Canadian Imaging Centers Embrace CR-Based Mammography from Carestream Health

Quantum Medical Imaging Services and Insight Medical Imaging Clinic are just two of the Canadian healthcare facilities that have embraced the use of CR platforms from Carestream Health, Inc., for mammography applications. The KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 850/950/975 and Classic/Elite CR Systems offer the ultimate in flexibility since they can perform general radiography and mammography exams.

Quantum Medical Imaging is located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Quantum Medical Imaging Services, Inc. Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Efficiency and ergonomics were primary considerations in selecting a CR-based mammography platform at Quantum Medical Imaging Services in Toronto. This independent outpatient imaging facility performs 1,000 diagnostic and screening mammograms a month. About one-third of the exams are affiliated with the Ontario Breast Screening Program. It also performs general radiology exams, including ultrasound, echocardiography and bone density testing.

Quantum's owner and manager Cindy Tam (who is also a technical assessor for the Ontario government) evaluated CR systems from several vendors. In addition to image quality and reliability, her evaluation included a careful look at ergonomics and productivity of the system's design.

"Carestream Health's CR platform minimizes the need to reach and lift during processing of cassettes. Its touch screen is much more productive than a keyboard and mouse," Tam notes. "These attributes, combined with the company's reputation for reliability and high image quality, made this an easy decision."

The facility uses a multi-plate CR 975 System in one exam room but it can support mammography exams from a second room when needed. The facility also has a CR 850 system in a general radiology room.

Tam likes the flexibility offered by Carestream Health's CR platforms. "Having a CR system that supports mammography and general radiology exams allows us to better utilize our personnel and equipment and adjust our workflow to meet patient care needs."

She also purchased Carestream Health's PACS and its multi-modality breast imaging workstation. The breast imaging workstation can be used for reading general radiology and breast imaging exams and supports all modalities. "Like the CR platform, this workstation is extremely flexible. It allows reading of general radiology exams but it offers specialized tools for mammography reading in addition to the higher resolution monitors."

Insight Medical Imaging Clinic
Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada

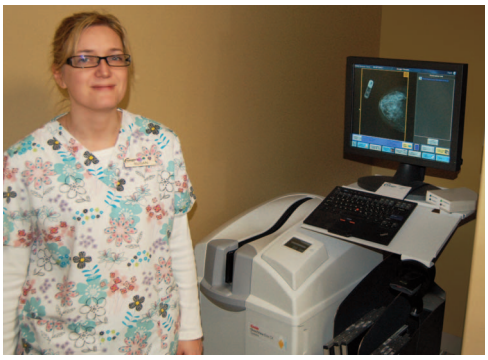
This outpatient imaging center recently relocated to a new and larger facility to serve its growing patient base in Spruce Grove, just west of Edmonton. It expanded its services to include nuclear medicine studies as well as x-ray, ultrasound, fluoroscopy, mammography and bone densitometry.

With the move to the new building, it converted its mammography procedures from film to digital and immediately doubled its patient volume. "We were able to cut the wait time to schedule a screening procedure almost in half," said Susan Redmond, Clinic Supervisor.

After evaluating several computed radiology (CR) vendors, the staff selected Carestream Health's Elite CR platform for mammography exams because of its ease of use and image quality.

"Carestream Health's CR systems are very user friendly. Our technologists felt comfortable using this equipment very quickly and were able to be extremely productive from the start," said Redmond. "Radiologists also like the image quality, which was an important consideration."

Insight Medical Imaging purchased two Elite CR systems: One CR system is used primarily for mammography and the second CR is used primarily for fluoroscopy and acts as a backup for mammography exams as well. The clinic sees 400 mammography patients a month. The efficient digital workflow allows patients to be scheduled every 15 minutes instead of every 30 minutes, which was required by a film-based process.



A radiology technologist at Insight Medical with the Kodak DirectView Elite CR System

Since the clinic has a PACS, patient worklists are downloaded to eliminate manual data entry and exams are automatically uploaded for reading. "This paperless system is extremely efficient and allows us to spend more time caring for our patients and less time moving information," she explains.

Redmond adds that the quality of local support in Alberta was also a factor in selecting Carestream Health. "The CR equipment is very reliable, but sometimes we have a question or need help. We know our local Carestream Health support personnel will promptly address our needs."

About Our Products

Carestream Health customers have access to a full portfolio of digital mammography solutions, including: flexible CR systems that are renowned for their productivity and ease of use; CARESTREAM PACS that delivers specialized mammography tools; a multi-modality breast imaging workstation that allows efficient reading of all digital breast imaging and general radiology exams; and a CARESTREAM RIS that offers specialized reporting and patient communication features designed to meet the needs of mammography patients and regulatory agencies.

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For more information about Carestream Health's digital mammography solutions, please visit:

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