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Starnberger See Radiology
enriches imaging with two Agfa VALORY™ systems

 Case Study – Starnberger See Radiology

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Case Study

Interview with Dr Eugen Mangel and
Katy Siegmeth, Starnberger See Radiology

Dr Eugen Mangel has been a radiologist for almost four decades - and has been working with Agfa systems for almost as long. His first contact with Agfa came at the beginning of his training at the University of Munich in the early 1980s. „To this day, I have gained experience with all the evolutionary solutions in their portfolio, from the daylight developing systems over the imaging plate systems to the modern DR solutions,“ says Dr Mangel.

Today he runs Starnberger See Radiology, a practice with locations at Starnberg Hospital and Penzberg Hospital. „There we offer the entire range of classic hospital radiology going from imaging of fractures to taking X-rays of intensive care patients.“ In Starnberg, his team performs around 45,000 examinations a year, helping approximately 22,000 patients. Since the end 2021, many of examinations have been done in Starnberg with VALORY™ – Agfa’s ceiling-suspended, semi-automated direct radiography (DR) solution – and since January 2023 the system is also installed in Penzberg.



Agfa offered us an attractive package of systems and services, so we were convinced that we could go down this new path.

Dr Eugen Mangel
Head of Starnberger See Radiology

„In Starnberg, we operate two X-ray facilities, one of which was outdated and had to be replaced. We asked ourselves how we could make ourselves fit for the future. Agfa provided the answer with VALORY™. The DR system was still new and we were asked to contribute our experience to its further development. Our team of

15 very experienced radiographers gladly accepted the challenge,“ Dr Mangel describes. The goal was to perform all examinations, including bedside images, with the device. Since the experience in Starnberg was consistently positive, VALORY is now used as the main device at the Penzberg site. „We have put together

an attractive overall package of systems and services with Agfa, so that we were able to go down this new path with full conviction,“ says Dr Mangel happily.

Continuing the proven path

Of course, he and his team also looked at possible alternatives during the procurement process, but in the end VALORY™ proved to be the best solution for their needs. Therefore, Starnberger See Radiology has stuck with the tried and tested. „We have known the account managers and service staff for a long time, and a relationship of trust has grown. In addition to the well-known good quality of the systems, this was a decisive point for continuing on this path together,“ Dr Mangel summarises. The decision has proven to be the right one so far. „The installation was problem-free, but a few hurdles had to be overcome in the run-up,“ Katy Siegmeth, head of the radiographers' team, looks back. For example, the room in which the VALORY™ system was to be installed was quite narrow. In order to be able to move patients or examine them in bed, the space had to be planned very precisely. „In order to fit the device into the room, we removed part of a wall. All in all, the construction measures went smoothly, the interaction between Agfa and the technical department at our hospital was very professional and exemplary,“ praises Dr Mangel. After one week, the installation was completed. VALORY™ was fully integrated into the clinic's oper-

ations and normal working day right from the start. „We tried to examine as many patients as possible with it right away. This way we gained important experience and optimisation potential for us,“ says Siegmeth. For example, the radiographer team found the centring of the detector with the X-ray source too smooth and the filter difficult to recognise for paediatric images. „Agfa implemented these points very promptly and we were quickly able to work with a system that was optimal for us,“ she is pleased to say.

The perfect image with just a few clicks

VALORY™ ensures a seamless workflow for radiologists and radiographers. In Starnberg and Penzberg, patients are registered in the Radiology Information System (RIS) and the corresponding examination data is then automatically transferred to the MUSICA® workstation of the VALORY™ system. „There I select the patient and, if necessary, adjust the corresponding settings to the patient physique,“ Siegmeth describes the workflow. „Then we bring the patient into the X-ray room, position him and take the image.“ Post-processing steps such as windowing the image are no longer necessary, as the MUSICA® image processing

software creates a high diagnostic image quality fully automatically. „All I have to do is collimate the examination area and trigger the exposure.“ Thus, the examination of a mobile patient usually takes two minutes. With another mouse click, the images are sent to the image data management system and then appear in the radiologists' reporting list. „The image quality was already outstanding with Agfa's imaging plate systems. But with the latest generation detectors, it has improved even more. As a result, we hardly have to take any repeat images,“ emphasises Dr Mangel.

State-of-the-art detectors and seamless processes

Katy Siegmeth first highlights the clear user interface and easy handling of the Agfa VALORY™. „This keeps the training effort low and familiarisation is quick, and even new colleagues are able to operate the system in no time.“ The tube tracking function, i.e. tracking the X-ray tube to the height of the screen wall unit and the table to the correct exposure distance in each case, the automatic centring of the X-ray source as well as the Auto-SID, with which the correct focus-detector distance is always maintained, make work even easier.



The image quality was already outstanding with Agfa's imaging plate systems. But with the latest generation detectors, it has improved even more. As a result, we have virtually no need to take repeat images.”

Katy Siegmeth

Head of the radiographers' team, Starnberger See Radiology



Siegmeth sees the modern detectors as another plus of VALORY™: „Due to the long operating time of 15 hours, we can work all day with one detector. Removing and inserting it into the table or grid wall stand works smoothly – without plugs and fiddling.“ This means the radiographers are able to seamlessly do one examination after the other. „This is a

significant relief from before, both in terms of time and workload. VALORY™ is really good for fast screening and high throughput, which has also helped us with the mandatory screening of refugees from Ukraine.“ In addition, VALORY™ is like no other comparable system on the market. At Penzberg Hospital, for example, the Starnberger See

radiology department runs a mixed operation with digital detectors and imaging plates used for whole-leg scans. „So we use older and state-of-the-art technologies in one device and with the same workstation.“ In general, Dr Mangel finds it important for reporting „that the image impression, the image quality and the image processing are identical.“



Agfa's solution: VALORY™

VALORY™ is a modular DR system, available in either a ceiling-suspended or floor-mounted version. It is equipped with MUSICA® image processing, providing the simplest imaging and significantly reducing retakes. The level of automation of this semi-automatic system (tracking function, auto-SID and auto-centre positioning) supports users for a highly efficient workflow.



Starnberger See Radiology

The Starnberger See radiology department was founded in 1999 and is located on the premises of the Starnberg hospital, offering all common nuclear medicine and radiological diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Penzberg Radiology was established in 2011 and is affiliated to Penzberg Hospital. In Starnberg, around 45,000 examinations are carried out per year on around 22,000 patients; Penzberg accounts for around a third of these.

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