

Gakkentoshi Hospital

Improving processes with a hospital-wide solution

Having opened its doors in 2006, Gakkentoshi Hospital is a 200-bed hospital situated in the town of Seikacho, south of Kyoto, Japan. Part of the Iseikai Association, Gakkentoshi Hospital provides general low and mid-acuity medical services to the local population and specializes in spinal and orthopedic surgery.



While the Gakkentoshi Hospital is new, its medical staff brings years of knowledge and experience to the organization.

The chief executive officer of the hospital is Dr. Jitsuhiko Shikata, MD, PhD., a well known neurologist specializing in spinal cord surgery. He lectures at Kyoto University and was formerly the Director of the Kyoto City Hospital. Dr. Shikata explains, "Our focus is on elderly patients who become immobilized from back injuries, such as compression fractures, that can now be repaired through new surgical techniques that allow them to go back to functioning lives. Dräger's hospital-wide solution supports this mission."

As a new facility, Gakkentoshi had the opportunity to implement an integrated medical technology solution across all care areas – the ER, OR, ICU and CCU. After investigating its options, the decision-making team chose a hospital-wide solution consisting of anesthesia machines, ventilators, patient monitors, central station monitors, surgical lights and ergonomic accessories – all from Dräger. This hospital-wide solution allows the hospital to maximize staff efficiency and workflow, while also meeting budgetary constraints.

SYNERGY OF INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES

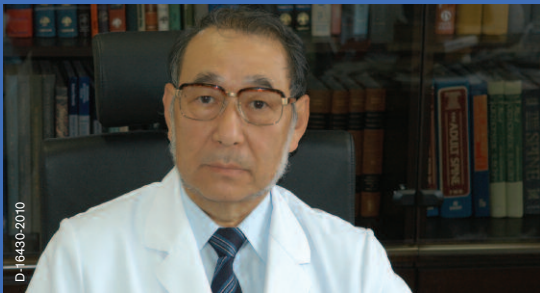
The hospital's first step was to find the right anesthesia machine. Dr. Yukimasa Ogino, MD, Director of Anesthesiology, spearheaded the hospital's decision-making group.

A graduate of the Kyoto University of Medicine, Dr. Ogino continued his study as a pediatrician and anesthesiologist, and was certified as an anesthesia department specialist in 1998. In addition to planning the OR, Dr. Ogino participated in organizing the new hospital.

The team initially considered a brand of anesthesia machines that Dr. Ogino had used in a previous hospital, but he was not satisfied with the system's performance.

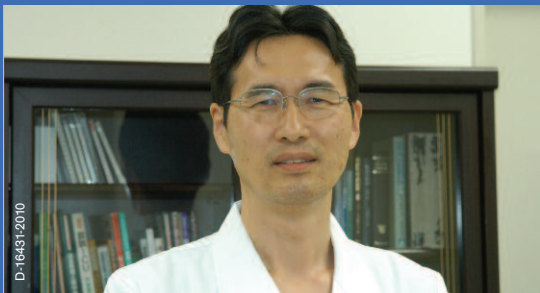
When invited to present an anesthesia solution, Dräger responded with the Fabius anesthesia machine, which offers a price-performance ratio that helps hospitals reduce total cost of ownership while expanding therapy capabilities. The anesthesia workstation combines the latest ventilation and gas delivery technologies in a compact, ergonomic design. The Fabius had another point in its favor: it is fully integrated with the Infinity® Delta patient monitor, which greatly interested the hospital's decision-making team.

Completing the hospital-wide solution was Dräger's Savina ventilator, which Gakkentoshi uses in the ICU, and Sola® surgical lights for its ORs. To eliminate cable clutter in the operating rooms, the hospital is also using the MonoLead® single-wire ECG lead set and MultiMed® pod.



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– Dr Jitsuhiko Shikata, MD, PhD., CEO



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– Dr. Yukimasa Ogino, MD, Director of Anesthesiology

The hospital also took advantage of Dräger's Education & Training services, which was a key consideration in choosing the right solution. A dedicated Dräger training team worked at the hospital daily until the clinical staff became comfortable with the devices, and continues to make training available when requested.

The Gakkentoshi Hospital staff also valued the fact that all of the equipment comes from the same vendor, which simplifies both training and maintenance. As a result, there's just one number to call.

In the end, Gakkentoshi Hospital was able to realize the value of Dräger's integrated solutions: patient monitors, anesthesia machines, ventilators, surgical lights and ergonomic accessories all working together, plus comprehensive services to support them every step of the way.

