

Case Study: Columbus Community Hospital

Located in Columbus, Wis., Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) is a 25-bed critical access acute care facility. The hospital, which serves a population of approximately 27,000, including Columbus, Waterloo, Marshall and other surrounding communities, provides a wide-range of inpatient and diagnostic medical services, and a full array of medical imaging services, including mammography, nuclear medicine, MRI, ultrasound, CT, fluoro and select specialty procedures.

NEW X-RAY SYSTEM

In keeping with the hospital's mission of identifying and meeting the healthcare and wellness needs of the people and the communities they serve, CCH knew they needed to upgrade their existing X-ray equipment to offer the community the most advanced medical technology available.

Denise Buzzell, Radiology Department supervisor, engaged clinicians and staff in determining which system would best serve their needs, ultimately selecting the Kalare™ X-ray System from Toshiba America Medical Systems.

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

Since installing the system, CCH has experienced a significant improvement in the level of patient care they are able to deliver. While CCH uses the Kalare primarily for fluoroscopy procedures, they immediately realized an important patient benefit for esophageal procedures—the ability to reduce the amount of radiation exposure to patients without compromising image quality.

“Before we purchased the Kalare, we'd take a few images and you might have to actually do three or four different sequences to capture the whole esophagus being filled with contrast,” Buzzell said. “Now with the Kalare, we can take several exposures, in rapid sequence, and actually watch the contents going in and holding in the picture. We're capturing it, second by second, as the contrast makes its way through the esophagus. That was something we could not do in the past.”

The Kalare System employs a full range of features including Grid Pulse Fluoro, which can lower dose by nearly 75 percent while allowing clinicians to conduct accurate procedures. In addition, three-dose mode controls are featured, allowing users to select different dose levels at tableside—optimizing dose management to clinical requirements.

In addition to the Kalare's dose management features,

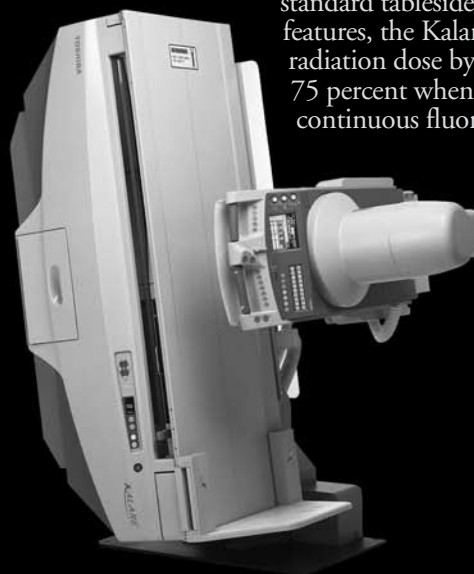
Columbus Community Hospital Selects Kalare X-ray System to Enhance Quality of Patient Care

SITUATION

Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) acquired Toshiba's Kalare System in an effort to simplify digital exam procedures—without sacrificing image quality or patient comfort.

BENEFITS

- **Enhanced Image Quality:** Equipped with the latest generation image intensifier, a sophisticated CCD camera with true 1024 x 1024 resolution, the Kalare provides high-quality fluoroscopic and fluorographic images.
- **Increased Throughput and Decreased Cost of Procedures:** Kalare comes with Toshiba's high-speed digital solution, EPS-Plus—a multi-tasking, all-digital acquisition, processing and storage system. EPS-Plus improves throughput and shortens exams by increasing access to images and speeding critical information to the point-of-care. And, its filmless storage and archiving system eliminates many costs associated with traditional film.
- **Patient Comfort:** To handle larger patients, the Kalare has increased table weight specifications and an increased aperture between the image intensifier and table. The table also is equipped with an integrated patient step and an adjustable footrest to facilitate easy loading and unloading of compromised patients.
- **Controlled Dosage:** By employing a full-range of standard tableside dose reduction features, the Kalare System lowers radiation dose by more than 75 percent when compared to continuous fluoro.



The Kalare delivers maximum performance and versatile patient care.

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“Hands down, the greatest advantage is the image quality,” said Buzzell. “The images are outstanding and many of the radiologists who work with the system have commented on the high quality images they are able to garner—even on our largest patients.”

clinicians at Columbus Community Hospital have cited the Kalare’s innovative table design—which is flat, as opposed to others that have an edge or lip, which can make it difficult to lift patients up and over. According to Buzzell, this added convenience has made daily life much easier for her staff and patients.

In fact, it is a combination of the Kalare’s unique table design and outstanding image quality that has had the largest positive impact on the hospital’s bariatric patients, who are generally more difficult to move around and image.

A FEATURE-RICH SYSTEM

Kalare expands general R&F and interventional radiology capabilities and helps staff perform a greater number of exams with increased ease, comfort and speed. Its feature-rich, comprehensive configuration positively impacts productivity, resource allocation, asset utilization and clinical outcomes.

Key features include the latest EPS-Plus Digital Imaging System to improve productivity and connectivity. The all-digital

processing system shortens exam times and reduces the handling and storage costs associated with conventional film. The system also increases access to fluoroscopic and fluorographic images and speeds critical information to the point-of-care.

“We’ve had a great experience with our system. In fact, we’ve even had clinicians from other facilities come through to experience first-hand how well the Kalare works compared to other technologies,” Buzzell said. “We are always happy to share our experiences—both with the system and the sales and service support at Toshiba. We’re pretty proud of our little set up here and we like to show it off.”

Kalare’s flexible digital system provides excellent support for gastrointestinal exams, ERCP, myelography, venography, nonvascular interventional radiography, and with the EPS-Plus digital angiographic package, abdominal and peripheral angiography studies.

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CONCLUSION

The staff at Columbus Community Hospital is pleased with their decision to install the Kalare X-ray system, as well as the sales support and service they have received.

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Toshiba’s feature-rich Kalare digital X-ray system is ideal for accommodating specialty patients.



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