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“ The main reason we chose Agfa HealthCare was the streamlined workflow, but once we implemented the solutions, we were very excited about the additional benefits we saw, such as dose reduction potential and outstanding image quality. ”

DR. FABRIZIO LAMBERTI CASTRONUOVO

Owner, Medical Director of radiology department,
Istituto Clinico 'Prof. Dr. Raffaele De Blasi', Reggio Calabria, Italy

Faster patient care, around the clock: large clinic sees clear benefits from DR

The Istituto Clinico Prof. Dr. R. De Blasi enhances patient care and increases patient throughput by combining a new, top-of-the-line DR solution with the easy Retrofit upgrade of its existing CR investment

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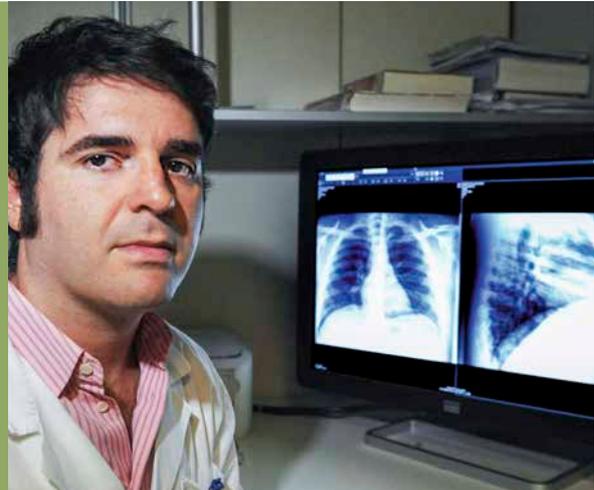
Faster patient care, around the clock: large clinic sees clear benefits from DR

Interview with DR. FABRIZIO LAMBERTI CASTRONUOVO, owner, Medical Director of the radiology department, Istituto Clinico 'Prof. Dr. Raffaele De Blasi', Reggio Calabria, Italy

“I didn't expect to be able to do so many radiography examinations in such a short time, as I can with the Agfa HealthCare systems.”

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Offering a full range of radiology services every day of the week requires streamlined workflow and optimized efficiency. Spread over four floors and 2,800 m² in a building located in the center of Reggio Calabria, the Istituto Clinico Prof. Dr. Raffaele De Blasi is using digital radiography to achieve that ambitious goal. One of the area's largest outpatient clinics accredited by the Italian National Healthcare System, it serves some 600 patients every day in its various departments, including diagnostic imaging (CED), health center and clinical laboratory.

The clinic aims to offer top-class service, with a staff of about 100 specialists and the most advanced technologies. In 2014, the clinic installed the DX-D 800* direct radiography (DR) system, which not only significantly speeded up radiology services, but also provided benefits in dose reduction potential and image quality. After experiencing the advantages, the clinic decided to also upgrade an existing computed radiography (CR) system with DX-D Retrofit. The clinic's results with the two DR solutions are impressive: the number of exams carried out per day is higher, overall exam time is reduced and the clinic has been able to add new imaging applications.

Digitizing to streamline workflow

First opened in 1979, the Istituto Clinico Prof. Dr. Raffaele De Blasi is owned by the Lamberti-Castronuovo family. Dr. Fabrizio Lamberti Castronuovo manages the radiology department, which includes X-rays, a CT with both multi-slice and cone beam devices (for dental applications), an MRI and ultrasound.

Over the past decade the clinic digitized its services, aiming to streamline workflow and reduce the risk of human error. Its overall goal was to offer all types of radiology service, any day of the week, without requiring patients to make an appointment.

The clinic turned to Agfa HealthCare's DR solutions to support it in achieving this ambition. Dr. Lamberti Castronuovo had a first experience with Agfa HealthCare's digital radiography systems at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in

Rome, and the clinic had already implemented a DX-M CR system for mammography and dental orthopantomography. The staff appreciated how the efficient, easy-to-use, multi-slot digitizer streamlined the daily workload, while the NIP (needle plate technology) cassettes allowed potential dose reduction for patients.