CONTINUOUS MONITORING ENHANCES WORKFLOW

Monitoring played a big part in this hospital-wide solution because it affects every care unit in the hospital. One of the key reasons that Gakkentoshi Hospital selected the Delta monitor was because it incorporates Dräger's award-winning Pick and Go® technology, which continuously monitors all vital sign parameters as the patient moves throughout the hospital – without having to disconnect and reconnect the leads. This process is less disruptive for patients and saves time for the nursing staff.

Dr. Ogino says, “I worked at another hospital that used a standalone SpO₂ monitor for transport. In that environment, it took an average of 18 minutes to prepare a patient for transport following extubation and removal of all monitoring connections, and then reconnect the patient to a bedside monitor. Here at Gakkentoshi, Pick and Go technology enables the Delta monitor to double as a transport monitor and therefore eliminates this 18-minute gap in monitoring.”

Transport is one of the most critical times for surgical patients, and they need constant vigilance. Delta monitors provide continuous monitoring during transport. “For us anesthesiologists, monitoring is essential during general anesthesia,” explains Dr. Ogino. “We are used to understanding the patient's condition through monitoring. The sounds of regular pulsation or heart rate bring us peace of mind.”



When a patient is transferred to the ICU or a ward after an operation, I usually go along with the patient to watch him or her. With the Infinity Delta, continuous monitoring during transport relieves my mind. The steady sounds of pulsation echoing in the corridor or in the elevator make me feel at ease.”

STANDARDIZATION INCREASES EFFICIENCY

One of the hospital's goals was to have a monitoring system that could support every patient in every care unit. During transport, Delta continues to display the same vital sign parameters that were monitored during surgery. For patients who are monitored after surgery, in the ICU, for example, the monitor stays with the patient.

All monitoring configurations are stored in the docking stations rather than in the individual monitors. The nurse simply puts the monitor onto the docking station and, because of patented Pick and Go technology, the monitor automatically reconfigures to display the parameters set for that unit.

As a result of this unique monitoring technology, Gakkentoshi Hospital was able to standardize on one monitor hospital-wide. This strategy simplifies training and boosts productivity because it enables nurses to float from one unit to another without having to reacquaint themselves to different monitors in different units. It also eliminates the cost of buying and maintaining transport monitors.

REMOTE VIEWING CAPABILITIES SAVE VALUABLE TIME

As in other countries, there is a shortage of anesthesiologists in Japan, and they have a very heavy workload. Dr. Ogino wanted to be able to view his patients' vital signs from anywhere in the hospital to save himself the time of having to physically go from bed to bed.

From Dr. Ogino's perspective, one of the most valuable time-saving features of Infinity monitors is the RemoteView feature, which provides a bed-to-bed view capability and enables the clinical staff to check on patients remotely.

100% WIRED-TO-WIRELESS

Another valuable attribute of Infinity Delta is that the monitors support seamless wired-to-wireless connectivity. As a new hospital, Gakkentoshi was built for Wi-Fi connectivity – even in the elevators.

When the monitors are docked at the bedside, they use the network connectivity of the docking station, but once the monitors are undocked for transport, they automatically switch from wired to wireless.

“The combination of Pick and Go and wireless technologies has moved patient monitoring beyond the limitations of fixed monitoring stations,” says Dr. Ogino. “Wireless connectivity enables patients to move around freely within specified coverage areas of our hospital, which positively affects the therapy and recovery of patients.”



SCALES FOR FUTURE GROWTH

Gakkentoshi Hospital also chose the Delta monitor because it is designed to support future growth. The hospital can add higher acuity monitoring capabilities simply by plugging parameter pods into the monitor. Future capabilities can be added via easy software upgrades.

“We hope we can provide our patients the best care through Dräger’s monitoring system, which allows us to standardize on one monitor for every care unit in the hospital,” says Dr. Ogino. “I am very glad to be able to work with such an excellent anesthesia machine and monitoring system, indeed! I thank my boss and the staff who introduced Dräger’s system to our hospital.”

THE CHALLENGE:

Create a state-of-the-art solution that enables the hospital to provide optimum patient care by supporting processes and streamlining workflow across all care areas.

THE SOLUTION:

Implement a hospital-wide solution that supports the ER, ICU, OR and CCU, consisting of integrated solutions from Dräger.

THE RESULTS:

Complete hospital-wide solution

– Allows the hospital to maximize staff efficiency and workflow, while also meeting budgetary constraints.

Standardization

– Contains costs and saves training time by allowing the hospital to use one kind of monitor for every department and patient acuity level.

Mobility

– Enables physicians and nurses to check on patients remotely and allows patients to move around freely within specified coverage areas of the hospital, which positively affects the therapy and recovery of patients.

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