

VIDAR Case History #10

Quality and Efficiency—DR Systems and VIDAR Partner to Ease the Transition to Digital Mammography

DR Systems, Inc., is a leading provider of integrated medical image management systems for hospitals and imaging centers. Co-founded in 1992 by practicing radiologist Murray Reicher, M.D., the company has become one of the preeminent vendors in the PACS industry and serves facilities of all sizes, ranging from one of the smallest hospitals in the United States to large academic medical centers and integrated health systems.

DR Systems' mission is to enhance the clinical and financial success of its medical imaging customers, and it is distinguished in the industry by exceptionally high customer satisfaction ratings. The company was recognized by KLAS® in 2006 and 2007 as the leading PACS and Community Clinical Ancillary Software provider. Partnering with leading technology companies, DR Systems provides high-quality medical image and information management systems designed to improve patient care, increase workflow efficiencies, reduce costs, and enhance patient and employee satisfaction.

With a shared commitment to quality and technology innovation, DR Systems has long partnered with VIDAR Systems Corporation for its film digitizing expertise and reputation for exceptional customer service—most recently for a digitizing solution for full-field digital mammography.

Transitioning to Digital Mammography

In order to successfully transition from analog film to digital mammography, careful planning and the right technology partners are required. One of the key—and often overlooked—challenges concerns the need to compare current digital studies with prior film-based images. This often is done in “dual reading” environments in which mammographers are required to compare new digital images on a workstation with prior analog studies on a view box—a suboptimal situation for radiologists, who must deal with difficulties ranging from incompatible lighting and glare to inferior ergonomics.



VIDAR's mammography solution provides superior image quality and reliability and also allows efficient viewing of digitized priors alongside new studies.

The added costs, inefficiencies, and delays of locating, transporting, and hanging prior studies also reduce productivity, especially in light of the limited time available for reading mammography studies. Digitizing prior films provides a solution, but significant workflow issues remain because many systems do not adequately address areas such as image transport, modality worklist integration, and hanging protocols, among many others. In light of these challenges, DR Systems looked to VIDAR to provide a digitizer solution that addresses key customer concerns such as image quality and reliability, and also provides the robust software that allows mammographers to quickly and efficiently view digitized priors, with their specific hanging protocols, on mammography workstations alongside new studies.



Customer at a Glance

DR Systems, Inc.
Location: San Diego, CA

VIDAR Solutions:

CAD PRO® Advantage Film
Digitizer

ClinicalExpress® DICOM Film
Acquisition Software

Key Benefits

- Provide superior image quality & reliability
- Comply with DICOM MG standard
- Increase efficiency & productivity
- Address mammography workflow issues
- Easy to use

“Our customers have used VIDAR products since the beginning of DR Systems—dating back to the 1990s,” Reicher said. “We began to integrate VIDAR’s mammography solutions, the CAD PRO® *Advantage* digitizer and ClinicalExpress® Film Acquisition Software, following their introduction several years ago with great success.”

The CAD PRO *Advantage* meets the highest standards of quality and reliability to quickly digitize prior studies. ClinicalExpress, with its dedicated user interface for digitizing and transporting mammography priors, uses the DICOM MG standard to identify the specific view contained on each film. Prior film-based studies are correctly displayed on mammography workstations alongside current digital mammography studies, increasing mammographer efficiency and productivity.

“Customers want software that complies with the DICOM MG standard, is easy to use, and addresses the unique workflow issues of mammography. VIDAR’s ClinicalExpress fits the bill.”

Reicher said image quality is a top priority for customers focused on providing exceptional patient care, with productivity close behind. “Customers want software that complies with the DICOM MG standard, is easy to use, and addresses the unique workflow issues of mammography,” he said. “VIDAR’s ClinicalExpress fits the bill. In addition, VIDAR collaborated with us to adapt the software to meet our clients’ specific needs, including setting up and editing protocols so that nonstandard mammogram views could be appropriately labeled for the DICOM header file. These capabilities make a world of difference for our customers every day.”

Experiencing the Benefits

Reicher experienced the benefits of VIDAR’s CAD PRO *Advantage* and ClinicalExpress firsthand when his radiology practice, Imaging Healthcare Specialists, the largest provider of outpatient imaging services in San Diego, adopted digital mammography.

“Our transition to digital with DR Systems and VIDAR has been the most successful project we have undertaken,” he said. “The physicians found it to be an extremely smooth, completely paperless transition.”

Important for multi-site Imaging Healthcare Specialists, ClinicalExpress software facilitates easy connection to outlying clinics, departments, film libraries, and reading and treatment facilities. “With eight imaging centers providing mammography services, we are able to more efficiently manage our old records,” Reicher said. “Instead of storing hard-copy prior mammograms across three counties, we now store old films in one location and digitize priors much more efficiently.”

DR Systems and VIDAR have created an efficient solution for Imaging Healthcare Specialists to easily and successfully transition to digital mammography. “It has benefited our patients and our practice,” Reicher said. “The physicians have been happier. The quality of our results is higher. We are more efficient, and we feel that we are practicing better medicine. And, by the way, it is more economical medicine.”

VIDAR is the world’s leading provider of high-quality medical film digitizers. Proven customer benefits of VIDAR’s digitizers include better integration into department workflow, more uptime, increased revenue, reduced maintenance costs, and—most importantly—improved clinical confidence. Its line of clinically proven digitizers and software solutions, combined with exceptional customer support, helps hospitals and imaging centers enhance patient care and improve efficiency.



VIDAR’s CAD PRO® *Advantage*

According to Reicher, DR Systems provides a “soup to nuts” solution for digital mammography and creates an environment for the radiologist that is unquestionably faster and better, and VIDAR’s CAD PRO *Advantage* and ClinicalExpress are key pieces of the solution. “We have had a good relationship with VIDAR. They provide a great solution for our digital mammography customers, and that is why we recommend them.”