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DR ANDERS PERSSON

HEAD OF RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT,  
CENTRAL HOSPITAL HUDIKSVALL, SWEDEN

## Kodak digital radiography system is first in Europe

Testimonial

*A KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 9000 system, one of the first amorphous selenium-based, direct to digital systems to be installed by Kodak in Europe, went live in January at the Central Hospital in Hudiksvall, on the eastern coast of Sweden.*

The radiology department at Hudiksvall which also operates the latest CT and MR scanners, became fully filmless after it was rebuilt a year ago, although it had been on a digital path for some time previously. The hospital is spread over three other sites, up to 100 km apart throughout Hälsningland County, at Bollnäs, Ljusdal and Söderhamn. All sites are fully digital and linked by countywide

ATM network, with a common RIS/PACS, and carry out a total of around 80,000 exams per year between them, 38,000 of them in Hudiksvall.

Head of the radiology department, Dr Anders Persson said:

“...giving us the best possible image quality.”

“Hudiksvall is an important centre in Sweden for imaging and image post-processing, especially in 3-D imaging, so it is important for the hospital to install leading

edge technology. It's good for the patient and it attracts skilled staff that are in short supply in Sweden.” Of the move to DR from CR and conventional film/screen systems he said: “I believe that digital radiography is the future. It's easier and faster and gives an improved bond with the patient. We chose the KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 9000 system because it had the best detector, offering us the best image quality, and because it was the only system available with the U-arm feature. It gives us a lot of flexibility.”

As an administrator, Dr Persson also appreciates the improved workflow resulting from the DR 9000 system.

*"This is a totally new way to work. We can see more patients in the same time and, because there are fewer retakes, overall dosage is lower. The quality of the image gives our radiologists confidence in the system, so once again it's good for us and for the patient. And most importantly, the nurses can stay with the patient throughout, which makes them feel more relaxed. In fact, our nurses had a big say in choosing the system!"*

Chief nurse in the radiology department, Ann-Catrin Olsson agrees. "The DR 9000 system is good for our nurses. We can be more supportive to our patients and we get a preview



*Ann-Catrin Olsson, chief nurse of the radiology department, performs an exam on a patient.*

image almost instantly which means they don't have to wait so long." She went on, "The system has been installed for five weeks and we've already made over 1100 exposures. The operator console is very user friendly and the whole system is very straightforward and easy to use. Image quality is

already better for smaller exams such as hands and fingers and we're working with Kodak to optimise the parameters for every exam, giving us the best possible image quality."

Kodak engineers work closely with customers at each KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 9000 system installation to customise parameters, giving optimum image quality and finding an acceptable balance between dosage and noise levels. The DR 9000 system at Hudiksvall will be customised to deal with over 140 different exams that the department carries out. Once these parameters have been set, any individual image can be manipulated or enhanced to individual requirements.

Dr Persson already sees a specific improvement in image quality over the previous CR system. "With the selenium detector we don't get a ring around metal artifacts such as knee and hip replacements. We can see more detail. It's much better."

Images captured by the DR 9000 system's flat panel, solid state detectors, are immediately archived to the department's existing PACS, from where they can be accessed via fibre-optic cables by workstations for reporting, by monitors in the department's conference rooms, from where they can be projected for daily review meetings, and by referring physicians who can have secure access to images at any point on the hospital's Intranet.

**“ We can see more detail. It's much better. ”**



"The KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 9000 system has interfaced perfectly with our existing RIS/PACS," said Dr Persson. Hard copy images are only produced where patients have been referred by a hospital without digital facilities.

It is not only the image quality and benefits to patients that Dr Persson recognises in the KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 9000 system. "The support we have received from Kodak throughout the whole process from ordering, delivery and installation has been excellent," he said, "it far exceeded our expectations." With Kodak's Health

Imaging Division working hard to develop a relationship with healthcare professionals, the customer becomes a very important part of the process.

Once the system was installed at Hudiksvall, Kodak technicians spent a week with radiology department staff, including key operator Ann-Catrin Olsson, training them in the use of the equipment and customising system parameters to their specific requirements. For the second week they acted as observers as nurses carried out their own exams, offering advice and guidance when needed.

Ann-Catrin welcomed the support staff had received. "It was easy to learn to use the DR 9000 system and the Kodak people were very supportive. They gave us time and that was very important."

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