

EPID ENHANCES EFFICIENCY

THE CANCER THERAPY AND RESEARCH CENTER LOOKS TO THE BENEFITS OF THERAVIEW FOR ITS PORTAL IMAGING NEEDS.

BY JEFF PEYTON

Searching for a system that would meet our portal imaging needs, increase our efficiencies and keep us competitive, we evaluated the initial purchase cost, quality of imaging and total cost of ownership of numerous systems.

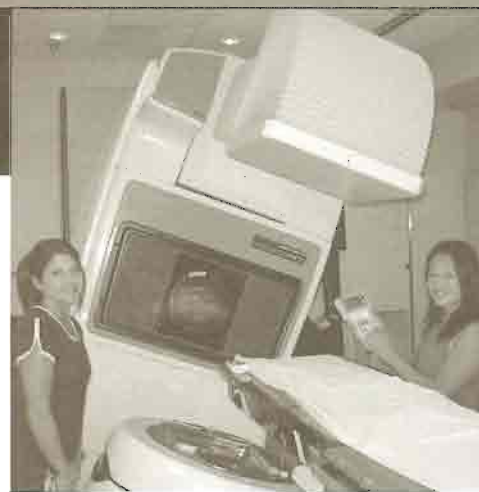
Some of our clinicians had seen images from original manufacturer (OEM) amorphous silicon panel systems and found—from an imaging standpoint—that the TheraView system from Acceletronics, Exton, Pa., was comparable. Viewing the outlay more from a service perspective, I conducted a comparative six-year cost-of-ownership study. My results? The TheraView EPID (electronic portal imaging device) represented an overall savings of greater than 50 percent.

My colleagues around the country have commented numerous times about the high costs and reliability issues of amorphous silicon detectors when used in megavoltage applications. But the TheraView uses proven leading edge technology at a much lower cost—a major factor in our decision.

Acceletronics installed a TheraView system on one of our most high-performance machines, the Varian 600C/D with a Nomos multileaf collimator, which was being used for serpentine serial tomotherapy treatments and stereotactic radiosurgery. Our clinical staff extensively tested the TheraView on this complex modality and it passed their muster.

After a year of use, the TheraView EPID is still quite reliable for everyday portal imaging. We are impressed with the system's image quality, overall design and ease of use. Specifically, it integrates well into our workflow and saves us time that we previously spent taking, processing and storing film. The software is also easy-to-use and flexible, and it readily connects to our other systems.

THE SIDE-BY-SIDE images show 1-by-5-mm prostate seed markers (left, TheraView image; right, reference image). images/ courtesy Acceletronics



MARLIEN RENDON, BA, (right) holds the TheraView pendant as she stands beneath the TheraView unit with Nikki Maples, BS, RTT, at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center. photo/courtesy CTRC

In fact, we were so content with the TheraView that we are now outfitting three more of our treatment units, connecting all four TheraViews together with TICS—TheraView's image management system—to give our clinicians remote review capabilities and manage the large quantity of images the four systems will produce. We are able to import images from our treatment planning systems, as well as conventional, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance (MR) simulation images for reference. The TargetCheck module, TheraView's treatment verification software, enables us to visualize and track treatment errors and make corrections before delivering the treatment.

When we've requested special requirements, TheraView has been flexible and responsive with personalized solutions. And as a distributor and service provider, Acceletronics demonstrates its customer service; it's the kind of company that cares about us and responds promptly to support requests.

Overall, in this competitive environment, the TheraView system reduces costs, enhances efficiencies and enables us to offer the latest visual treatment verification technology to our patients and clinicians. It gives us the edge we were looking for. ■

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