

KODAK DRYVIEW 8900 - LEGNANO ITALY



“It is a saving...
a huge saving”

HEALTH IMAGING
A BETTER VIEW OF LIFE.



"A DEPARTMENT THIS SIZE CANNOT WORK ON FANTASY -

When we visited Legnano we were interested to find out how one of the first European trade trials of the new DryView 8900 laser Imaging system was progressing.

As the latest in the proven range of DryView laser Imagers which reached a landmark 20,000 units installed last year, the Kodak DryView 8900 has much to offer. The real test however, is how it performs in a busy clinical environment.

With over 210,000 examinations carried out every year the public hospital in Legnano in the Lombardy region of northern Italy was selected because of its demanding workload and the high expectations of the radiology department and its Chairman Dott. Ivo Andrea Bergamo Andreis.

Q. Can you give us an overview of what the facility in Legnano offers and what your department provides?

A. The facility here is a large general hospital with special skills in cardiology (with angioplasty), cardiovascular diseases (diagnosis and treatment) and neurosurgery. With nearly 600 beds it is important that the radiology department offers a swift and efficient service to the other areas of the hospital. The radiology department has to provide all the diagnostic requirements of the hospital, and with the increasing speed offered by the latest CT and MR technology bottlenecks cannot be permitted. In addition to this work we also answer the radiology needs of a busy emergency department.

Q. How is the radiology department organised?

A. The radiology department is split geographically over two sites, a satellite facility some 10 km from the central site concentrates mainly on lung and infectious diseases. Here in Legnano we do everything, the department is on two floors and employs a medical staff of thirteen people with three examination rooms, three



ultrasound suites and a conventional radiology area. Despite a high proportion of digitally held images, most are still also printed, we currently have seven printers spread throughout the department. This is for a variety of reasons, but in this part of Italy outpatients expect to leave the department with a printed image to take to their physician.

Q. So why did you look to Kodak for your printing requirements?

A. Well, first and foremost there's the relationship. We have always had an excellent relationship with Kodak and I am a strong advocate of a close relationship between supplier and vendor. Partnership? That's a strong word but yes, sure that's what we're all working towards. What you



WE WORK ON A VERY TIGHT PROGRAMME"

"IN THE PAST WE COULD WAIT UP TO 30 MINUTES FOR THE IMAGE, WITH THE DRYVIEW 8900 THOSE PROBLEMS ARE NIL"

need to appreciate is we're not just looking for somebody to sell us a box, it's the understanding and support that underlines it – with Kodak if there is a problem it is solved and solved quickly. It's a perfect interaction of customer and vendor.

Q. *The 650dpi output, superior greyscale, 14 bit colour depth and high Dmax range are impressive features of the DryView 8900. How critical is such a high level of image quality?*

A. Many diagnoses are made on screen, but especially with chest and skeletal images the resolution of the printed image is paramount, the best quality of print is essential. In this respect FDA approval offers a lot of security, for example, in the emergency room and the intensive care unit we go straight to print in almost all cases. With the on-board quality control we have found no problem at all, The DryView 8900 is very easy to adapt to.

Q. *The DryView 8900 can print on five film sizes with any three sizes on line. What difference does this make to efficiency?*

A. The Kodak DryView 8900 allows you to achieve the best results in imaging economics. The multi-size online capability provides the best choice in terms of printing, leading to the greatest cost-effectiveness. You have to remember that, in order to improve the overall image quality (also in terms of quality of the delivered image) and to rationalize the RT's activity, precise guidelines have been devised. Within our department these guidelines cover printing modalities (and formats) vis-a-vis the used cassettes (in CR).

On the film we can concentrate say three exams on one film (the DV 8900 can print all the way to the edge of the film). It is a huge saving with three projections of the skull on one sheet for example. With three CT and two MR scanners plus up to 65 emergency scans a day with different film sizes we can serve these multiple modalities better, leading to faster turnover in the exam rooms.

Q. *So you chose Kodak, what benefits does the high throughput and speed of the DryView 8900 bring to your workflow?*

A. A department this size can't work on fantasy, we are on an extremely busy schedule. The speed of the Kodak DryView 8900 allows a true real-time work-out, eliminating all the bottlenecks thanks to the great image output per hour. We have precise written rules designed to improve the quality of care and speed of turnaround we offer our patients. These affect the working practices we use everyday. We undertake about 210,000 separate examinations every year, a massive workload. The reduction in time, just 95 seconds to receive the first film and about 20 seconds for subsequent films, is an obvious advantage. As modalities improve so our printing needs have to keep pace, we cannot allow bottlenecks to slow our response times, even with multiple 16 slice CT examinations. We need high productivity and the DryView 8900 should meet all the needs of our radiology department. Less than a month ago we installed a Kodak CR 900 system, the connectivity offered by the DryView 8900 allows for automatic routing from the CR to the correct printer film drawer.

Q. *Does combining multi-sizes and high speed allow you to generate savings ?*

A. I have a major interest in saving money. The Kodak DryView 8900 does generate savings on films, as I already pointed out. One DryView 8900 replacing multiple printers does definitely allow savings in addition to using less film, in maintenance costs for example. I am going to save about 25% each year only with these minor changes just mentioned. This saving can be put down to the DryView 8900. By centralising the printing in one room (the DryView 8900 is easy to place in the optimum location) the technicians rather than physicians will be responsible for printing, so more time is freed up for additional diagnosis. Now 90% of inpatient reports are given on the same day and all outpatient exams are reported within 24 hours.

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Q. What benefits does the top-mounted six-bin sorter bring to the workflow of the department, how does it improve it?

A. It allows a better sorting of exams (with films sorted by modality or DICOM attribute), thus a better work-flow; different modalities do in fact mainly print on different formats.

Q. What training did your staff need on the DryView 8900?

A. I guess from one point of view it's intuitive, but obviously if you're used to working in a digital environment that helps a lot, it was very easy to use and adapt to. With the DryView 8900 training took only one to one and a half hours and that was it. Also you should remember we know Kodak, all our other laser imagers are Kodak. If something is difficult to understand I get complaints from the staff within two days, so far they have found no problem at all.

Q. Finally, can I ask you about these fantastic historical pictures on the wall, where are they from?

A. This is me, we try to give this place a warmer less clinical feel. These pictures were taken by my great-grandfather during the last century, on glass plate negatives on a Kodak camera, he was an Austrian Field Marshal and keen photographer. I store these plates very carefully in the original boxes. I have had some printed recently, and do you know, the image quality is still excellent.



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