

Radiologie Varad Completes Final Chapter to Full Digitization

An IntelePACS Case Study

Radiologie Varad continues to offer leading-edge technology to referrers and patients after adopting their first PACS over a decade ago

Based in Montreal, Canada, Radiologie Varad is a full-service private radiology practice. It is owned and operated by a team of 14 radiologists affiliated with the University of Montreal Hospital Center (CHUM), a three-hospital healthcare teaching campus. After it was formed in 1965 to help handle the increasing demand for radiological services at St. Luc's Hospital, it grew rapidly – as did its reputation for medical excellence.

Towards a Digital Future

In April of 2000, the clinic relocated its office in the city's central business district. The group's leadership realized that to better serve their growing patient base, conversion to digital technology was a must. "We looked at what was being done in Europe, and in the United States, and we knew that it was going to be the future in terms of archiving, ease of collaboration, and fast transmission of data to better-serve patients," said Dr. Benoît Aubin, President and practicing radiologist.

Varad began the process to seek out the best possible solution and sent out a request for proposals. Knowing that Intelera was already working with the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) in Montreal, one of the most comprehensive university health centres in North America, Varad's leadership called upon their contacts at McGill and began discussions with Intelera for their IntelePACS[®] solution.

An enterprise-level medical imaging solution that is highly scalable, IntelePACS combines secure communications and compression technology to enable users the freedom to report studies from any location.



Time Saved, Productivity Enhanced

The decision to go with IntelePACS cemented Varad's position as one of Montreal's leading practices in neuroradiology, musculoskeletal, thoracic, mammography, abdominal imaging and interventional radiology. "Converting to a digital environment with IntelePACS provided a big boost in productivity, allowing us to save about 50-60% of our time in reading cases," said Dr. Aubin. "As early adopters it did cost us a little bit but it improved our productivity so much that we'll never regret it."



Dr. Benoit Aubin, President and practicing radiologist

Two Systems Complement Each Other for Maximum ROI



Varad experienced immediate productivity gains with IntelePACS

In 2004, Varad moved ahead again with Intelera – this time through implementation of a fully integrated RIS-PACS workflow with their digital modalities (MR, US, DR/CR, and FL). This was critical because it enabled

the group to maximize patient throughput in one of the busiest healthcare service areas in the country. Thus, Varad was able to fully leverage DR technology and maximize its return on investment.

Seamless RIS-PACS integration is key to a successful and efficient workflow, and IntelePACS offered one of the most complete and seamless integrations on the market. From inception, Varad's workflow benefited from the integration of their existing RIS with IntelePACS. IntelePACS handled diagnostic viewing, DICOM Modality Worklist, and archiving, while the RIS handled both reporting and transcription worklists in addition to billing and booking.

Moving Forward Again With Intelera to Modernize Workflow

In 2009, Varad converted to a PACS-driven workflow in order to take advantage of Intelera's Reporting Worklist, InteleViewer™ and Intelera Dictation. Intuitive and fully customizable, the Reporting Worklist enabled Varad to see patient history and prior reports, manage its signing worklist, collaborate with colleagues, and search for specific cases. "If we need to compare images to previous exams, the prior images appear right away, dating as far back as 2000," said Dr. Aubin. "It accelerates the process immensely and translates into yet another gain in productivity."

Breast Imaging Becomes the Focus

In 2010, Intelera announced the release of the IntelePACS[®] Breast Imaging mammography module, developed in close collaboration with Intelera customers to handle both diagnostic and breast screening program workflows. Varad, one of the customers that had expressed a need for this module, was also one of the first to put its features into practice.



Varad is one of the leading practices in Eastern Canada

With Intelera's Breast Imaging module, Varad enabled a more efficient mammography screening and diagnostic workflow. "Once the eye adapts to the transition from film to digital, the benefit of digital mammography is that it allows us to manipulate the image much better," said Dr. Aubin. "We can zoom in on any section, adjust the contrast much more easily, and are able to better "navigate" through the breast and detect small subtleties because the image is better, crisper, and much more defined. If we see better and we diagnose better, it's the patient who will benefit at the end of the day."



Mammography is one of Varad's most important specialties

Better Patient Care and Increased Productivity

In only a few months, more than 18,000 mammography studies have already been read at Varad with the new breast imaging module. With this final chapter in achieving a fully digitized environment, Varad has grown alongside Intelera, able to use leading technology to increase efficiency, productivity and deliver the best patient care possible.

For more resources, visit www.intelera.com/varad_pdf

