

Speeding care, return on investment

MDC PACS brings significant savings in time and resources to CEMIC

“Philips MDC PACS has a direct economic impact on our productivity and helps us improve patient care.”

Dr. Mario Fuentes

Clinic Director, CEMIC

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background

CEMIC (Centro de Educación Médica e Investigaciones Clínicas “Norberto Quirno”), a leading healthcare institution founded in 1958 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has seen significant benefits with regard to workflow, patient care, and financial outcomes through the use of Philips MDC PACS at its two hospital sites at Saavedra and Las Heras.

Philips MDC PACS is a healthcare informatics solution rich in clinical functionality, utilizing a single viewer for the radiologist workstation and the web viewer. It is easy to use, install, and support. Additionally, it provides the speed and functionality needed to fulfill the requirements of busy image viewing, distribution, and archiving environments.



Direct economic impact on productivity

Dr. Mario Fuentes, Clinic Director, reports, “The Philips MDC PACS solution has allowed us to seamlessly provide radiologic images to various departments, such as emergency and intensive care, of both our hospitals. Doctors now have access to patient images, regardless of their location, through easy access over the institute’s network. We chose the Philips PACS solution because of its exceptional functionality and strong relationship between CEMIC and Philips.”

Fuentes identifies the most important benefit as the speed with which patient information reaches the various departments, resulting in shorter turnaround times. “This has a direct economic impact on productivity and improves patient care,” according to Fuentes.

He also cites the positive impact on clinical workflow with the installation of MDC PACS, and has already seen cost reductions in printing film. “MDC PACS has improved integration among radiology systems and has reduced loss of patient image data. MDC PACS has improved our service to patients.”

Key attributes highlighted by CEMIC

- Speed of accessing current and prior studies
- Rapid return on investment
- Savings on film, easily verifiable within months of implementation
- Easy to implement
- User-friendly system
- Swift adoption and acceptance by medical center staff



Dr. Shigeru Kozima
Chief of the Imaging Center



The CEMIC team

Immediate impact in the ED

“The impact of the system’s introduction has been largest in the emergency department where short lead-times are most critical,” reports Dr. Shigeru Kozima, Chief of the Imaging Center. “Delays in urgent cases have been reduced, and the image is available to the medical technician almost instantaneously if the case is an emergency. The image can be readily accessed before the patient returns from the Emergency area.”

Information when and where it is needed

With MDC PACS, CEMIC has been able to improve patient care. Users find a reduction in waiting time and query time-out with MDC PACS. In addition, having the images available at follow-up studies provides necessary information to aid diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing care.

Fuentes explains, “Having a single multi-modality PACS solution makes it easy to access patient information and radiologic images within the system for current and previous studies. Key advantages are quick access to this information, the ability to readily retrieve it as often as needed, and the prevention of image loss.”

The main criteria CEMIC used in evaluating and selecting a PACS vendor and solution were reliability, continuity, service, and after-sales support, all of which they have found with Philips.

Simplifying clinician workflow

“Time to report” has been significantly reduced with the introduction of MDC PACS to CEMIC. Kozima states that this is primarily due to the fact that often studies do not have to be repeated in case of suboptimal acquisition technique. “Instead the contrast and brightness can be adjusted on screen, which allows for a more confident diagnosis.” The system has improved the speed with which doctors have access to patient studies. Clinicians can now compare images easily without the need to physically search for films and read them in a crowded and dimly lit reading room. Clinicians adapted to the system quickly, and feel that they are better able to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment and provide ongoing care. Additionally, the availability of patient health information and pathology reports along with study images is a significant advantage.

Better use of resources

The radiology department has also been able to reduce the number of used plates and processing chemicals, which has had a direct impact on departmental costs and has provided a fast return on investment.

Quick installation

Jose Luis Lopez, Manager of the IT Department, reports, “Installation of the software, server, and display stations was very quick and easy. The data center allows images to be sent throughout the two hospital sites using the web viewer application.” The application and web viewing tool have been quite reliable, requiring minimal support from the IT team.

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