

## Jacinto MRI and Diagnostics Implements ImageGrid PACS Appliance to Counter Impact of DRA

### The Customer

Jacinto MRI and Diagnostic is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jacinto Medical Group, a multi-specialty physician group formed by Doctors Ricardo Pardo, Rafael Pardo, Robert Johnston and Caroline Johnston. Founded in 1996, Jacinto Medical Group is led by Mr. Siraj Jiwani, who as Chief Executive Officer brings financial expertise at a time when the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), has placed tremendous strain on medical imaging facilities. Jacinto Medical Group has always demonstrated a willingness to invest in new modalities and technologies in order to provide superior patient care, streamline operations and reduce costs.

### The Challenge

For several years, Jacinto Medical Group had been searching for a cost effective, reliable and feature rich PACS solution. Unfortunately, the high upfront and on-going price of many solutions would have meant sacrificing investment in new and state of the art of modalities. Jacinto even considered off-site archive service providers, but the recurring monthly costs, as well as the lack of quick access to priors was a deterrent.

Jacinto had tried to manage their growing volume of digital data with a CD-based digital image archival and retrieval system. The digital image archive, which consisted of more than 5,000 CDs, required significant manual intervention for proper maintenance and updating. Unfortunately, this solution also lacked the scalability features to keep pace with the practice's rapid growth and expansion plans. In addition, the replication of all medical images and studies for remote storage,



*"We considered many different PACS solutions but none came close to ImageGrid in terms of price, reliability, features and capabilities. Candelis' support is also excellent."*

**Siraj Jiwani, Chief Executive Officer**

### Location

Baytown, Texas

### Services

Open-MRI, CT, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Mammography and Bone Density

### Key Business Challenges

Reliable and cost-effective PACS solution to accommodate growing volume of patients.

Improve physician and staff productivity in order to accommodate growth while minimizing expenses.

### ImageGrid™ PACS Key Benefits

Lower administrative and maintenance costs for image archiving

Increased radiologist productivity from always on-line access to studies from any workstation

Automated data back-up to Tape Library for HIPAA compliance

# CASE STUDY

as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), became a highly labor-intensive process resulting in significant additional costs. “Our radiologist needed faster access to studies as well as priors. Our technologists were expending valuable time to retrieve prior studies from the CD-ROMs or burning new studies on CD or DVD. It became an ongoing issue as we added new modalities and expanded our practice to not only find the time, but also additional onsite storage space for storing the CDs,” said Siraj Jiwani., Chief Executive Officer of Jacinto Medical Group. “In addition, we were not as efficient as we needed to be in communicating with our network of referring physicians.”

Jacinto Medical Group was in need of a cost-effective, feature-rich, scalable and web-based PACS solution to improve operating efficiency, reduce archive and image management costs and improve communication with their network of referring physicians. Implementing PACS became a priority as the negative impacts of the DRA began to be felt in early 2007 with lower reimbursements.

## **The Solution**

Jacinto Medical Group deployed the Candelis ImageGrid™ PACS Appliance system and quickly discovered that the solution exceeded all expectations. The 6-terabyte system was installed in just four hours with no interruptions to daily operations. Jacinto’s ImageGrid can easily and cost effectively be expanded to the tens of terabytes and accommodate future growth.

Today, all five modalities send images directly to the ImageGrid system and are available for immediate viewing by radiologists. As a DICOM-compliant storage server, ImageGrid is compatible with any DICOM viewing software, including Jacinto’s existing *GE Centricity* workstation. With ImageGrid PACS, there are no additional fees for connecting new modalities or workstations.

In addition, ImageGrid’s web-based DICOM viewer has given referring physicians the ability to view their patient’s studies and reports in a timely manner. ImageGrid’s ILM software module has helped Jacinto in complying with HIPAA data back-up requirements by allowing for the automated backing up of studies to an integrated Sony AIT tape library.

By providing DICOM encapsulation, ImageGrid is also able to attach non-DICOM files to studies. These files can be any type of format, such as PDF, TIF, JPEG, Microsoft Word, Excel or Power Point. This feature allows for digitizing an entire patient file and storing it alongside imaging studies.

ImageGrid’s Order Entry module allows the front office to capture patient demographic information as well as specific details for a study and generate a Modality Worklist, thereby eliminating the time consuming task of modality technologists having to input the data at the acquisition workstation.

# CASE STUDY

“My first reaction when I heard about ImageGrid PACS Appliance’s combination of low price, features and capabilities was that it is too good to be true. By implementing the ImageGrid PACS Appliance at a fraction of the cost of other similar solutions, we are able to become more efficient and counter the negative effects of DRA,” said Mr. Jiwani.

## The Results

Jacinto Medical Group has been able to improve productivity among radiologists through immediate and always-online access to its entire image library, as well as the routing of images to offsite users and its network of referring physicians. The ImageGrid’s full compatibility with all of Jacinto’s DICOM-standard modalities has lowered image management costs by eliminating a labor-intensive CD-based system. Equally important, errors resulting from the manual handling of CD-based images have been all but eliminated. Based on current usage patterns, the ImageGrid system is expected to provide Jacinto with approximately three years of disk-based archiving.

“ImageGrid PACS has reduced costs by gives us a faster and more efficient solution for accessing and retrieving studies and for delivering reports more quickly to referring physicians. We estimate that managing our volume of studies on CDs was costing us between \$3,000 and \$4,000 every month in administrative time,” said Mr. Jiwani. “By becoming more efficient, we have been able to optimize the utilization rate of our modalities and schedule more patients each day, thereby generating incremental revenue.”

As a fully integrated “appliance” ImageGrid PACS has not burdened Jacinto with multiple pieces of hardware. ImageGrid PACS server and RAID 5 archive are offered on a single 2U rack-mountable system, which is in contrast to solutions from other PACS vendors requiring the complex integration of multiple hardware and software solutions.

“Surprisingly, by implementing ImageGrid PACS we have not seen any of the added IT overhead costs which one typically hears about,” added Mr. Jiwani. “The system’s proactive self-monitoring capability and well architected redundant key components such as fans and power supplies has provided us with high availability with virtually no administrative interaction. We are planning on adding ImageGrid’s RIS module in the first quarter of 2008, in order to further streamline our operations and accelerate our revenue cycles. In addition, Candelis’s service and support has been excellent both during the installation and post-installation periods and they are very responsive to their customer’s needs.”

Based on the success of the ImageGrid PACS in reducing costs and increasing productivity, Jacinto is now considering the addition of an advanced PET/CT, which will benefit its patients and community.