

# Evolving technology fosters closer look at **DX-D 300 DR for outpatient use**

Credit Valley Imaging Associates discovered many cost and image quality benefits when it evaluated the latest DR imaging solution to update its practice

**INTERVIEWEES** Heather Gillis, General Manager · Dr. Stephen Florence, Radiologist and Managing Partner · Mary Ann D'Souza, Technologist



Already proven for high-volume imaging in busy hospital radiology departments, the DX-D 300 DR technology's speed and image quality benefits are today being accepted by stand-alone imaging centers.

For many radiology departments and community-based imaging centers, technology choices were historically based on price and patient throughput. Take Credit Valley Imaging Associates (CVIA) in Mississauga, Ontario, for example. It needed to replace aging imaging units in two procedure rooms. However, it also wanted to improve efficiency, image quality and patient throughput. With space at a premium, Heather Gillis, CVIA's General Manager, decided to take a closer look at Agfa HealthCare's new DX-D 300 floor-mounted direct radiography system.

The radiology group that owns CVIA has a strong relationship with Agfa HealthCare at the local hospital. For

Heather Gillis, key decision factors were: competitive pricing, supplier relationship, service quality, and most importantly, improved image quality and patient care. Last year, CVIA became the first site in North America to install the Agfa HealthCare DX-D 300 DR system.

## **DR'S SPEED LETS ONE PROCEDURE ROOM HANDLE ALL STUDIES; SECOND ROOM CLOSED**

Since installing the DX-D 300 in one of the two rooms, Heather Gillis has seen both workflow efficiency and image quality improvements that also translate into fewer repeat and secondary studies.

"Our efficiency has improved to the point that we have now closed down the second



"We can examine more patients because positioning time has decreased since we're performing more examinations in convenient upright positions, and the image is captured within three seconds."

HEATHER GILLIS, General Manager

“Once we select the view, we use the remote control to move the unit right into position. We just align the patient and take the exposure without any steps in between to delay the process.”

MARY ANN D’SOUZA, Technologist



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DR. STEPHEN FLORENCE, Radiologist and Managing Partner

procedure room and utilized this space for additional imaging services,” she says. One room with its original equipment was kept intact for a few months just in case there was any downtime with the new DR unit. That never happened, and Heather Gillis is now confident the one DR room will keep pace with the volume that two previously handled.

“The fact is we can examine more patients because positioning time has decreased since we’re performing more examinations in convenient upright positions, and the image is captured

within three seconds.” Perhaps most important is the gain in image quality achieved with the DX-D 300. According to Heather Gillis and Mary Ann D’Souza, Technologist, various physicians immediately saw the difference.

Says Dr. Stephen Florence, Radiologist and CVIA Managing Partner, “There is significant improvement in contrast and resolution, and better penetration of the mediastinum. As a result, we’ve achieved a higher level of diagnostic confidence, particularly concerning small nodules and interstitial lung disease with an overall better evaluation of the mediastinum.”

Even referring physicians have seen the difference in image quality. Both Dr. Florence and Heather Gillis have received feedback from Dr. Ronald Grossman, a pulmonologist at nearby Credit Valley Hospital, that the DX-D 300’s image quality is so much better than other digital systems that he can evaluate the patient’s condition based on the chest X-ray and refer fewer patients for chest CT. And that, of course, helps further reduce a patient’s lifetime radiation dose.

Beyond image quality improvements, Dr. Florence is also impressed with the system’s efficiency. “By downsizing to one DR room from two original CR procedure rooms, we have also reduced our labor costs,” he adds.

Plus, he notes that with a new ‘U-arm’ on the DX-D 300, the detector can be positioned lower than other units so patients requiring weight-bearing knee or foot studies can stand on the floor versus balancing on a step-stool or other elevated furniture.

### TECHNOLOGISTS FIND SYSTEM EASY TO USE

To help transition to DR, Mary Ann D’Souza recommends that facilities evaluate the imaging chain and rethink workflow to take advantage of the system’s speed. Not only does the DX-D 300 offer faster patient throughput, but D’Souza is also very impressed by the system’s ease-of-use, estimating a time-saving of five minutes per patient study.

Her favorite feature is its infrared remote control. “Once we select the view, we use the remote control to move the unit right into position. We just align the patient

## SOLUTIONS

### DX-D 300

- » Handles a broad range of general and specialty X-ray studies
- » Flexible and affordable, combining a single detector with fully motorized positioning
- » ‘U-arm’ allows lateral cross-table exams on rolling tables
- » Cesium Iodide DR detector technology offers potential for dose reduction

and take the exposure without any steps in between to delay the process.”

She also believes technologists may be taking fewer exposures for each study. The system’s large field-of-view enables a long chest capture in one exposure rather than two. Also, the DX-D 300 image processing algorithms help reduce the amount of window leveling or other image adjustments. Other systems often require additional image manipulation, and specific regions of interest may not be captured on a single exposure, mandating others be made. Over time, this can increase a patient’s lifetime X-ray exposure.

While the gain in image quality is most important, the efficient patient throughput also impresses Heather Gillis. “This is such a vast improvement in technology,” she says. As CVIA continues to use the new DR system, she is ready to renovate the former second procedure room for new services in the very near future. •

## DID YOU KNOW...

- » The DX-D 300’s motorized arm rotation, height, source-image distance and detector rotation can be adjusted three ways: via its console, infrared remote control, or buttons on the tube head and bucky.
- » Located west of Toronto, Mississauga is Canada’s sixth most populous municipality. It has nearly doubled in population in each of the last two decades.

## AGFA HEALTHCARE’S CONTRIBUTION

- » The DX-D 300 is a versatile, highly affordable solution offering image quality and productivity benefits of Direct Digital. In addition to excellent image quality, its Cesium Iodide detector technology offers immediate image availability. Optional MUSICA<sup>2</sup> image processing delivers consistency and excellent contrast detail.