

## “Everything’s Much Faster”

Siemens’ innovation package has brought state-of-the-art technology to computed tomography at the Viennese Confraternität.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dock now uses the latest technologies as a matter of routine.



*The Confraternität in Vienna implemented the most modern computer tomographs (CT) for diagnostic procedures back in 2000. What was the reason behind this?*

Our company has a large endoscopic department, one of the best in Austria. The success of endoscopic interventions depends on precise diagnostic information.

*What has been your experience over the last three years?*

Compared with previous generations, the Somatom Volume Zoom CT from Siemens has vastly improved viewing options inside the body. However, some applications used to have rather slow computation times, so we rarely used them. This has all changed now: the Siemens full-maintenance contract includes the Syngo Evolve package, containing an upgrade for the software and specific hardware components. Our high-quality system has been upgraded to state-of-the-art specifications.

*How would you summarise the advantages of the package?*

Everything’s much faster. Methods that were used only infrequently before can now be used as a matter of routine.

*Can you give us some examples?*

Previously it took about two hours to obtain a complete image of the vascular system of the pelvis and the legs. The new innovation package has reduced this time to 20 minutes. For MIP reconstructions, you can scroll through individual images, whereas it used to take several seconds for each image. Now you can click through each image without a time delay, so it’s almost like a film. This considerably increases the quality of angiographic diagnosis.

*Do you also use 3D visualization?*

Yes, since we can use it to see whole organs on the screen, and not just layers. This used to be very time-consuming as well. Now it takes only seconds to use this modern technology.

*Does this mean that you currently don’t need to invest in the next phase of CT technology?*

That wouldn’t be financially possible after three years. Indeed, the spatial resolution that the new systems offer isn’t absolutely necessary for us at the moment. What does matter is performance: this has to be right so that we can use all of the system’s options. It doesn’t make any sense if you don’t use all of the functions that the CT has to offer.

*What are the advantages of the higher performance software and hardware for patients?*



The whole examination goes much faster, although the time that the patient spends in the device is the same. We no longer have to wait until the images are loaded. Instead, we can see the information on the screen after just one minute – almost in real time – instead of ten minutes, as before.

*What are the economic effects of speeding up examinations for the Confraternity?*

The greatest costs for medical services are personnel costs – for us that means doctors and radiological technicians. Reducing the evaluation times obviously reduces the costs of the individual examination.

*Do the health insurance companies pay for this type of modern diagnosis procedures?*

We are currently involved in a pilot program in which a health insurance company is testing the advantages of CT colonoscopy, which we can now perform thanks to the upgrade. Conventional irrigoscopy or colonoscopy is usually used in the area of the intestines; a CT colonoscopy, however, provides more precise findings and amounts to less burden on the patient.



Not only does it provide immediate and precise information about the state of the intestine, it also provides auxiliary findings in the stomach at the same time. Its precise results mean that virtual colonoscopies can replace operational interventions, since it is often difficult to determine those tissues where there are intussusceptions in the intestine, as is the case with an adipose tumour, for example.

*Would you be able to handle a larger number of patients if the health insurance companies paid for the modern examination technology?*

Absolutely. Upgrading our systems to state-of-the-art technology has made this possible.

*In the event that upgrades require FDA approval, Siemens cannot predict whether or when the FDA will issue its approval. Therefore, if regulatory clearance is obtained and is applicable to this package, it will be made available according to the terms of this offer.*