

Satisfying Gastric Examinations by Image Quality with the Priority on Sharpness and Clarity



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Points to recommend - compact size, image quality and Shimadzu reliability exceeding the strictest conditions

As a medical checkup facility in the Kitakyushu Hospital Group, our clinic has adopted an integrated system of prophylaxis and medical care. We provide amenable, highly accurate examinations. For example, we were the first in Kitakyushu City to set up a women-only examination floor.

Recently, we replaced three R/F systems and a chest radiography system with digital instruments since existing equipment had grown old and we wanted to be film-free. One of the new units was Shimadzu's R/F system FLEXAVISION. When we were studying the system, we were worried about whether it could be brought into the very confined room in which an on-vehicle indirect radiography unit was installed. However, I judged its compactness and Shimadzu's reliability and image quality to be the best. When we actually installed the system, site conditions were very tight; we had to control the bed tilting from the right while the installation room door was on its left. However, we have managed to perform examinations much more smoothly than we had anticipated.

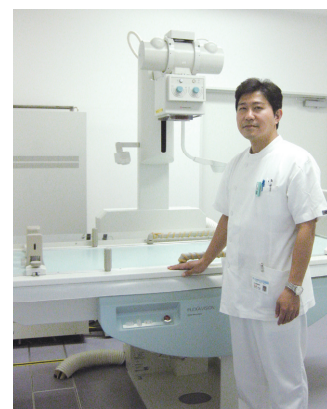
Reduced patient waiting time means more examinations

Digitization has drastically shortened patient waiting times. This is huge advantage. Reception of patients in the radiology section has been made really easy thanks to the FLEXAVISION patient linking option. All you have to do is to load the patient information onto the patient linking PC connected to the operation console by scanning the barcode on the examination form, and send the information from the PC to the console. Before introducing the digital system, we manually wrote the patient's name on paper and captured it onto the film, which meant that we had to correct it by hand after the examination if we made any mistakes. Loading and developing of film also used to be troublesome. With the new system, however, time taken up before and after examination is so much different. On a busy day, FLEXAVISION handles gastrofluoroscopic checkups for around 30 patients. The number of examinations handled annually also is increasing steadily.



Imaging chain speedup function proves its might in esophagography

Of the various specifications available for FLEXAVISION, we chose the 400 kHU X-ray tube for use as a system exclusively for gastric examinations. We have also added on the optional imaging chain speedup function to perform esophagography. Other systems often could not track the flow of barium. The FLEXAVISION system, however, can quickly track this, something which we value very highly. Operations, too, are very simple and easy to follow, making the system easy to use. Levers feel soft to the touch, too, which I like. When we were shifting over to digital, the chest radiography unit did not make it in time so we brought in a Lieder unit for about a week, and performed chest radiography using the optionally mounted X-ray tube swing-out function. The tube focal point is small so I think that we can also use it on chests, too. I can feel rest assured as we can use it as a backup in the future.



Satisfied with image quality beyond our expectations

I had previously been using Shimadzu instruments and I liked the quality of their images. After introducing the new system, I asked Shimadzu engineers to adjust image quality prioritizing sharpness and clarity, which resulted in a quality even higher than I had expected. There are dedicated professionals at Shimadzu. My impression was that we could openly speak our minds to each other and results were gained from what was said. This time, I was really happy with a response better than I had previously experienced. Instruments made by other manufacturers have yet to satisfy me. FLEXAVISION, however, produces soft yet sharp good images. During radiography of the stomach, I am confused into thinking that the image is analog. I check all of the images taken by the six personnel here and it is hard to find any personal differences in image quality. Also, in recent examinations, technologists are discovering lesions during short fluoroscopy and are taking additional images of these areas. Compared with other instruments, FLEXAVISION can display fluoroscopic images faster and the switchover to radiography also is quicker. Due to the high quality of images, we can track and find things visually with our eyes, which is satisfying for all of the personnel here.

**A word to doctors
thinking of introducing
this system:**

I think that the cost performance of mass screening is by far the biggest attraction of this system. It can also be evaluated highly for its compactness and operability, as well. I think that the biggest advantage or best feature of this instrument is that you can choose the specific configuration that best matches your particular requirements.