

CUSTOMER CASE



Department of General Radiology, AP-HP Bicêtre, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre
Department of General Radiology, Georges Pompidou European Hospital, Paris
Women's and Perinatal Imaging Service, Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital, Nancy

Advancing women's health

Mammography technology paves the way to new digital future for three hospitals in France

Three different hospitals in France have enhanced the care they provide to women with the installation of Agfa HealthCare's DX-M solution. For the AP-HP Bicêtre in Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, Georges Pompidou European Hospital (HEGP) in Paris, and Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital in Nancy, the advantages of the new technology include improved image quality and ease-of-use.



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*Jean-Manuel Da Mota, Technologist,
Department of General Radiology,
AP-HP Bicêtre*



AP-HP Bicêtre, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre

- Transfer of mammography from Paul Brousse Hospital (Villejuif) and purchase of DX-M in November 2010
- Currently setting up a major Mother and Child Center incorporating a mammography unit
- Three staff members dedicated to mammography and trained at the Curie Institute
- Features a dedicated mammography room inside the gynecology and maternity unit
- From September 2011: mammography department open three days a week
- Target January 2012: mammography department open four days a week, and emergency slot for diagnoses within one day (biopsies in the morning and gynecology consultations in the late afternoon, with results)

Women’s health poses its own unique set of challenges to healthcare providers. New technology implementations must be carefully considered within a framework of regulatory, financial and technical requirements. In France, healthcare institutions must adhere to policies introduced by the AFSSAPS (the French agency for the public health safety of medical products) which announced more stringent quality controls for digital mammography in 2010.

The DX-M solution from Agfa HealthCare helps these three hospitals address these challenges, and more. The DX-M is a CR solution with needle-based detectors to reach the high level quality demanded by mammography.

Each of these three sites has a different focus and organization. At AP-HP Bicêtre, the DX-M operates in a mammography department that opened its doors just a few months ago within the hospital’s brand-new Mother and Child Center. At Georges Pompidou European Hospital, one of the country’s leaders in implementing innovative healthcare technology, the DX-M is located in the Senology Department. At Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital, founded over eighty years ago, the system is part of the Women’s and Perinatal Imaging Service, which went to digital in 2010.

Meeting the dose reduction challenge

Every center in France’s national breast cancer screening campaign has to address various constraints, including the need to improve the quality of exams provided to women, and ensure that a set radiation threshold is not exceeded.

When it joined this national program, Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital decided to move from traditional equipment to the



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*Dr. Foucauld Chamming’s, Radiologist,
Department of General Radiology,
Georges Pompidou European Hospital*



Georges Pompidou European Hospital, Paris

- Opened in 2000, created through the merger of three hospitals in the 15th arrondissement of Paris (Laennec, Boucicaut, Broussais)
- Large, 800-bed multi-disciplinary institution
- Technological showcase for Public Assistance – Hospitals of Paris (First AP-HP hospital to be equipped with PACS)
- Nearly 2,000 mammograms, 200 needle biopsies and a great amount of needle localizations performed every year

DX-M digitizer, which met all the required criteria. Equipped with needle-detector technology, the DX-M system produces a high-quality image, making it a real asset in the struggle against breast cancer.

The high performance of this technology benefits not only radiologists and technologists, but patients too. “The clear images enable us to detect micro-calcifications much more easily when carrying out early screening for breast cancers,” says Dr. Karine Polet, Head of the Women’s and Perinatal Imaging Department at Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital. “It meets all the technical requirements and demand levels outlined by the national breast cancer screening program, with ease.”

Flexible solution offers proximity, speed and efficiency

“The images are good at the first attempt, without needing to carry out adjustments,” says Jean-Manuel Da Mota, Technologist at the general radiology department at AP-HP Bicêtre. “And it means less radiation for the patient, so it is beneficial on many levels. I’d say that proximity, speed and efficiency are the three keywords of the DX-M.”

Georges Pompidou European Hospital implemented the DX-M system for another reason: the compatibility of DX-M with the existing equipment permitted to digitize its film-based mammography images and keep the original films. “A compromise-free reduction in costs for the institution, to the point that the solution gives excellent spatial resolution and provides an image quality comparable to that of a digital mammogram, but for a far lower financial investment,” says Dr. Foucauld Chamming’s, Radiologist at HEGP. “The DX-M gives us everything we need with respect to the conditions needed for optimal image interpretation.”

Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital, Nancy

- Founded over 80 years ago
- Among the few maternity units in France to incorporate a radiology unit
- Focused on mothers, women and infants
- Handles over 3,500 births a year

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*Dr. Karine Polet,
Head of the Women’s and Perinatal Imaging Department,
Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital*



Ease-of-use and quick image preview for improved patient care

At AP-HP Bicêtre, where the DX-M has been up and running since the mammography department in the Mother and Child Center first opened, technologists and radiologists appreciate the ease-of-use of the DX-M. The solution has helped improve working conditions and the efficiency of staff. Once generated, the image is sent for printing at the ultrasound room, and is immediately available on the department’s workstation. Technologists don’t have to go back and forth within the department, and radiologists save time thanks to greater processing speed and image transmission. They also like the consistent high quality of the images, saving them from having to make further adjustments.

For Nancy Regional Maternity Hospital, key factors in the decision to go with the DX-M were the ease-of-use and the quick image preview, as well as the automatic management of cassette formats. The hospital has also noted an improvement in the quality of patient care, linked to streamlined working conditions and workflows for radiologists.

When integrated with PACS, as is the case at HEGP and AP-HP Bicêtre, the DX-M brings a new dimension to mammography. The distribution of images within a department or among several departments is simplified, and the archiving of medical images allows easy access to patients’ previous exams. This represents a major advantage in mammography, which focuses on monitoring the progression of pathologies. •

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