

CASE STUDY



Breach Candy Hospital, Reports CARESTREAM DRX 1 System Offers 50 % Improved Productivity & Outstanding Image Quality at Partial investment of Full DR System



The Breach Candy Hospital in south Mumbai, is known for its medical expertise, patient care and quality diagnostics. Specialists on the hospital's roster of doctors include some of the most distinguished names in the Indian medical profession.

The Radiology Centre at Breach Candy Hospital has been at the forefront of technology, patient convenience and quality of healthcare. But the hospital is not one to rest on its laurels. They are always ready to implement new models of care to advance the efficiency of their service delivery. A pacesetter in healthcare arena, the hospital was the first facility in the country to install a Carestream Health CR (Computed Radiography) system, way back in 2001, as Indian hospitals were just beginning to see the value of the then emerging field of "digital technology" in radiography.

This year, they are again taking the lead in adopting Carestream Health's DR (Digital Radiography) technology with the installation of the Carestream DRX-1 System, the world's first wireless DR detector.

Priority at Breach Candy Hospital is to improve its departmental workflow leading to increased productivity and better patient care.

With the Radiology Department performing over 90000 exposures per year, improving patient throughput is an organisational imperative. In that regard, the department works to continually improve its systems, processes and practices. One of the main priority at Breach Candy Hospital is to improve departmental workflow leading to increased productivity and better patient care. The real challenge was to achieve this with minimum investment.

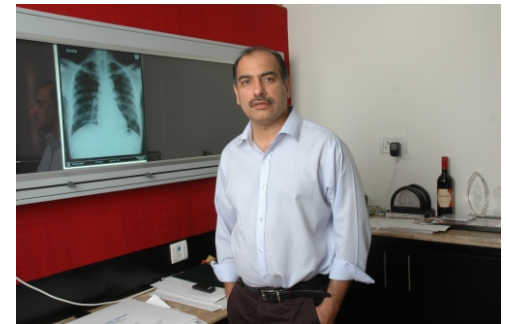
Evaluation of a wireless DR detector system in a busy radiology department of Breach Candy Hospital



The Carestream DRX-1 System is helping the Radiology Department improve the timeliness of care for patients while better utilising the available resources. The department first went in for a trial-phase to evaluate the new system, before putting it into regular use. They have now been using the

machine since November 2009 and have tested it extensively for real-life cases. With the high workload for the radiologists in the department, this means that they already have quite extensive hands-on experience.

Excellent Image Quality & Improved Productivity



Dr. Anirudh Kohli, Head of the Radiology Department Breach Candy Hospital Speaking about his experience so far, Dr. Anirudh Kohli, Head of the Radiology Department at the Hospital, comments, "We find that the image quality offered by the DRX-1 system is excellent. Besides, the wireless functionality has improved our productivity by allowing a much more flexible workflow to meet our needs. The overall level of service has multiplied to the extent of being able to handle about 100 percent more patients per day than before the installation of the DRX-1 system. The patients' waiting time has been also reduced from 20 minutes to less than 10 minutes and patient turn-around time for x-ray examination

has gone down from 10 minutes to less than 5 minutes. As one of the country's premium hospital, we are pleased that we are able to offer a better level of patient care and convenience with this new technology."

Cost effective upgrade to DR Solution without any modification in existing system & with no learning curve



Dr. Kohli continues: "The DRX-1 system turned out to be a very affordable and quick way for the hospital to upgrade the radiology facility. There were minimal costs involved in modifying our existing set-up, and more importantly, least disruption in the normal functioning of the department. In fact, the Carestream solution was easily integrated with the existing X-ray equipment; no modifications were required. The Carestream DRX 1 System was installed in less than six hours. Moreover, it took Carestream Health's application specialists less than 30 minutes to train each of the hospital's six technicians to fully operate the system. The DRX 1 system is extremely user-friendly, being designed on the same software platform as Carestream's CR systems and thus there was no learning curve that the users had to go through."

Wireless functionality offers great convenience in usage.

The Radiology Department, now home to the Carestream DRX-1 System, services a diverse

client base. In addition to inpatients, the facility also supports a large population of outpatients.

"The room is used for multiple exam types, from elderly patients in traction with broken limbs who have to be lifted onto the table, to multi-trauma victims. In these cases, it's particularly helpful to have a wireless detector that you don't have to reposition between projections," says Dr. Kohli.

A DR detector in the size and form of a cassette means the Carestream DRX-1 System has innate flexibility and can be used wherever it is needed. The use of the detector at Breach Candy's Radiology Department is quite evenly spread between the vertical bucky and out-of-bucky applications. Moreover, the detector's thin width means it can also be used for tabletop projections. It can easily be put under a trolley-bound patient to do extremity work too.



This flexibility, combined with the wireless nature of the Carestream DRX-1 System, has helped streamline patient positioning. Says Dr. Kohli, "The DRX-1 system is great for exams where you need to angle across the detector or where you need to put it adjacent to a body area where you can't fit an existing digital detector. You can get the DRX-1 detector under a broken limb post-operatively with ease as opposed to a big, bulky detector with a cable attached. It has definitely sped up our workflow in between patients and improved overall patient flow, particularly for outpatients. Because it takes only 68 seconds for the raw image to appear, we can verify positioning almost straightaway. We can also get some idea of exposure index at that time."

"It's nice to have the benefits of a CR cassette with the timeliness of a DR imaging sequence," he adds.

Patient Care Reduced X ray dosage

"Moreover, the fact that the patient's exposure to radiation is lower by about 40-50 percent over CR systems is a major benefit in patient care. The

Carestream DRX-1 System delivers lower radiation doses. Still, its image quality is the same as other DR units and significantly better than CR".

As Dr. Kohli explains, "I must say our experience with the system has been great, overall. From a clinician's standpoint the image quality has to be excellent. In fact, the quality of images we have been getting from the DRX-1 system is beyond what we had expected it to be. Also Carestream EVP software package takes care of overexposures and underexposures of the patients anatomy during the imaging process.



As one of the most reputed hospital, Breach Candy Hospital does have several advanced radiology equipments. Their highly experienced team has been extremely impressed by the Carestream DRX-1 System. "At the moment, there are no other vendors in India that offer this solution. This is the first time this technology is available in India. We're very excited to be able to partner with Carestream Health and to be the first in the country to install and use this state-of-the-art equipment," concludes Dr. Kohli.

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