

## New England Podiatry Practice Remains on the Cutting Edge of Technology with 20/20 Imaging

By Dr. Michael Z. Fein, Bethel Podiatry

When I first began practicing podiatry more than 30 years ago, our only option for imaging patients was film-based X-ray. X-rays helped us determine if a bone was fractured or damaged by arthritis, infection, or other disease. While today other imaging techniques such as computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or ultrasound provide podiatrists with important patient information, the X-ray remains an invaluable service that we can provide within our office.

In 2005, my practice, Bethel Podiatry, purchased our first digital imaging system from 20/20 Imaging. While the early digital x-ray unit utilized a cassette similar to film—known as computed radiography (CR)—it offered us a significant advantage—to cease using chemicals and film processors. It also came with another great advantage: strong service and support from the vendor. When it comes to any technology, you need one that provides outstanding results and efficiencies when it's working, but you also need one that comes with service and support of the equipment that is equally outstanding. Years ago, my first digital system was damaged during an electrical storm. I called 20/20 and the very next morning I had a replacement unit. Based on the level and quality of service and solutions, I knew staying with them was the right choice.

In March 2015, when it was time to upgrade to a new system, I knew I would stay with 20/20 based upon years of quality, reliability and exceptional service. Technology constantly evolves and improves, and to keep the practice competitive, I knew we needed to deliver the highest quality of care to my patients. This meant it was time to move to the now available direct radiography (DR) solution.

So, I installed the high-frequency PXS-710D DR system, with superior image quality for sharp, high clarity images. Software enhancements make it possible to zoom in on a specific area of the digital image, which provides more detail than film, or even CR. Every time I use the new DR system, I get the best possible image—consistently and reliably. For me, it is the consistency of imaging that really differentiates this digital x-ray system—every image is sharp, with the proper contrast and resolution so I can see the detail that I need to make a confident, accurate decision on the patient's condition.

With film, the quality of the images processed often degrades as films are developed and the chemicals decay. In my geographic area, I estimate that approximately fifty percent of podiatrists employ some type of digital x-ray

imaging (either CR or DR), so it is not a matter of the digital imaging providing a competitive advantage; rather we need this technology to stay competitive.

There are two sayings: “space is at a premium,” and “less is more.” With the PXS-710D, both are true. The user-friendly touch screen acquisition is wall mounted with direct interface to the x-ray generator. The software controls the x-ray technique thus eliminating the need for the x-ray control box.

However, it is the efficiency of imaging that has had the greatest impact on my practice. I have bypassed the entire step of processing so my assistant is now freed up to perform more important work—helping take care of patients. My office staff takes an average of six to 10 digi-

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tal x-rays each day—and see nearly 50 patients daily—so the more time we can spend hands-on with patients and addressing their needs, the better care we can provide.

The system has also enhanced the quality of patient care and patient education. Monitors are mounted in each room, and I always show the visual images provided from my DR unit to my patients to help illustrate and explain their problems and possible interventions.

I can also easily take the images with me on a CD when I perform surgery at Danbury Hospital and load the images to the computer in the OR. I can even compare pre and post-op images on the same screen, making it easier to ensure that the surgery was a success.

And, when patients request copies of their images, I can also provide them with a CD to share with their primary care physician. I no longer worry about lost or misplaced films, which in today's medico-legal environment can become an issue of patient privacy.

Digital x-ray has become an important component of the quality care I provide at Bethel Podiatry, and I couldn't ask for a better partner than 20/20 imaging. Their support when needed is attentive and excellent, and the high quality, consistent images keep me reassured that I am continually providing the best possible care for my patients.

*For more information on 20/20 Imaging, call 866-734-6234, visit [www.2020imaging.net](http://www.2020imaging.net) or click here.*