



PHILIPS

Healthcare

Who/Where

**Landkreis Passau
Gesundheitseinrichtungen
GmbH**, a collaborative hospital
treatment and care group,
Vilshofen site.

Capacity of approximately
200 beds, in-hospital
treatment offered to 7,700
patients each year, 11,000
outpatients.

The cardiology department
opened in September 2014.

The challenge

An angiography system that
can be used reliably and
flexibly, with the option of
adding extra modules.

The solution

With its 15-inch detector, the
Allura Centron offers a broad
application spectrum, ranging
from cardiology to full body
angiography. As a floor-
mounted system, little structural
modification is required.

The versatile workhorse of angiography

The Allura Centron from Philips
is a versatile angiography system
with a 15-inch detector

The Allura Centron is an ideal solution when many different medical disciplines are expected to make joint use of a device, or a clinic wishes to retain the option of expanding its range of angiography services. It is a flexible and reliable system that is also guaranteed to be future-proof: With its 15 inch detector it offers possibility to perform not only the cardiac procedures but also the vascular procedures. Detector size is such that system can be positioned easily for the required projections. In addition, it offers excellent image quality and easy to use.



Landkreis Passau Gesundheitseinrichtungen GmbH owns and runs the Rothalmünster, Vilshofen and Wegscheid hospitals (among others), which collaborate closely to provide a full range of hospital care and treatment. Herbert-M. Pichler, the Managing Director of Landkreis Passau Gesundheitseinrichtungen, explains the concept and the ensuing challenges: “Our goal is to provide comprehensive care for the population in the Landkreis administrative district. That includes providing treatment in cardiological emergencies. Our intention at the 200-bed facility in Vilshofen, which is a basic care hospital, is to introduce treatment to a uniform standard in the form of a diagnostic and invasive care offer. As CT and MRT were already available, the left heart catheter analysis unit completes our range of equipment in the specialised area of cardiology.”



Herbert-M. Pichler

An established system for each site

The company already operates two left heart catheterization labs in Rothalmünster in the form of two Allura FD10 systems from Philips. For Dr. Christian Meyer, Head of cardiology in the Vilshofen hospital unit, ensuring that neither he nor his team had to change their way of working was of particular importance – after all, most of them work at two sites.

“The range of options available to extend the Allura Centron makes it absolutely future-proof.”

Service quality scores highly

The positive experience that the doctors and managing director have had with Philips up to now was a good reason for buying from the manufacturer again. “The product quality and reliability are excellent, and our staff has no trouble operating the technical equipment”, Mr Pichler states.

From a cost control and service continuity point of view, the ease of servicing offered by the equipment is also of essential importance in Mr Pichler’s opinion. He too rates Philips’ performance in the area of maintenance very highly: “Rapid availability of service technicians is important – after all, a machine breakdown is something we want to avoid at all costs.”

Decision based on sound economics and quality consciousness

Mr Pichler continues: “Our objective is to provide optimum care and cover our

costs at the same time. And to ensure that doctors can work freely and get the very best out of the system. We have already achieved this consistently in the department.”

“Product quality and reliability are excellent.”

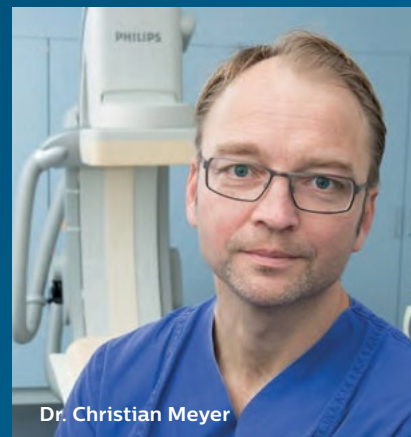
The new Allura Centron satisfies Mr Pichler’s requirements in all areas: It offers optimum quality for routine examinations, thanks to the MRC grid-switched X-ray tubes, which have won an excellent reputation in the market, and labour-saving tools such as the 3D Scan. The latter can be performed in both the frontal and lateral positions. In addition, the contactless “Bodyguard” system protects patients and staff against possible contact with the detector when it is moved into position.

Versatile multipurpose workhorse

In addition to the available tools and the flexible deployability of the Allura Centron, both the doctors and Mr Pichler find the range of options for extending the machine extremely attractive. Because both still have further plans for Vilshofen: “At present, we perform electrophysiological procedures in collaboration with a clinic in Landshut. But in the future we want to be able to offer those procedures here as well”, says Mr Pichler. Dr. Meyer agrees wholeheartedly: “We want to grow organically and have now succeeded in finding a true workhorse in the form of the Allura Centron, which is a perfect multipurpose tool.”

