

Nationally Recognized Health Care System, PeaceHealth Installs the KUBTEC XPERT 20

The PeaceHealth System, its member services, and hospitals consistently receive national recognition for innovations in patient care, patient safety, health care technology and cost efficiency while maintaining their dedication to compassionate patient care. Imaging over 13,000 women per year, the Columbia Regional Breast Center is located at St. John Medical Center, in Longview, WA, named one of the top 100 hospitals in the U.S. and part of the PeaceHealth System. This breast center has been recognized in its own right as an outstanding breast center. It embodies the goals of the entire PeaceHealth System – a dedication to “safe, evidence-based, compassionate care, every time, with every touch.”



Pictured: Ruth Melvin (left), Pat Williams (right)

With these goals in the forefront, Ruth Melvin R.T., Manager of the Columbia Regional Breast Center (CRBC) began to evaluate specimen radiography systems for the facility. Doing approximately 200 stereotactic procedures per year, they were wasting hours of valuable time and adding to patient stress and discomfort. The technologist would take a stereotactic specimen to the digital mammography suite, wait for a room to be vacant, set up a unit to the appropriate magnification and then acquire images. “At times we had to wait from 8 to 10 minutes for a specimen image” she said. Doctors had to spend valuable time waiting for confirmation. Patients were left in compression, anxious and uncomfortable, while the whole process was held up waiting for results.

When Ruth Melvin saw the KUBTEC XPERT 40 unit at RSNA 2007 it stirred up a great deal of interest in what the XPERT systems could offer. The XPERT line of cabinet x-ray systems are known for leading the way in innovation and design. They represent a number of firsts in digital specimen x-ray technology:

- The first to send DICOM images with annotations
- The first to send multiple images to PACS with a single click
- The first to offer calibrated on screen measurement capabilities
- The first to offer touch screen based systems
- The first to offer 16 bit images

All the XPERT specimen radiography systems offer high-contrast digital images with detector sizes from 2”x 2” up to 8” x 8” and the DICOM compliant, DIGICOM™, user-friendly software suite, to acquire, process, print, send images to PACS and access the modality work list.



◀ Dr. Michael Hicks

“It is a huge time saver all the way around. The image quality is great. We like the ability to tweak the image with magnification and 3D. It is compact, nicely designed and easy to use.”



◀ Dr. Duane Wilson

“I used to feel a little uncomfortable with the technologist leaving the room to image the specimen, now they can stay in the room for the entire process. I love it!”

But it wasn't until KUBTEC introduced the XPERT 20, at RSNA 2008, the system designed specifically for the stereotactic suite, that a serious appraisal was considered. Ruth Melvin and the staff at the Columbia Regional Breast Center knew there was a better way to ease the process for patients and provide a cost effective solution.

Competing systems were brought in for evaluation, but the decision was clear. Backed by the endorsement of Hologic, with KUBTEC's knowledgeable applications training and support, zero warm up time and the rapid acquisition of images, as well as KUBTEC's feature-rich suite of image enhancement tools, the choice was an easy one. In size, in function and in clarity of image the winner was the XPERT 20.

With its small footprint (11" x 12" x 18") and two detector size options (2" x 2" or 2" x 4") this compact, cost effective solution for specimen x-ray in the stereotactic suite was just what the Columbia Regional Breast Center needed. The small focal spot x-ray source gave them increased visibility and sharpness of detail to locate the smallest abnormalities or micro-calcifications. A smooth installation process, superior applications and knowledgeable trainers had them up and running immediately. The Columbia Regional Breast Center now uses the XPERT 20 for stereotactic biopsies at least "four times a week," said Ruth Melvin.

The paramount goals for the Columbia Regional Breast Center are timely acquisition of specimen images for more efficient, safe and cost-saving processes and these are being achieved. ***"We are at least 75% faster. Also if we have a 'bleeder' we can close the wound faster." The key benefit is, "faster, faster, faster,"*** Ruth Melvin said. The entire process is streamlined bringing greater safety, more timely care for the patient and cost efficiency to the whole operation. Our doctors "love the faster turnaround time; but more importantly, they don't stand around with a patient for 10 minutes."

Radiologist Dr. Duane Wilson said, ***"I used to feel a little uncomfortable with the technologist leaving the room to image the specimen, now they can stay in the room for the entire process. I love it! It has improved our throughput, but most of all, the patient does not have to wait as long, and I can make a more timely decision based on the image. The image quality is as good if not better than our prior method."***

Another radiologist echoed the same sentiments, Dr. Michael Hicks added, ***"It is a huge time saver all the way around. The image quality is great. We like the ability to tweak the image with magnification and 3D. It is compact, nicely designed and easy to use."***

Awarded the 2006 Breast Imaging Innovation Award by the editors of Mammography Regulation and Re-imburement Report (MRRR), "Columbia Regional Breast Center epitomizes the qualities this award strives to recognize," says MRRR Editor Kelly Bilodeau. "It has a strong commitment to the community, to quality, and to its patients." While monitoring quality and safety efforts to track the most effective patient care, Ruth Melvin R.T., Manager of the Columbia Regional Breast Center and her staff have found the way to remain consistent with these goals and the mission of "responsible stewardship in the allocation and utilization of human and financial resources" and "treating each person in a loving and caring way." With the commitments and standards PeaceHealth upholds, KUBTEC is proud to be selected as the specimen radiography system of choice.

