



CASE STUDY #2: *iDR-L*

Scoliosis Imaging in a Single Snap: *Blessing Hospital* Case Study

By Cat Vasko

When Blessing Hospital, a rural facility in Quincy, Illinois that serves over 250,000 patients annually, added a neurosurgeon who specializes in scoliosis to its roster of over 240 physicians, an addition to its arsenal of x-ray equipment was not far behind. Meghan Main, RT, a technologist in Blessing's radiology department, mentions she joined the staff about a year ago, and around the same time, the department installed a new iDR Long Bone digital radiography system from iCRco. She explains, ***"With one, long image that shows the entire spine, we are better able to measure certain degrees of the scoliosis as well as the rotation. Having one image is really helpful when the doctors are looking at using Herrington rods for spinal surgery. The measurements they need are easier to take."***

Single Exposure

The iDR Long Bone system is a digital radiography platform that utilizes a 14" by 51" plate, which can capture a full spine image in a single exposure. Usually two or three images are required to capture the same span of anatomy, Main notes. ***"For many of our patients, this is the image that will determine whether they do or don't have surgery, and this system lets us get it in only one exposure," she says. "It also reduces the frequency of exposures. When the doctors can see and measure everything they need in one image, patients don't need re-takes as often."***

According to the National Scoliosis Foundation, an estimated 6 million Americans suffer from scoliosis, resulting in more than 600,000 patient visits to medical facilities a year. Annually, 38,000 patients undergo spinal fusion surgery in the US. With that kind of demand, efficient workflow is paramount, Main says. ***"Taking the images is a lot faster with this system than before," she notes. "For us, we only have to do one exposure; for the doctors, they don't have to spend the time piecing together where multiple images on different screens overlap."***

Improved Care

The iDR Long Bone's design enables technologists to take patients' images standing up, which, combined with the speed of the single exposure, enhances their comfort, Main says. "It's completely easy for them—all they have to do is stand there with their back against the board," she says. ***"There's absolutely no patient discomfort. We take our picture and they're done. It's easy for us to use and it's easy on the patients."***

Further, the superior image quality offered by the system, as well as the single, un-stitched image, keeps the departments' clinicians satisfied, Main says. ***"It gives us really good images, so the doctors like having it as well," she says. "It's been a great tool since we've gotten it."***

The fact that the system is digital means that the radiology department at Blessing can also offer patients the option of taking their images with them on disc, which is particularly critical for pediatric patients who might also be working with faraway specialists.

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