To move forward, the clinic next opted for a complete series of radiology solutions: the high-performing DX-D 800 DR system with remote control, the cost-efficient DX-D Retrofit solution for upgrading existing investments, and IMPAX RIS/PACS. "The IMPAX RIS/PACS helps us keep control of 100% of our information. This is the first investment that I would suggest to a clinic," says Dr. Lamberti.

Dose reduction potential and greater flexibility

The DX-D 800 is a complete digital X-ray room fitted with a dynamic, portable and removable flat-panel detector. It provides enhanced versatility and flexibility in diagnostics through its direct digital dynamic remote-controlled fluoroscopy and radiography system. But it also offers the clinic something more: the potential to reduce patient X-ray dose when used with Cesium Iodide detectors.

"One of the general benefits of digital radiology systems is less exposure and patient dose. Once the DX-D 800 was installed, we were able to verify this reduction for ourselves. For example, for a chest radiography, when using Cesium Iodide detectors, we now use only 1/6

DX-M

- For digital mammography and general radiography
- State-of-the-art image quality, with potential dose reduction when used with needle-based detectors
- Can be used with needle-based detectors or standard phosphor plates
- Drop-and-go cassette buffer enhances smooth workflow

DX-D 800

- Single touch, remote-controlled user interface and table auto-positioning, improving workflow and maximizing patient and operator comfort
- Wide range of fluoroscopy, general radiography and portable applications
- Dose reduction potential when used with Cesium Iodide detectors

DX-D Retrofit

- All the workflow and image quality benefits of direct radiography
- Maximizes existing imaging investment

Next Generation MUSICA (MUSICA 3)

- Intelligent image processing for CR and DR
- Excellent contrast detail
- Automatic and body-part independent
- Better viewing of difficult areas

IMPAX RIS/PACS

- Connects images and information, providing more comprehensive information to support diagnoses
- Saves time
- Manages patient history and saves documents in the database
- Records and delivers information on radiation dosage

“With the DX-D 800, we can now provide the local community with best in class radiography technology.”

DR. FABRIZIO LAMBERTI CASTRONUOVO

Agfa HealthCare's contribution

- Innovative concept for patient and operator comfort
- Workflow optimization with reduced workload
- Reduced time of exposure and dose management tools for patient care
- Support and service contract

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of the previous dose. This reduction is even higher for other exams. And we can now perform all kinds of radiology examinations, including imaging using contrast media, for digestive and urogenital tests, in a quicker way and with high image quality.”

To optimize the clinic’s equipment investment, Dr. Lamberti Castronuovo also decided to keep an existing CR system and upgrade it to the benefits of DR with the DX-D Retrofit. The solution consists of a flat panel detector (DX-D 30C), a retrofit box and an NX workstation with MUSICA image processing software. “We carried out three weeks of field testing with the Retrofit and were amazed at how our nine-year old CR system improved. With a limited investment, it is as if it has gotten a second youth!”

MUSICA image quality impresses clinic radiologists

The DX-M includes Agfa HealthCare’s gold-standard MUSICA image processing, and with the new investments in 2014, the clinic also upgraded to next generation MUSICA (MUSICA 3). “This software has had a big role to play in the radiologists’ satisfaction,” Dr. Lamberti explains. “It’s amazing to see what

MUSICA – especially MUSICA 3 – can achieve: images are sharper and details are clearer. What more can radiologists ask for?”

The clinic also opted to subscribe to a full support and service contract. “We can call Agfa HealthCare whenever we need, and in a few hours the situation is solved. The service is truly excellent.”

With two DR solutions in place, the clinic has increased the number of examinations that can be performed per day. The single touch and remote-controlled user interface with preset protocols reduces examination time, while the flexibility of the DX-D 800 allows additional applications.

“With these systems, we can offer a quicker service, with less downtime, which means patients face shorter waits and less stress,” says Dr. Lamberti Castronuovo. “That means we have reduced our costs but at the same time we have more patients – a good equation for success! And finally, our investments in Agfa HealthCare DR mean we are now preferred over other diagnostic centers, thanks to our state-of-the-art technologies.”

* DX-D 800 is not available in Canada or the U.S.

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