



SYNAPSE®

No Growing Pains in Oregon Asante PACS Links Imaging Community

Why Fujifilm?



"Fujifilm's Synapse PACS and the paperless workflow it supports, has allowed us to significantly reduce our read exam turnaround times because we are free to read exams from any diagnostic workstation in the Rogue Valley. This has enabled us to balance our workloads between the radiologists on duty at multiple facilities."

Roberta Jackson, MD
Medical Director, Imaging Services
Rogue Valley Medical Center
Medford, Oregon

Medford, OR: When you're responsible for storing, managing, and distributing over 160,000 patient imaging examinations each year, choosing the right PACS system today also means it must meet future demands as your health system grows. So, when Asante Health System was shopping for its first PACS system, scalability was an important consideration. "We were looking for a PACS that lent itself towards a community-wide system. At the time, our 2 hospitals interfaced with 5 independent imaging centers, and we are now adding a sixth," said David Kinyon, Director Operational Informatics for Asante Health System.

Remote Viewing Made Simple

Asante Health System chose Fujifilm's Synapse® PACS using CommonView™ technology, which allows physicians to review and compare a current exam versus relevant prior images, regardless of where the study was performed, and collaborate in real time with consulting physicians. Fujifilm's MultiView™ technology allows radiologists to review studies from multiple sites with disparate databases together at a single workstation. According to Mr. Kinyon, "The ability to easily navigate shared databases was an important feature to us. Anyone authorized to access the system can pull up both images and written reports wherever they need them."

Synapse's sophisticated image processing tools enable radiology staff to enhance digital images to reveal details that might be missed using standard film x-rays, greatly improving diagnostic capabilities. Owing to patent-pending technology, all information contained within Synapse, including documents, image processing parameters, and other Web-based enterprise applications, can be integrated for presentation.

Employing a familiar Windows®/Internet Explorer interface, Synapse is easy to use and readily accepted by physicians. "The interface is the same for referring physicians as it is for radiologists, and it looks the same when you are accessing it from home as it does in the imaging center," explained Mr. Kinyon. "With Synapse, everybody has access to the same tools."

The radiology teams at Asante were so pleased with Synapse that they pitched it to the other imaging centers in the area. Currently, 5 independent clinics or imaging centers have adopted Synapse, and a sixth is scheduled to come on-line in the near future.

Integrating IT and Imaging

Mr. Kinyon said the selection committee liked the fact that Synapse offered them a software-only solution. "We worked closely with our internal IT department and installed our own hardware and infrastructure. We really liked that option, and it worked well in

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No Growing Pains in Oregon (continued)

our situation. Although Fujifilm does offer an SSL solution, we chose to utilize our existing VPN as the portal through which everyone accesses the system." A bonus to using the VPN is the ability of physicians at remote sites to readily access other important patient information, such as laboratory results and non-imaging reports. To ensure uninterrupted access to the information contained within the PACS, Asante maintains 2 data centers 30 miles apart that mirror one another's data.

Synapse Facilitates Smooth Transition

The software-only option meant that costly imaging equipment and IT hardware did not have to be replaced, and the enterprise could remain in operation while transitioning to a digital environment. "From the time we signed our purchase order to the first installation was about 4 months, during which time we were able to build the necessary infrastructure," explained Mr. Kinyon. "We installed the system in 3 stages about 6 weeks apart: first Oregon Advanced Imaging, then Three Rivers Community Hospital, and, finally, Rogue Valley Medical Center. Although we scheduled a little lighter during the transition, we were never shut down."

Digitizing of film-based images is done on a just-in-time basis. "When our staff members pull charts for patient appointments, they also pull the old films and scan them into the patient folder on the PACS. It was a little hectic in the beginning, but we've managed to keep up using this system," said Mr. Kinyon. Images scanned into any of the databases on Synapse can be instantly retrieved anywhere in the enterprise.



A View to the Future

Asante currently uses Synapse for all imaging modalities including mammography. They are reading all mammograms on MQSA-compliant SMP diagnostic workstations running Fujifilm Synapse PACS 3.2. Their positive experiences with Synapse have also led them to consider acquiring Synapse™ cardiovascular C-PACS solution, which provides multimodality image review, analysis, and user-defined customized reports in a nonproprietary, open architecture environment. In the meantime, the radiologists, technologists, and patients in Asante Health System are enjoying the benefits of a state-of-the-art, digital-imaging management solution.

"The transition from plain film to Fuji's Synapse PACS was seamless and has significantly improved our efficiency. Digital Mammography on the Fuji PACS has helped decrease our turnaround times for both screening and diagnostic studies."

*-Jonathan Wood, MD
Medical Director, Imaging Services
Three Rivers Community Hospital*

Facility Facts:

- 2 Hospitals
- 3 Imaging Centers
- 3 OAI Imaging Centers
- 1000+ Referring Physicians/Providers
- 28 Radiologists
- 2 Radiology Groups
- 200,000+ Studies per year

PACS Facts:

- 10 Acquisition Sites
- 10 Published Databases
- 11 Diagnostic Workstations
- 1100+ General Viewing Stations
- 4 Fujifilm Printers
- 2000+ Synapse Users
- 89 Imaging Modalities Connected to Synapse
- Modality types: PET, MRI, CT, US, XA, CR, DR, NM, RF, SC, MG, OT
- RIS: Siemens/RISLogic(OAI)
- HIS: Siemens

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