

# Notes from Two Physicians' Practice

A profile of ARCADIS Varic.

Two doctors in a private practice in New York City speak out.

By Mitchell Hovey Brock

Doctors Gene Meisenberg, M.D., and Michael Kogan, M.D., are physicians with private practices at the Columbus Medical Institute of New York, located in Rego Park, in the New York City borough of Queens. Dr. Meisenberg, a urologist specializing in urodynamics, also works at the Cornell Medical Center, Long Island College Hospital, and New York Methodist Hospital. Dr. Kogan is a pain management specialist and an assistant professor at Amherst Hospital. They offer the readers of Medical Solutions several examples of how ARCADIS Varic works for them.

## Image Quality in Diagnosis and Treatment

Both Dr. Meisenberg and Dr. Kogan have only expressed praise for the image quality of the ARCADIS Varic's dual 1024k x 1024k monitors. Says Meisenberg: "Quite honestly, the image quality of the system is excellent." The flat screen is important to him. "I am able to get viewing angles of almost 180 degrees with-

out glare." Doctor Kogan likes the size of the screen: "I have been a pain management specialist for six years, and I have seen a lot of C-arms. The monitor is very big, which is unusual in a system of this size."

The procedures for which Dr. Meisenberg has used the ARCADIS Varic include video urodynamics, retrograde pyelograms, and exchanging stents. The video urodynamic images are so sharp that he sends all of his patients to the Columbus Medical Center. With retrograde pyelograms, the maneuverability of the ARCADIS C-arm makes the presence of an assistant almost superfluous. As for the exchanging of stents, the image is considered to be so precise that the procedure can be performed more quickly.

In Dr. Kogan's practice, he typically first takes an X-ray of the region he will administer the injection, usually in the lumbar area. He explains: "For a selective neural block, the image, rotated 45 degrees, shows me where to put the needle." Prior to acquiring



THE IMAGE QUALITY of ARCADIS Varic is excellent, according to doctors Meisenberg and Kogan.



**PHYSICIANS** Gene Meisenberg, M.D. (left), and Michael Kogan, M.D. (right), offer several examples of how ARCADIS Varic works for them.

the ARCADIS Varic, Dr. Kogan was intrigued to learn that it could produce three-dimensional post-processed views based on two or more images of the same area. The system's ability to take 15 images per second to produce a real-time video interested him less, although he saw its potential application in surgical procedures.

### Ergonomics and Design

ARCADIS Varic has a color-coded system to ease the process of adjusting the position of the X-ray tube. According to Dr. Meisenberg, the color coding was easy to understand: "I didn't even attend the in-service session – my PA did. But I was still able to use it immediately. Very intuitive." Dr. Kogan says he found the C-arm so simple to manipulate that he could work alone, explaining, "It's very important for me to be able to work without having to explain to an assistant what to do. When you move the machine, it stays in place – it doesn't rock," he says,

and proves his point by pushing the C-arm into place with his finger. He is also impressed by the maneuverability of the monitor trolley. Jokes Dr. Meisenberg: "I only wish it were small enough to put in my car, so I could take it to the other places where I work." In a more serious vein he adds, "I feel that it has the best ergonomics of any instrument that I have come across."

### User Interface and DICOM Services

Dr. Meisenberg claims setting the right X-ray level is simply a matter of pointing and clicking. Selecting a "task card" in the user interface automatically sets the machine to suit the requirements of his specialty. After selecting the appropriate "task card", he clicks on an icon of a human body called the Virtual Patient Anatomy (VPA), choosing the body part he wants to x-ray. Accordingly, the VPA recalibrates the dose of radiation to low, middle or high. Denser areas like the pelvis or the

lumbar spine are automatically assigned the strongest dose, up to 2.3 kW. "This machine also works fine with obese patients," observes Meisenberg. Dr. Kogan is especially taken with the VPA: "I don't even have to adjust the dose. The system does it for me." Kogan has praise for the straightforward nature of the user interface: "The program is very familiar to anyone who uses Windows." And Meisenberg observes that the point-and-click look and feel of the application made it very easy to pick up. "I am not very computer literate, but I had no problem. It seemed that there was no learning curve. The technology is changing so fast – it's nice to have something that's so easy to master." He goes on to say that sharing the ARCADIS Varic with other specialists has not been difficult, because it resets quickly, using the task card feature.

The *syngo* platform of ARCADIS Varic supports a suite of functionalities beyond the VPA. Dr. Meisenberg often uses the Query/Retrieve function, which allows him to query the database on Columbus Medical's LAN and retrieve images from it. Other functions got comparatively less usage or no usage at all. Neither doctor has tried printing or burning CDs from the image data bank. Says Meisenberg: "I have no reason to print out the images, because I prefer to pick them up off of the network." Dr. Kogan plans to use the printing function in the future, but the necessary printer has not yet been hooked up to the network.

## Workflow

In Dr. Meisenberg's experience, the workflow from patient registration to examination to archiving has always been transparent. "The secretary at the front desk registers the patient information, and I get it off the network." He appreciates ARCADIS Varic's ability to post MR and CT images from the database. "Then I don't have to waste time going over to a light board," he says. In his urological practice, this is an important feature, because radiolucent stones are visible only on a CT. Meisenberg had no complaints about the quality of the ARCADIS' images once they



**EASY TO USE** and small enough to fit in almost any size room: the ARCADIS Varic C-arm.

enter the database archives. "I use images from the network all the time. I can even log in from home or from another hospital."

What makes the ARCADIS Varic so useful in Dr. Kogan's private practice is the unit's compactness and maneuverability. "You have to be in private practice a long time before you have an office big enough for most C-arms," he says. "But seriously, this unit is very easy to use and small enough to fit in almost any size room."

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