus Eidmann, Head of Procurement

“The DX-D 100’s advantages are better image quality and speed, which means multiple studies can be made one after another.”

Heike Witzer, Head Technologist



Located in Moers, the 680-bed hospital is a primary care center focusing on surgery, internal medicine, thoracic illnesses, gynecology and oncology with several multi-disciplinary tumor centers. Its radiology department annually performs about 60,000 examinations serving in- and outpatients equally. It also does bedside imaging in the hospital’s ICU, which brings special challenges especially in thorax and abdomen studies.

Solution

- The mobile DX-D 100 comes to the patient; not the other way around.
- Innovative needle crystal technology and MUSICA² image processing software provide top image quality with the potential for considerably lower radiation dose.
- The NX Workstation has an intuitive user interface which makes work easier.

Trust and innovation are foundational elements

For many years, the Bethanien Hospital has worked with Agfa HealthCare. Recently, its existing PACS was replaced by an enterprise-wide IMPAX PACS supporting the department’s wide range of digital modalities including a 16-slice CT and 1.5 Tesla MRI.

Marcus Eidmann, Head of Procurement, says the foundation of this collaboration is based on trust and innovation, as well as excellent customer service. “Ten years ago, Agfa HealthCare offered the best value for its X-ray film. We later installed Agfa HealthCare’s RIS and PACS, both of which have been paid off rather quickly. Today, we’re reaping the rewards of another impressive innovation; the DX-D 100 mobile DR solution,” he says.



Did you know...

- The Bethanien Hospital Foundation was started in 1852 by citizens in the North Rhine-Westphalia region that were committed to social initiatives.
- The region's close ties with mining, which occurred at the beginning of the last century, promoted the hospital's expansion and strengthened its finances.

Adds Dr. Hans Bender, Head of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, “For me, Agfa HealthCare means a long-term partner that supported us in the film era. That’s why we’ve chosen them as a partner in the digital age.”

Effective integration into existing IT and HIS environments were important criteria in choosing the DX-D 100, as was its mobility and easy positioning around an ICU patient’s bed. The consistently good experience with MUSICA² intelligent image processing software also played important roles in its selection, as well as its easy upgradability to MUSICA² for new facilities.

“MUSICA²’s advantages combined with the DX-D 100’s new needle phosphor detectors allow us to significantly improve image detail and sharpness while simultaneously reducing X-ray dose,” Dr. Bender says. "We can obtain very high quality images, particularly where the patient is lying prone in the ICU,” he adds. “In these cases, we can reduce the radiation dose by 10 to 15%.”

Heike Witzer, Head Technologist, strongly agrees. “The DX-D 100’s advantages are better image quality and speed, which means that multiple studies can be made one after another. This is particularly useful in the ICU. The resolution and functionality of the DX-D 100’s post-processing software is considerably better and images can be evaluated immediately for diagnostic quality. If retakes are necessary, they can be done straightaway.”

Agfa HealthCare's contribution

RIS, HIS, DX-D 100, IMPAX

- DX-D 100 images can be displayed, evaluated and validated immediately.
- Digital workflow moves quickly, and DR images can be sent instantly via IMPAX.
- Offers potential for dose reduction.
- MUSICA² processing software significantly and consistently improves image visualization, clarity and detail.
- DX-D 100 makes bedside imaging easier and less disruptive.

RIS/PACS

- Allows digital images and data to be quickly sent on a secure network within a hospital, throughout a region or around the world.
- Ability to digitally manipulate images for greater detail and clarity.
- Improves clinical productivity and expedites patient treatment.

The mobile DX-D 100 also serves as a backup for X-raying limbs, she adds, making it ideally suited for use in the pediatric clinic due to the considerable dose reduction.

Speed is critical to German quality accreditation

In the morning, administrative data about ICU patients is entered into Agfa HealthCare's RIS worklist which is linked via the hospital's wireless data network to the DX-D 100. In this way, all data can be preloaded automatically and printed with other information such as each patient's room number. After bedside image capture and processing, and clearance by the radiologist, the images are stored immediately in IMPAX. "Images and summary findings are then directly available anywhere in the hospital, with full findings posted later the same day," says Heike Witzer.

Dr. Bender values the almost real-time presentation of images anywhere on the network. He also appreciates the DX-D 100's high storage capacity. Speed, he says, is fundamental to meeting the German healthcare quality accreditation called KTQ (Cooperation for Transparency and Quality in Healthcare). "The requirement for fast patient care is met by making findings available on the same day imaging is performed," he adds. "And the DX-D 100 makes a notable contribution to speeding up the process."

Solid return on investment

Agfa HealthCare's full line of solutions contributes to achieving various radiology department goals as well as financial objectives of the hospital, explains Marcus Eidmann. "Our investment in a wide range of Agfa HealthCare systems was made as part of a conversion contract. Operating costs are limited to cleaning, maintenance and electricity, with payback resulting from reduced process costs including staff and an overall improvement in operational quality. Because these advantages are so obvious, we did not even need a return on investment calculation."

Marcus Eidmann is also very satisfied with the service and support from Agfa HealthCare. "The systems usually run without a hitch. If a problem does occasionally arise, it is resolved immediately."

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