

**PHILIPS**

Bringing MR patient care to the fifth floor at Pacífica Salud in Panama

Pacífica Salud Hospital in Panama City chose a Philips MR system with a BlueSeal magnet for its new headquarters in Costa del Este. Weighing 900 kg less¹ than traditional MR systems, it overcomes siting and building challenges and does not require a quench pipe². The system offers an improved patient experience with a large bore, fast scan times and Ambient Experience solutions that provide an environment designed to create a calming and engaging experience that reduces stress. With state-of-the-art MR technology, Pacífica Salud was able to place the scanner on the fifth floor of a new multi-purpose complex, for a patient-centered experience that prioritizes both speed and comfort.

"BlueSeal is lighter and suitable for our radiology department that is on the fifth floor. No need for structural adaptations or worry about helium logistics."

Dr. Eduardo Onodera, Chief of Radiology
Pacífica Salud Costa del Este, Panamá City,
Panamá

Innovating to put patients first

Pacifica Salud is a modern private hospital in Panama City. It was founded by a group of Panamanian doctors and businessmen who aimed to revolutionize medicine in Panama. By bringing the best healthcare to Panama, Pacifica Salud has become a renowned modern healthcare provider using advanced medical equipment and expertise on par with global leaders.

Pacifica Salud has facilities at two separate locations in Panama City. When designing the facility at the Costa del Este location, which serves as both its headquarters and an additional clinical facility, Pacifica Salud focused on clinical excellence as well as a positive patient experience from start to finish. For example, being part of a commercial and office complex instead of a traditional hospital

environment was envisioned to help patients and families feel more comfortable with the healthcare experience.

The radiology department needed to be located on the fifth floor of the multi-purpose building complex. Its new MR system was required to meet specific siting needs while also helping to provide a positive experience for patients. Dr. Eduardo Onodera, Chief of Radiology at Pacifica Salud, says, "We required a state-of-the-art MR machine, with a focus on patient safety and comfort. The BlueSeal magnet, which weighs less and does not need a quench pipe², allowed us to install an MR system on the fifth floor, with direct access to the medical office floors and facilitating the transportation of hospitalized patients with safety and confidence."



BlueSeal technology brings a vision to life

Installing an MRI machine on the fifth floor of a mixed-use architectural complex was a challenge for traditional MR scanners. With conventional MR magnets, long quench pipes must be installed to meet safety requirements and direct helium to an outside vent in case of a magnet quench. Instead, the Philips BlueSeal magnet uses micro-cooling technology which requires just seven

liters of liquid helium, instead of the 1,500 liters needed by conventional MR magnets. This tiny amount of liquid helium is fully sealed in the magnet, enclosing it for the rest of the scanner's lifetime. Because no helium can escape³, the Philips BlueSeal magnet does not need a quench pipe², considerably reducing construction costs of a new installation.

"Our experience has been very positive. The MR system with BlueSeal magnet allows us to use very fast protocols with high diagnostic quality."

**Dr. Eduardo Onodera, Chief of Radiology,
Pacífica Salud Costa del Este, Panamá City, Panamá**



Delivering an excellent experience, from the very first scan

Dr. Onodera recalls that the first patient scanned in the new facility was the general manager, who wanted to offer the best of the best at this site. To help improve the process, he put himself in the patient's shoes and experienced a complete examination from beginning to end. Dr. Onodera

says, "He describes himself as an anxious person, but was very pleased after the examination, because it took little time and during the scanning he always felt supported by the technologist. The ability to offer short exams completely aligns with our vision of patients spending less time in the MR."

Minimizing the need for sedation during MR exams

The facility serves a large pediatric population, and this meant that a primary goal for the clinic was to reduce the number of patients requiring sedation. Dr. Onodera feels that Ambient Experience creates a calming and relaxing atmosphere that can help them achieve that objective. Reduced scan times and a soothing

environment that provides a positive distraction during the examination helps them create a better patient experience and allows them to initiate more scans without the need for patient sedation. This is consistent with the experience of other hospitals that have transformed care with Ambient Experience.⁴



Discovering the speed and flexibility of Philips MR

Dr. Onodera has used other MR systems, but this was his first Philips MR scanner. He highlights the benefits of the Compressed SENSE acceleration technique. "The acceleration techniques available in the BlueSeal technology allow us to perform

much faster studies that are more tolerable for the patient. This speed comes without losing the image quality. We are much more efficient in performing a study, and we can scan more patients, and respond immediately to emergencies," he says.

Seeing a positive return on investment

When asked about the benefits and costs of such a state-of-the-art system, Dr. Onodera said, “Using such an MR system means that you must also consider the return on investment.” He later explained that because examinations on this MR system are faster than on the MR scanner used at the other site, exams of the central nervous system (including head, neck and spine) are now scheduled at the new site, freeing up space at the original location for other types of exams.

This has improved the care experience for patients at the new site while reducing scan times and allowing for more exams per day. “For a radiologist, it is important to have the latest technology at hand, and even more important to have it updated. But when you do it privately, you also have the challenge of getting the most out of the investment: obtaining the highest quality, but also being profitable,” says Dr. Onodera.



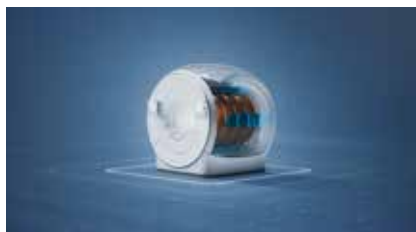
Supporting sustainability through careful management of natural resources

Dr. Onodera cites the responsible and efficient use of helium in BlueSeal technology as an important factor in their purchase decision. “As we all know, helium is a natural and non-renewable resource,

and helium loss is a constant concern for anyone who runs a radiology department. In addition, the responsible consumption of resources is aligned with the green vision of Pacifica Salud,”



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Disclaimer and footnotes:

Results from case studies are not predictive of results in other cases. Results in other cases may vary.

1. Compared to the Ingenia 1.5T ZBO magnet.
2. Due to closed magnet system and reorganize the disclaimer list on the bottom on the article.
3. Even in the rare case of the magnet becoming unsealed, the negligible amount of helium escaping would not materially affect the oxygen level within the room.
4. Ambient Experience installed base study 2020. <https://www.usa.philips.com/healthcare/consulting/experience-solutions/ambient-experience>

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