Fighting against time and COVID

With Agfa's MUSICA Chest+ image processing, IQRAA hospital, India, has enhanced the speed, productivity and quality of bedside chest imaging in its COVID ward

CASE STUDY
IQRAA International Hospital and Research Centre, Calicut, Kerala, India

AGFA

Case Study

INTERVIEW WITH DR. SHAHUL HAMEED,
HEAD OF THE RADIOLOGY AND IMAGING DEPARTMENT

With its state-of-the-art equipment and dedicated staff, IQRAA International Hospital and Research Centre, in Calicut, in the Indian state of Kerala, was ready to put all its resources to work caring for patients hit hard by the COVID-19 virus.

To support the hospital with its triage and treatment, Agfa offered a trial version of the MUSICA Chest+ software for bedside chest imaging. By providing more details on pathological findings, the software is helping caregivers to diagnose chest X-rays, while enabling a fast, smooth workflow.

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Dr. Shahul Hameed, Head of the Radiology and Imaging Department, IQRAA

Holding radiology to a high standard

IQRAA International Hospital and Research Centre was established in 2000, in southwestern India. The 300-bed private hospital delivers high-quality healthcare services at affordable cost to the local community including its indigent population. The proceeds from the hospital's operations benefit the JDT Islam Orphanage and other local orphanages.

In 'normal' times, the busy radiology department carries out 150 X-rays, 130-150 ultrasounds, and 30 CTs and MRIs each day. The hospital has been an Agfa customer since 2010, with a DR 400 floor-mounted direct radiography (DR) room, and two computed radiography systems: the CR 12-X and the CR 30-X. "The Agfa solutions enable fast, high-quality imaging that supports diagnosis and speeds up the workflow," describes Dr. Shahul Hameed, Head of the Radiology and Imaging Department. "Our state-of-the-art equipment helps us to be very accurate in our interpretations, and our clinicians hold us to a high standard."

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, all hospitals in India – private and public – have been called upon to fight the disease. IQRAA has a separate facility on its premises to care for COVID patients. The Agfa DR and CR systems offer critical assistance for triage and treatment, explains Dr. Hameed. "When a patient comes into the hospital, if they are ambulatory, we X-ray their lungs using the DR 400, and assess the severity of their infection. If they need intensive care unit (ICU) facilities, they stay in the main part of the hospital. Otherwise, they are moved to the dedicated wing. In this wing, we are using the CR 12-X for bedside imaging of the patients."

Consistent, ‘first time right’ bedside chest imaging

To help with this bedside chest imaging, Agfa approached the hospital in the spring of 2020, offering its MUSICA Chest+ image processing software, as part of its #CountOnUs program. MUSICA Chest+ enables consistent, ‘first time right’ bedside chest imaging. The workflow is fast and efficient even for care professionals who are less familiar with mobile X-ray equipment.

“We have found that, compared to routine chest X-ray processing, the opacities and lung details are better demonstrated with the MUSICA Chest+ software, thus helping us to do chest X-rays more efficiently,” says Dr. Hameed. “With this software add-on, the bedside chest imaging from our CR 12-X system is nearly as good as from our DR room.”

The clarity of the opacities and shadows that are specific to COVID means clinicians in the COVID wing can request imaging from the technician and then review the images directly, without calling upon a radiologist, he says. “As we are all under a lot of time pressure, this helps everyone: the clinician, the radiologist, the technician and, most importantly, the patient,” says Dr. Hameed. “Furthermore, the MUSICA Chest+ workflow is smoother for the technicians as they do not need to adjust the image or exposure settings.”

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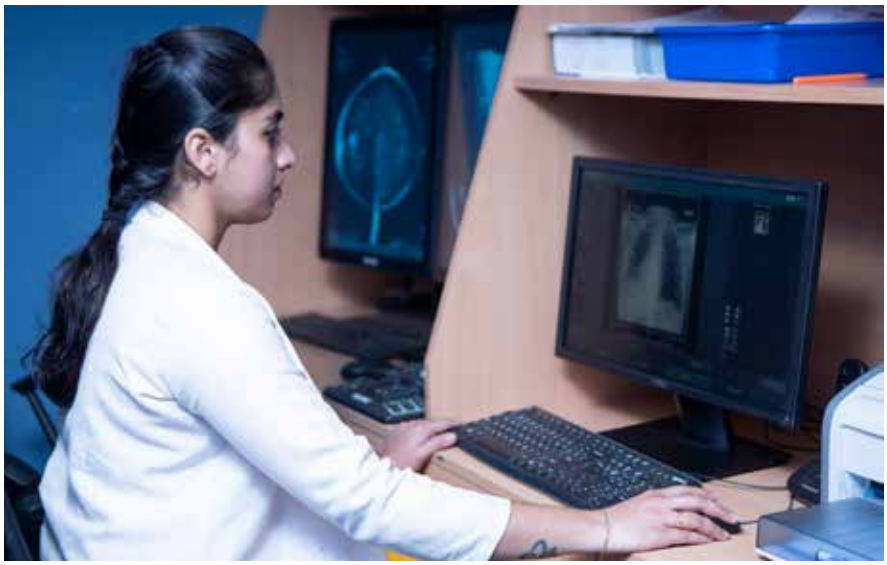
Dr. Shahul Hameed,
Head of the Radiology and Imaging Department, IQRAA

Quick to install and learn

The installation of the software on the CR 12-X was very fast, and did not disrupt the imaging workflow at all, he adds. “The technicians only needed some basic guidance from Agfa on how to use the software; it was very easy for them.” Overall, he says, “MUSICA Chest+ is a very good innovation from Agfa!” “We appreciate Agfa’s commitment, support and co-operation during the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Agfa’s solutions and the service have offered us significant assistance in facing the challenges,” he concludes.

Agfa’s Contribution

Agfa’s #CountOnUs initiative aims to co-create and enable practical responses to the COVID-19 crisis, hand-in-hand with clinical partners. For IQRAA, this includes a 9-month free trial of the MUSICA Chest+ software. In addition, an Agfa engineer made the difficult journey to the hospital during India’s pandemic lockdown, to optimize the settings of the DR 400 room for COVID triage.



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Dr. Shahul Hameed,
Head of the Radiology and Imaging Department, IQRAA

Agfa Solution

MUSICA Chest+

MUSICA Chest+ is a software plug-in that can be used with Agfa's CR and DR solutions, for 'first time right' imaging at the patient bedside. It provides the detail needed to identify opacities and shadows in lung images, conveniently and comfortably. Less time is needed to finetune images for optimal reading, allowing health professionals to work more efficiently. MUSICA Chest+ supports gridless bedside imaging, saving time needed to position and disinfect the grids. When working gridless there are fewer rejects due to bad grid alignment. Plus, the lack of grids helps reduce repetitive strain injury.

To request the software plug-in, visit https://medimg.agfa.com/int/fightagainsttime/

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