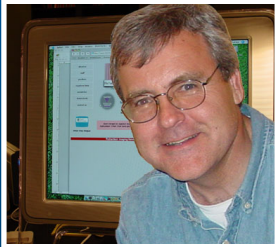


Richardson Imaging Services

The xray problem solvers

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EDITION

"Digitally Speaking!"



We know you have questions!

It seems that everywhere I go, someone is asking about digital imaging. That's great! It usually takes a long time for the hospital-level technology to trickle down to our market, but make no mistake, digital is coming faster than we may think! With so many advantages over conventional film processing, it is only a matter of time! The only limiting factor becomes the initial expense which, for example, could be spread out over a 5 year lease. In many cases, this proves to be a "budget neutral" solution.

Besides the obvious budget considerations, I think that our private practice market also stumbles over "digital confusion". Questions like; "How do we get digital?", "What can you do with the digital images?", "What can't I do with the digital images?", and "How and where do I store the data?".

Without trying to be over simplistic, let me say that there are only three areas of main concern when shopping for a digital solution. We need to consider: 1) How we acquire the image, 2) Where we view and diagnose the image, and 3) How we handle and store the image.

ACQUIRE THE IMAGE: *Essentially there are three ways to acquire the image. Though there are more than one type of "flat plate detector", the Flat Plate is a direct image capture technology that allows the image to be viewed within seconds of the exposure. This is currently the most expensive means of acquisition. Like the "flat plate" technology, "CCD" capture is direct, and allows for image viewing in seconds. Though the cost of this technology is the second most expensive, it is coming down in price, and offers great advantages, especially for single receptor installations.(upright or table only) Lastly, "CR" image capture is very much like we are accustomed to using. Instead of using cassettes, we use image plates or "IP s". After the exposure, the IP is loaded into a CR reader, and converted into a digital image. All of these options include a computer review station with image manipulation software, and a monitor either for review, diagnoses, or both. In some cases, this may be the end of the purchase.*

VIEWING THE IMAGE: *Will we be diagnosing our images from the x-ray room? If so, then we need only to insure that the diagnostic capable monitor is added to our review station. If not, then we can purchase Workstation software that allows us to window and level, zoom and measure, annotate and send, and query/retrieve DICOM images. This type of software can range from \$1500-\$3000, depending on the application.*

PACS: *Picture Archive Communications Systems. PACS should be an all in one solution for storage, display, and distribution of DICOM images. At some point, we're going to fill up our review station hard drive. PACS includes the hardware and the software to store years and years of data while allowing multiple users to query/retrieve the images. Automatic backup and HIPPA compliance are included.*

More questions? Contact us and we'll be glad to help! Call us at 812.949.2422, toll free: 800.234.1949 or email us: info@risxray.com. Visit us at www.risxray.com

Glenn Richardson.... President, Richardson Imaging Services

Mark your calendars for Monday, March 20th! Cheryl Weiss M.S.,R.T. (R) will again be our featured instructor for continuing education. She will be speaking on several topics including PACS. We look forward to seeing you!