Interview

With Dr. Christian Meyer, Head of Cardiology at Landkreis Passau Gesundheitseinrichtungen



Dr. Christian Meyer



“The most important aspects of a machine of this type are the resolution at detail level and a markedly lower radiation load.”

1. How long has your department in Vilshofen hospital been in operation?

The Cardiology Department at the Vilshofen site opened in September 2014 and reflects our decentralised, full-coverage concept for patient care. Our goal here however was to set something up which could be expanded in the future. In other words, something that could not only be used by the cardiology department in the future but also by other disciplines within and outside interventional cardiology. For example, electrophysiology, interventional cardiology, interventional radiology and vascular surgery. The Allura Centron offers all these options.

However, it was not only the multipurpose expandability of a workhorse of this type that swayed our decision, but also the fact that it offers the same intelligent and intuitive applications as the Allura systems in use elsewhere within the hospital group. For example, it can be integrated into the image processing concept that has been used up to now and the existing team has no problems operating the equipment without making mistakes of any significance.

2. At present, you use the machine for interventional cardiology. What technical challenges does this type of use present in terms of machine performance?

The main challenge with a machine of this type is the image resolution at detail level. The Allura flat screen detectors already offer excellent resolution and the same applies to the 15-inch detector used in the Allura Centron. A further factor is that conventional machines can only offer increased resolution to this standard in combination with a markedly higher radiation load. That is not the case with the Allura Centron as the radiation load for the patient and the medical specialist

is markedly lower. As a result, the risks associated with the examination are reduced for the patient and staff on the one hand. And on the other hand, we are also able to perform complicated operations that require a lengthy scanning time at an acceptable level of risk for both the patient and the specialist.

In addition, working with the Philips System is both pleasant and simple as it offers the possibility of carrying out different types of examination simultaneously and of displaying progress clearly on the four-unit monitor display; e.g. a 3D echocardiogram, conventional X-ray imaging, an OCT image (optical coherence tomography) and the 3D scans as a fourth source of information.

3. You work alternately in Rotthalmünster and in Vilshofen. What are the differences between the FD10 and Allura Centron units at the two sites?

Obviously the size of the image that can be produced with the 15-inch detector is much larger. The image also has to be moved less than with the FD10 detector, as you can simply accommodate more on an individual image.

4. The new Allura Centron system is floor-mounted and the multi-unit monitor display is suspended on an arm that can be rotated through 360 degrees. What are the resulting advantages and disadvantages?

This is definitely more convenient as the multi-unit monitor display is not attached to a track along with the machine, but hung from a single point. As a result, it can be operated more easily and flexibly and – in combination with the floor-mounted system – can be easily pushed aside to create space when necessary. So the floor-mounted system offers excellent freedom of movement.



From our perspective, in view of the available space, we can just as easily use the floor-mounted or ceiling-guided system. The C support can even be positioned laterally without rotating the table. The advantage of a ceiling-hung system is that it can be pushed completely away from the operating theatre area on the track system. That makes it possible to move beds through the entire inner zone without obstruction.

Our choice of the Allura Centron was obviously also influenced by the fact that the system had to be set up in an existing building. The floor-mounted system allowed us to resolve structural strength problems elegantly and keep the costs of installation and extra building work to an acceptable level.

5. Did the new device require extensive familiarisation?

No. This is exactly why we chose the Allura Centron. One of the main reasons was that operation is so intuitive that we did not require any additional training, even though the manufacturer offered it of course. Everybody who already worked with the Allura FD10 system in Rotthalmünster has been able to use the Allura Centron without extensive familiarisation training at all. Obviously, being able to switch to a system without some familiarisation period and without extensive further problems is ideal.

6. What options does the Allura Centron offer you that will generate benefits in the future as well?

To be quite honest, I would also have been happy with a 20-inch flat detector. But I believe that the capabilities and qualities of the system are similar and that there are few differences.

We can expand the capabilities of the Allura Centron as required when the corresponding disciplines are set up at our hospital. That makes the device completely future-proof.

“Operation is so intuitive that we didn’t need extensive additional training.”

Furthermore, in comparison to the 20-inch detector, the 15-inch detector has the advantage of not touching the sides of the table when making certain movements. So if we had a 20-inch unit, we would have to move the table more. The smaller the surface you have to move, the more likely you are to be able to access all areas without obstruction. The greater ease of detector positioning is a further plus in favour of the 15-inch flat detector used for the Allura Centron.