

Improving Public Healthcare in Mexico

Any discussion about the evolution in medicine inevitably turns to the topic of technology. And it is technology that makes medicine more accurate. The Siemens organization in Mexico is aware of that and therefore constantly supporting private and public hospitals with better systems for better healthcare. Recently, the National Institutes of Cardiology, Pediatrics, Medical Science & Nutrition and Neurology & Neurosurgery have benefited from the new technology built into the new systems from Siemens Medical Solutions.

The National Institute of Cardiology

Dr. Jorge Gaspar, chief of the Hemodynamic department at the National Institute of Cardiology, can now use a brand new AXIOM Artis dTC and an AXIOM Artis FC for his work in the field of interventional cardiology. The flat detector (FD) technology of the AXIOM Artis dTC can now contribute better image quality and improves the quality of diagnosis. In the end, this means the work for the medical and technical staff in the departments becomes easier. One of the technicians who is now working with the new systems, Bernardo Santín, describes the evolution in angiographic techniques like the change from black and white TV to color. For Santín, this evolution also affects his professional work at the hospital. He went from being a mere system operator to become a valuable technician, a specialist in radiology who knows how to improve image quality and quickly contributes to a better diagnosis. "With the new FD system, I have total control of the C-arm and the table from one control console. Moving to the other table-side is not necessary and the system handling is so easy. Besides, we technicians are very specialized and familiar with the procedure and can almost anticipate the doctors instructions. Literally, we are their right hand," explains Santín.

The National Institute of Pediatrics

At the National Institute of Pediatrics, Dr. Hector Osnaya Martinez, Chief of Service in Cardiology, can still remember the times when they did their own animations to support the series of radiographic films that were shown consecutively after the imaging. Nowadays, the new AXIOM Artis dTC FD system can show tiny details even in difficult areas. For example, small vessels in children around bigger bone structures. The system configuration is very sophisticated and tailored to the needs of the department. Therefore it can be used for all kinds of pediatric procedures, from diagnosis to intervention. "This kind of technology is crucial," comments Martinez, "especially when we examine infants. Their little bodies can hide obstructed vessels or congenital diseases of all kinds. The new system is very precise and the images are very clear, so omissions are reduced to a minimum."

The National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition

The institute replaced an obsolete Angioskop with a new AXIOM Artis dTA just eight months ago. After this short time

period, Dr. Vazquez La Madrid, chief of the imaging department, is very positive about the new investment: "The digital technology can not only store more images, it is easier to find them in the system, read them and edit them immediately after the acquisition. The storage cases where the films were kept will exist only in our memories or in a museum of medicine." The new system has increased productivity by 100%. Today at the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition performs eight procedures per day which is double the amount than with the previous system. For La Madrid the clear advantage is how fast the procedures can be done – a workflow boost that directly influences patient scheduling. In the past, patient appointments were made two months in advance; now the hospital can schedule appointments just a few days before.

The National Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery

A similar improvement can be seen at the National Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, where a biplane AXIOM Artis dBA was installed. According to the chief of endovascular therapy, Dr. Marco Antonio Zenteno, the institute has been able to examine more than 300 patients in six months, a significant reduction in time and cost – by as much as half. The

(from left to right)
 Dr. Juan Verdejo Paris, Sub-director of Medical Surgical Specialties (NIC), J. Antonio Valencia (Siemens), Mauricio Valero Cañas (Siemens), Dr. Jorge Gaspar Hernández, Chief of the Hemodynamic Department (NIC)



(from left to right)
 Dr. Eid Lidt Guering (NIC), T. R. Bernado Santín (NIC), J. Antonio Valencia (Siemens)



Dr. Marco Antonio Zenteno is proud of the new AXIOM Artis dBA



Medical and technical staff at the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition



two planes of the systems offer two different views at the same time and a bundle of 3D applications for reconstruction. A feature that is a source of pride for Zenteno. He explains: "We have the only biplane system with a flat detector in Mexico and the only one used in neuroradiology in Latin America. With this system we have the total satisfaction of doing a finer and amazing job for our patients."

Education and cooperation is key

Despite the different fields the institutes work in, they have one thing in common: education and research. A lot of great cardiologists, peripheral interventionalists and internists are educated and molded by these institutes. Thanks to the technology and the support of the high quality personnel, this job can be done very well. The training programmes at these institutes make it an excellent school, they produce highly qualified doctors, ready to go and accomplish their social mission in any part of the country. With the Siemens organization in Mexico, the institutes have found a strong partner who is ready to design solutions that meet hospital expectations and offer a customized product range based on their budget and needs.

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