CUSTOMER CASE

"With the DX-G, the Technologists now see a significant time savings in their work compared to the previous system. The automated workflow with the 'drop-and-go' cassette buffer allows us to examine more patients in the same time with the same effort."

DR. ANDREAS WIESCHEN, Senior Physician of the Institute for Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, GPR Klinikum Rüsselsheim

GPR Klinikum Rüsselsheim, Rüsselsheim, Germany

Significant time savings allows more patients to be examined

DX-G reduces radiation dose by up to 50 percent in paediatrics

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"The DX-G combines the image quality of DR with the flexibility of CR. That allows us to diagnose patients in a short amount of time."

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DX-G, a new CR solution from Agfa HealthCare that bridges the gap between high performance needle detector imaging and traditional phosphor cassettes, is now being used at GPR Klinikum Rüsselsheim to optimize workflows in the Institute for Radiology and Nuclear Medicine. In addition, the system has substantially reduced patient waiting times, even at peak periods. The Technologists' productivity has also significantly improved, and as a result, they now examine more patients each day. In paediatrics, the DX-G lowers radiation dose by up to 50 percent compared to other imaging systems, depending on the case.

Did you know ...

- GPR Klinikum Rüsselsheim serves a regional population of about 59,000
- Rüsselsheim is the birthplace of Adam Opel, founder of the Opel automobile company

GPR Klinikum Rüsselsheim is a supraregional hospital with 460 inpatient beds in 12 clinics. The Academic Teaching Hospital of the University of Mainz treats some 25,000 inpatients and 29,000 outpatients per year. The Institute for Radiology and Nuclear Medicine covers the entire range of radiological diagnostics, including paediatrics and neonatology. In all, about 65,000 x-ray examinations are performed each year.

Superb image quality; PACS interface; drop-and-go cassette buffer are key benefits

"We completely digitized our Institute in early 2006 when a PACS was installed along with a DX-S digitizer from Agfa HealthCare. We were one of the first DX-S users. What we particularly appreciated was its outstanding image quality," explains Senior Physician Dr. Andreas Wieschen.

He also appreciates the improved, faster workflow with the new system, which is complemented by its seamless integration with the PACS. After an examination, the Technologist brings the phosphor plate or needle-based detector to the DX-G, where the patient's data is confirmed and digitized, including the examination parameters. "The 'drop-and-go' cassette buffer then provides a smooth-running, speedy workflow," explains Dr. Wieschen. "The Technologist can load up to five cassettes at once, which are then output automatically, one after the other.

This is one of the key advantages of the DX-G. Workflow using the previous system slowed down in peak periods. Today, the DX-G's speed significantly reduces patient waiting times, particularly during high volume periods. As a result, the Technologists now work in a more relaxed fashion and devote even more attention to their patients. And in emergencies, the images are quickly available, meaning that any necessary treatments can be initiated without delay.

"Our Technologists are very satisfied," says the doctor. "Even during the test phase, they clearly spoke out in favor of purchasing the system. Their rapid familiarization was helped by its simple, convenient operation via touch screen. The digitizer has been reliably operating since it was put into service."

"With the DX-G, Technologists now see significant timesavings in their work compared to the previous system," he adds. "The automated workflow with the 'drop-and-go' cassette buffer allows us to examine substantially more patients in the same time with the same effort," says Dr. Wieschen, emphasizing the efficiency potential for his Institute.

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Solution box

- Rapid, smooth-running workflow thanks to 'drop-and-go' cassette buffer
- Reduced patient waiting times
- More relaxed environment for Technologists
- Consistently high image quality and resolution
- Up to 50 percent dose reduction in paediatrics

Paediatric radiation dose reduced by up to 50 percent

Radiologists primarily benefit from the consistently high image quality and resolution detail, the senior physician says. "The DX-G combines the image quality of DR with the flexibility of CR. That allows us to give patients a diagnosis in a short amount of time." The users have several options in this context: they can choose between standard phosphor plates and newer needle-based detectors. They can also select output at either 150 μm standard resolution or 100 μm high resolution.

"We primarily use the DX-G in paediatrics, as well as for chest x-rays and intensive diagnostics. Thanks to the system's high image quality, we can reduce the dose for paediatric exams versus other imaging systems," says Dr. Wieschen, emphasizing an essential advantage. •

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