Using MRI-CAD to Increase Efficiency & Effectiveness

MRI Scan & Imaging Centers | Fort Lauderdale, FL

MRI Scan & Imaging Centers provides a variety of advanced imaging services to patients in the Fort Lauderdale area. Dr. Robert Kagan, the Medical Director of the MRI Scan & Imaging Centers is nationally recognized in the fields of Nuclear Medicine and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). He has consistently introduced cutting edge medical technology to Florida physicians and patients, including opening the first Nuclear Cardiology laboratory in Florida in 1977, the first outpatient MRI facility in Florida in 1983, and the first open MRI center in 1987. In the 1990s, he introduced the first Siemens Somaton Sensation, a 16 multi-slice detector spiral CT Scanner in the state, and today, offers the only 3.0 Tesla high field MRI system in use today in Florida.

Advanced Scanning

The advanced imaging equipment Dr. Kagan employs at MRI Scan & Imaging means patients get fast, comfortable exams with less rescanning. For radiologists though, this advanced equipment generates considerable data. Without advanced analysis tools to accompany advanced imaging, processing the data can be extremely labor intensive and time consuming.

To facilitate post-processing of MRI data, Dr. Kagan and his team use Merge CADstream®, a software application for breast, prostate and liver that automates the analysis of MRI studies and improves interpretation, reporting and interventional planning workflow.

Managing Breast MRI

Dr. Kagan has been using Merge CADstream for several years. He started using the breast MRI module and soon found that the application improved his ability to quickly and accurately diagnose illnesses based on the images. Before using Merge CADstream, even something seemingly simple like plotting of curves was time consuming because of the volumes of data he was working with.

CADstream automates MRI data post-processing and whether it’s a feature like diffusion analysis, multi-parametric analysis for breast lesions or highlighting washout characteristics of contrast-enhanced MRI, CADstream allows Dr. Kagan and others to image more regions in the breast, identify regions of interest, and perform intensive analysis on those areas. CADstream eliminates the need for a biopsy in many patients, which is great news for that patient who learns that she doesn’t need surgery.

“CADstream doesn’t do the diagnosis, but it processes the data in the study to make it easier for me to do the read.”

CUSTOMER PROFILE

- Perform a variety of advanced services including MRI imaging, CT scans, nuclear medicine and ultrasounds
- Only imaging center in Florida to use a 3.0T high field MRI
- Medical Director Dr. Robert Kagan introduced MRI to Florida, opening the first MRI facility in the state in 1983 and his was the first facility to receive FDA approval in April 1984

CUSTOMER CHALLENGES

- Time-consuming to manually process MRI data
- Studies are extremely complex and involve huge amounts of data
- Reimbursements for studies are declining

BENEFITS

- More efficient MRI study analysis and reporting
- Easily expand from breast to liver and prostate MRI analysis with the same application
- Effectively deal with very large data sets

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Adding Liver & Prostate Studies
After successfully using Merge CADsteam breast application, Dr. Kagan expanded use to prostate and liver MRIs as both areas could benefit MRI data post-processing, analysis and more precise biopsy planning. It’s virtually impossible to do prostate MRI without Merge CADstream. Low signal intensity malignities and high intensity fibrous tumors are difficult to differentiate without using advanced techniques available in CADstream like multi-parametric analysis.

“While the high quality imaging starts with a high quality scanner like the 3.0 Tesla high field system we have in place, the post-processing and advanced analysis in CADstream lets me and the other radiologists diagnose must faster and more effectively.”

Flexible Reporting
The reporting capabilities in Merge CADstream are helpful for the radiologists at MRI Scan & Imaging Centers as well as the referring physicians that send patients to the centers. “Merge CADstream lets me export data using just a few mouse clicks in a number of different formats including DICOM or BIRADS and easily burn the report to a CD,” said Dr. Kagan. “Not only does that make my own reporting much easier, it lets me provide information back to referring physicians in the format that they prefer and can most easily work with.”

Working with Merge CADstream
Dr. Kagan advises new users to take a training class, read technical papers, and/or talk to other users before using Merge CADstream. While the application is intuitive, the training will help new users make the most of its many capabilities.

“With reimbursements continuing to decline, I can’t envision an imaging center profitably performing breast, liver and prostate MRI studies without using Merge CADstream given the efficiency improvements and time savings it offers radiologists,” said Dr. Kagan.

Perhaps even more important than the efficiency improvements are the many capabilities to assist with diagnosing patients. “I had a liver case recently where I used Merge CADstream to calculate ADC values in different regions on-the-fly, which was incredibly time-saving, but also let me differentiate reduced and increased diffusion states and accurately diagnose the situation,” said Dr. Kagan. “This is state-of-the-art technology that will make you more effective as a radiologist.”

About Merge
Merge is a leading provider of clinical systems and innovations that seek to transform healthcare. Merge’s enterprise and cloud-based solutions for image intensive specialties provide access to any image, anywhere, any time. Merge also provides health stations, clinical trials software and other health data and analytics solutions that engage consumers in their personal health. With solutions that are used by providers and consumers and include more than 25 years of innovation, Merge is helping to reduce costs and improve the quality of healthcare worldwide.