

KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR SYSTEMS



Virginia Mason Reports that
KODAK DR 5100 System Delivers
Outstanding Flexibility, Productivity
for Upright Exams

HEALTH IMAGING
A BETTER VIEW OF LIFE.



VIRGINIA MASON MEDICAL CENTER



Technologist Tracy Dunlap, RT(R)(M), positions a patient for an image that will be captured with the Kodak DirectView DR 5100 system. The DR 5100 system delivers outstanding productivity for upright and decubitus exams at Virginia Mason Medical Center.

Boosting productivity is critical for Virginia Mason and other facilities around the country that are coping with a technologist shortage. "Thanks to the efficiency of our streamlined digital workflows, we are now able to handle our patient workload despite a limited staff," notes John Eusek, Administrative Director of Radiology.

The ability of digital radiography systems to rapidly supply images for a QC check and then route the images to a PACS system for soft copy reading are well-known, as is the virtual elimination in repeat rates. However, several other factors—including worklist management, an easy-to-use operator interface and rapid image delivery—play an important role in maximizing departmental productivity, Eusek explains.

A Kodak DirectView DR 5100 digital radiography system delivers outstanding productivity for upright exams at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. The DR 5100 system images an average of 85 to 100 patients a day and is versatile enough to perform chest, abdomen, upper spine and other upright exams.

"The design of the operator console needs to support immediate acceptance by all technologists, including after-hours and part-time employees, and the system needs to be linked to a hospital's radiology information system so that it can provide worklist management," he says.

MASTERFULLY DESIGNED OPERATOR INTERFACE

"The DR system's operator interface is masterfully designed," Eusek reports. "Not only is the console easy to use and understand, but it also displays exam views and tracks completion to show technologists exactly what views have been captured and which remain. This tool facilitates use by new technologists and equips technologists to handle interruptions and then easily resume the exam."

“I view the operator interface as a major advantage to purchasing both CR and DR platforms from Kodak”

Eusek adds that training on the new system was further expedited because Kodak offers a consistent operator interface across its DR and CR platforms. Virginia Mason began installing the first of its six Kodak CR systems more than six years ago.

“I view the operator interface as a major advantage to purchasing both CR and DR platforms from Kodak,” he reports. “Once our technologists were trained on the use of Kodak CR systems, they were able to very easily transition to new generations of Kodak’s CR platform and also to the DR platform.”

The facility has a Kodak DirectView CR 850 and a CR 900 system in its emergency and surgery areas, while a Kodak CR 950 system supports three general radiology rooms and processes portable exams. In addition, three satellite clinics each have a Kodak CR 800 system to provide digital image capture.

WORKLIST MANAGEMENT DELIVERS GREATER PRODUCTIVITY

Worklist management is another key factor affecting productivity, according to Eusek.

“We conducted a study related to patient data entry several years ago and discovered that 27 percent of cases involving manual data entry contained errors. We did not want to



Radiology Manager Sharon Hemphill, RT(R)(M), prepares to take another image. The Kodak DirectView DR 5100's operator console displays exam views and tracks completion to show technologists exactly what views have been captured and which remain.

handle that kind of exception processing, so worklist management became a mandatory item for us.”

Implementing worklist management required integrating the hospital's Kodak DirectView PACS with its radiology information system as well as dozens of imaging modalities. Eusek retained Kodak's Professional Services organization to handle this large-scale integration effort.



John Eusek, RT(R), is the Administrative Director of Radiology at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle.

"Kodak's DR platform provides extremely accurate images with improved diagnostic content"

"Kodak's experienced staff really understands imaging workflows and image quality issues and they did an excellent job of integrating all of our modalities with PACS, and integrating PACS with our RIS, to create an efficient digital workflow," he adds.

While productivity was important, improved image quality was one of the key reasons for implementing digital radiography and for selecting Kodak as the vendor of choice.

"Kodak's DR platform provides extremely accurate images with improved diagnostic content," says Paul Sicuro, MD, Radiologist. "Kodak EVP software plays an important role by supporting improved latitude and displaying more detailed anatomy while maintaining optimal contrast."

Dr. Sicuro adds that EVP software also facilitates radiologist productivity by reducing the need for adjustment. "Radiologists welcome the ability to adjust contrast and other parameters at the workstation. But if we can see all the important anatomy when the image is first displayed, then we can spend more time reading and less time interacting with the workstation."

DR, CR SYSTEMS CAPTURE GENERAL RADIOGRAPHY EXAMS

As healthcare providers migrate to digital imaging technologies, both digital radiography and computed radiography systems are usually required to provide digital image capture of general radiography imaging studies.

"Implementing digital imaging requires a mix of CR and DR technologies," notes Eusek. "We elected to apply the



Terrie White, RT (R)(M), performs quality control on an image acquired using the Kodak DirectView CR 800 system. Virginia Mason captures general radiology exams using Kodak CR and DR systems.

efficiencies of DR technology to our highest volume area where direct capture of images and rapid processing is especially important. We rely upon CR technology to deliver efficient digital image capture in other imaging areas. DR has the advantage of direct digital capture with no need for cassette processing, but CR technology is available at a lower cost and accommodates existing x-ray systems. Since both platforms deliver excellent image quality, the decisive factors are cost and productivity."

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