

Improved workflow thanks to new data platform for ENT practices

Diagnostic Manager provides rapid access to neuro-otological data

In the field of neuro-otology, it is necessary to measure and document a wide range of parameters. If these are processed by the database systems supplied with the measuring devices, the evaluation of results can be time-consuming. As a result, both physician and patient have to sit there until the computer displays the necessary information - they may need to wait for up to a minute for each result and that can add up to 40 - 50 wasted minutes every day. The company Interacoustics realised that there was a need for improvement here and decided to collaborate with the experts when it comes to ENT database systems, innoForce. The result is the Diagnostic Manager that provides for rapid and easy access to all patient data.

Just a few weeks ago, the busy ENT physician Dr. Jürgen Neuburger, whose practice is in Rheinstetten near Karlsruhe, was complaining that the time it took to load results on screen following the changeover to a paperless work environment had become intolerable. "All the state-of-the-art equipment had become less attractive because it was necessary to wait for up to a minute before results were displayed." But he is now more than happy with his new IT solution. "Things are up to speed again," emphasises Neuburger. He was among the first in Germany to acquire the new Diagnostic Manager platform.

Just one click is needed, and the database program will show the required result on the monitor in his consulting room. The numerical data, for example pure tone and speech audiometry as well as tympanometry, are transferred directly from the software of the measuring devices to the database program. Data on BERA, OAE and other important neuro-otological test results (ASSR, ECoHG, VEMP, etc.) are taken from the programs of the devices, converted to PDF format and stored on the new platform. This means that the physician can take an initial look at the results while the patient is still on the way from the examination workstation to the consulting room.



Fig. 1: ENT specialist Dr. Jürgen Neuburger, Dr. Stefan Wilhelm (innoForce) and Oliver Haase (Interacoustics) viewing the new data platform (from left to right)

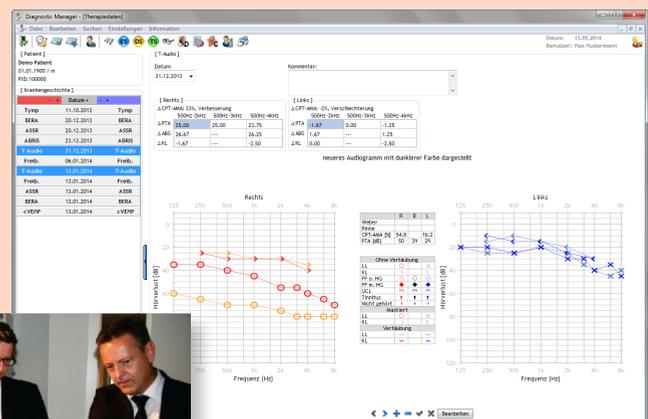


Fig. 2: The Diagnostic Manager in use: a diagrammatic comparison of two pure tone audiograms recorded at an interval of 14 days

User-friendly, rapid, well-structured

Not just the transfer of data is now rapid enough to meet the needs of even the busiest ENT practice. The results are also displayed in a form that is tailor-made for neuro-otology. This is thanks to the expertise that innoForce has acquired from working in the hospital sector, where it has built up a reputation for its user-friendly ENT database systems, specifically its ENTstatistics program.

With their systems, it is possible to display several examination results on screen together without having to switch from one

display to another. "The Diagnostic Manager does this perfectly," explains Neuburger. "It is quick and you can find everything you need."

Another advantage is the fact that if new devices are acquired, they can easily be linked with the platform. "The installation was simple and not expensive," Neuburger adds. After just 30 minutes' instruction in the use of the system, he was able to employ the Diagnostic Manager in routine and had once again more time for his patients. "If I were the boss of Interacoustics or any other company that produces ENT examination devices, I would always offer these in a package with Diagnostic Manager in the future," he concludes, with an eye to the needs of modern ENT practices.

Legal notice

**Report: Dr. Wiebke Kathmann
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Date for your diary

The after-work symposium 'Diagnostic Manager - rapid access to all data - its use in the Traunstein ENT Centre' will be held during the 48th training seminar for ENT physicians on 31 October 2014, 5:15 - 5:45 pm, Mannheim, Bruno-Schmitz-Saal, speaker: PD Dr. med. Matthias Hölzl, event organisers: innoForce and Interacoustics.