

Case Study

**About Henry County Medical Center**

Henry County Medical Center provides comprehensive care for patients including OB, breast, abdomen, vascular, and cardiac scans and recently tripled their volume with the help of the LOGIQ 7 ultrasound system.

The 142-bed hospital in the Henry County Medical Center had just expanded its obstetrics wing and had added six new doctors, including vascular surgeons.

With the expansion, the hospital in Paris, Tenn., needed to upgrade its ultrasound technology. The purchase of two LOGIQ 7 systems from GE Healthcare helped the hospital meet and exceed the needs of its rapidly expanding ultrasound department. The systems gave clinicians complete shared service in two existing ultrasound rooms and dramatically improved the quality of diagnostic studies.

The hospital's radiology department performs a wide range of ultrasound exams: OB, cardiac, vascular, breast, abdomen, and others. A cardiologist visits the hospital twice a week to read echocardiograms. Limitations of the previous ultrasound technology meant cardiac studies could be done only in one room and OB cases only in the other.

The hospital staff tested the LOGIQ 7 system against their existing equipment on know difficult cases to observe the difference with previously identified pathology.

"The LOGIQ 7 blew away the older systems," recalled Kim Gwaltney, staff sonographer. "Comparing LOGIQ 7 images against older cases on film, we saw a night and day difference in image quality. The GE system was superior especially in echocardiogram and breast studies."

The hospital bought its two LOGIQ 7 systems in 2003. Radiologists, vascular surgeons and cardiologists read their studies from the systems. "We really put these systems to the test every day," said Gwaltney. "The capabilities are amazing. Every case is a 'Wow' case. Difficult cases are much easier to see on LOGIQ 7 systems."

Clinicians favor TruAccess Raw Data, which captures digital data early in the image chain for later recall and optimization. "We can change the gains on stored images — something no other system allows," Gwaltney said. "We can go back, pull up a case and remeasure. On bypass grafts, we can relabel even after the patient has left."

Sonographers use Coded Harmonics, an application that increases detail and contrast resolution, "on just about everything," said Gwaltney. Automatic optimization, which improves image quality at the touch of a button on B-Mode and Doppler studies, is "very useful."

"Our vascular surgeon loves B-Flow," Gwaltney said. That application enables clinicians to view hemodynamic flow.

On top of its diagnostic performance, the LOGIQ 7 systems have proven extremely easy to operate. "With the LOGIQ 7 I don't have to connect the dots — the system does it for you," Gwaltney said. After six months of using the system and learning the basics, she attended a GE class in Milwaukee and learned the advanced features.

The LOGIQ 7 systems also substantially improved efficiency and throughput. "Now we can do any exam in any ultrasound room because the L7 can do all the studies we need to perform," said Gwaltney. "In comparing the five months from January to May 2003 versus 2004, we found that we expanded our case load by 1,000 cases, tripling our volume." The hospital now examines about 50 patients per day in three ultrasound rooms.



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