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Smooth operator: unparalleled maneuverability in mobile imaging

With its easy maneuverability, excellent DR image quality and fast image preview, the DR 100s is driving bedside imaging for multiple ICUs at the ZNA hospital network



Case study – ZNA hospital network Antwerp, Belgium

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Case study

Interview with Bart van Loon,
Radiographer, ZNA hospital network, Antwerp, Belgium



In the demanding environment of an intensive care unit, everything needs to run smoothly. For the ZNA hospital group, in Antwerp, Belgium, the DR 100s mobile imaging solution fits right in. Offering high productivity and high image quality, it also provides something more: a customer-driven design that enables unprecedented maneuverability and flexibility.

Did you know

- ZNA is the largest hospital group in Belgium.
- It is made up of three general hospitals and six specialist hospitals, covering virtually all medical domains.
- It counts 2500 beds and 6000 staff, including 600 physicians.



“The DR 100s is very maneuverable, even in a small space. You can make quite subtle movements: raising the column, turning the system in either direction. And the flexibility of the X-ray tube enables precise positioning.”

Bart Van Loon

Radiographer, ZNA hospital network

Safety first in a demanding care environment

“Our most important criterion for a mobile imaging unit is its ability to maneuver smoothly and safely through the hospital, in rooms that are often small, and where we have a lot of peripheral equipment, such as in the intensive care unit,” starts Bart Van Loon, Radiographer, ZNA Hospital Network, Antwerp. “Then, it needs to be easy to learn and use: we don’t have a lot of time to waste. And of course, we need to be able to deliver to the physicians high quality images, as quickly as possible, to support timely diagnosis and patient treatment.”

The lightweight and compact DR 100s perfectly answers those needs, he explains. “We mainly use the DR 100s for bedside chest exams, for patients who don’t have the mobility to go to the radiology department. We also use it in the radiology department, to supplement our other radiography solutions, especially for imaging small bones, such as hands, wrists and elbows.”

Thanks to the FreeView collapsible, telescopic column and height-adjustable handle, driving the DR 100s is easy, he explains. “The column moves down effortlessly, allowing an excellent view while driving which helps prevent bumping into something or someone. As operating quite heavy equipment can be dangerous in a crowded and busy area, safety features like that are key.”







Customer-driven design for maneuverability and positioning

At the bedside, its narrow size and ergonomic features make the DR 100s a smooth operator. FreeRotation provides excellent flexibility of the tube head on all three axes, while the ZeroForce technology makes manual movement of the tube head nearly effortless.

“The unit is very maneuverable, even in a small space. You can make subtle movements, turning the system in either direction. And the flexibility of the X-ray tube enables precise positioning. The DR 100s has a very good reach, so it can be parked at a certain distance from the bed. Yet we can adapt the acquisition settings with the buttons on the tube head display, without walking back to the unit.”

Fast, high-quality images

Image quality is a must, of course, and the DR 100s delivers. “The MUSICA image processing is a huge step ahead in imaging! We are very happy with the quality of the images, as are the radiologists who receive them. We can view the images immediately after

acquisition, edit them, and transfer them to the hospital's picture archiving and communication system (PACS), all quickly and easily.”

For this long-time Agfa user, familiarity with the MUSICA user interface is another time-saver. “Any user can move from one Agfa digital imaging system to another seamlessly.”

Dose safety for patient and staff

Radiation dose is an important concern with mobile imaging. For Bart Van Loon, the DR 100s offers features addressing safety for patients and staff alike. “We can easily adapt the pre-set exam dose to patient size and weight. There are five different dose values, which lets us find the ideal dose for every patient.”

The remote exposure control, he explains, offers greater safety and efficiency for the staff. “We can stand at a distance from the patient when making an image, so we don't even need a lead apron. At the same time, the remote control has been carefully designed to prevent accidental activation: the user can't accidentally press the start button.”



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Handy features that make a big difference

What other features have made an impression?
Bart Van Loon highlights:



The light that indicates that the device is ready to use – it's a small addition that makes a big difference, especially for the patient, who does not have to undergo unnecessary preparation when the system is not yet ready.



The convenient positions of the plug and of the switch: they are at working height, which is more comfortable for staff.



The battery life: we need to make images in three ICUs, and we can easily do that with one battery.



We also like the **storage compartments** that keep sanitary wipes and other necessary materials at hand.



It's important to be able to **lock the mobile DR unit**, even though we have a safe place to store it. Sometimes we have to wait until a patient is ready for the exam, during which time the unit is left out, so this is an important safety feature.

We also appreciate the **locking mechanism** for the detectors: these are very valuable, and easy to otherwise take away.

Convenient bedside viewing

With its customer-driven design, the DR 100s offers ZNA plenty of useful features that enhance efficiency and productivity. These include both an adjustable 22-inch widescreen touch monitor on the unit and a 10-inch touch monitor on the tubehead for precision imaging at the patient's bedside.

“When we start an exam, we use the 22-inch monitor to select the correct patient data and set the exam parameters. Then we make the image and check it on the big screen. The smaller monitor is especially useful when we have two people doing the imaging. The second person can double-check the patient data and view the images, as well. And we can use the small monitor to change exam settings while standing right next to the patient. This double-monitor set-up is very handy.”

The waterproof monitors fit the hospital's need to provide a hygienic environment, as well. “We have to disinfect the cassette after each use, and it is very convenient for us to clean the screens with a sanitizing wipe at the same time.”

The DR 100s offers:

- Exceptional agility and ergonomics
- Outstanding comfort for patients and staff
- A smooth, efficient workflow
- Excellent DR image quality and potential for dose reduction
- High-productivity bedside imaging of chest, abdomen, full leg/full spine, ...
- MUSICA Nerve Center for enhanced productivity and image quality
- Seamless communication with PACS, RIS and HIS



A smooth and seamless fit

In the end, as Bart Van Loon describes, the DR 100s has fit smoothly and seamlessly into the busy imaging workflow. “It ticks all the boxes: it’s easy to drive, maneuver and operate. The image quality is excellent and everyone can learn to operate the DR 100s

quickly – we can teach new colleagues the basics in 10 minutes. It has a very user-friendly interface that makes accessing the most important functions immediate. With its maneuverability and performance, it’s a perfect fit for the intensive care unit.”



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