CVIS great for workflow and patients

A total cardiology information solution will not only increase productivity but also improve the quality of care, according to Dr. Ralph Stephan von Barderleben, attending physician and Head of CVIS – Echo at the University Hospital of Mainz, Germany, whom we interviewed at ESC 2008 in Munich, following the presentation of the Philips CVIS.

What we are witnessing today is the advancement of the database modules within the CVIS, as we are striving to move away from a purely catheter and echo-based solution towards a reporting and workflow management system that covers the entire spectrum of cardiovascular activities, both invasive and non-invasive.

**Specialized solutions are more powerful, are they not?**
They might be, for a certain type of consultation. But they can’t support us throughout the entire workflow – for example automating reimbursement, or managing appointments. There is a clear necessity for a comprehensive system to help generate dynamic, standardized and easily accessible reports. Managing subsystems is complex and time consuming and goes against our aim of streamlining hospital workflows. At our facility, for example, we can issue invoices ten minutes after the consultation.

Productivity and efficiency are just one side of the coin. What are the benefits for the patient?
The easily accessible synopsis of patient data, reports and even images. I don’t want to operate three, four or five systems to see the results of an ECG, or a catheter consultation. I need the synopses – ideally in chronological order.

Most patients have multiple consultations – some spread over a matter of years. A clear overview of their development and progress enable me to better manage their conditions. The single point of access to all their data – that’s really the greatest benefit for physician and patient alike.

Do you see this reflected in the Philips CVIS?
Yes indeed. The Philips CVIS provides this single point of access and delivers the benefits for both clinician and patient alike. Other suppliers have presented a couple of systems in the past however they have not covered the complete patient journey. The true progress of CVIS started only five years ago. One aspect has certainly been the ability to develop more powerful databases. Another aspect is the cost-effective and rapid delivery of patient service combined with constant efforts to ensure high-quality treatment. If I need an ECG report from three years ago, it is simply not feasible to search through paper records. A database query does the job much faster.