



# HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER LOS ANGELES, CA

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CLINICAL PROFILE

GENERAL NUCLEAR MEDICINE

2020TC IMAGER

# HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

CITES IMAGE QUALITY, VERSATILITY AS KEYS TO  
ITS SUCCESS USING SINGLE-HEAD MOBILE IMAGER



HARBOR-UCLA  
MEDICAL CENTER  
STUDIES/YEAR: 7,000

At Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, a bustling public facility in Southern California, work runs the gamut in the division of nuclear medicine >

Half of all procedures are cardiac, 20% involve bone studies, and the remaining are wide-ranging; up to 10% of all patients are non-ambulatory. With a procedural mix and mobility variability such as those, it's no surprise that the facility uses five gamma cameras ranging in scope from one to three heads to evaluate patients. Its newest camera is the 2020tc Single-Head Mobile Imager from Digirad.

The unit is a compact, lightweight, solid-state gamma camera designed to offer maximum clinical versatility and convenience virtually anywhere that planar, dynamic and SPECT imaging procedures involving small or large organs are required—throughout a healthcare facility. Intended as an overflow unit for the large mix of studies that require a single-head camera in a typical nuclear medicine environment, the mobile system is useful for lung imaging (sitting, standing or lying on a stretcher), thyroid imaging (sitting or lying down), scintimammography (sitting or lying on a stretcher), and bedside imaging in a CCU, ICU, ER or elsewhere.

While Harbor-UCLA's Nuclear Medicine Division is not typical in every respect, like many medical centers it acquired the 2020tc Imager® as an overflow unit. At the same time, it was seeking a compact system primarily for use in a small room situated within the busy department. The new system met both requirements.

At Harbor-UCLA, the system is used for pinhole views in bone scanning and for imaging the thyroid, often with patients in the supine position to minimize movement. Cardiac planar studies, such as myocardial perfusion, also are completed using the gamma camera. Washington said that due to its compact size and flexibility (caudal and cephalic tilt) the system enables imaging from more difficult angles—with excellent clarity.

"I appreciate the camera's flexibility, size and light weight," Washington said. "We can move the head around very easily and are able to get into tight spaces when the patient's movement is limited. I also like the telescopic arm, which adjusts to different bed heights."

Panukorn Vasinrapee, M.D., chief of the division of nuclear medicine, said the system's configuration makes it preferable to other single-head systems that perform comparable studies. "When we use the camera for the studies it is intended to do, this camera does them better," he said. "It is perfect for a busy department such as ours."

At most large medical centers, dual-head cameras are preferred for many procedures, due to both their versatility and imaging acuity. While Harbor-UCLA generally subscribes to those preferences, Washington noted limitations. Multi-head cameras require that patients be placed on an imaging table, a challenge with patients who are debilitated. Single-head cameras are ideally-suited for the performance of many planar imaging procedures and far less costly than conventional dual-head systems. They're a perfect overflow system.

"If you're doing a gastric or thyroid study using a dual-head camera, the second head is not being used—and you're tying up the camera for the entire study," Washington said. "For cardiac studies, this system is often better than a dual-head because it's upright, the camera is in closer proximity to the patient." The adaptability of the 2020tc Imager to perform cardiac SPECT procedures using a special rotating chair accommodates the medical center's growing cardiac overflow. Harbor-UCLA has been scheduling its cardiac studies a month in advance, and that time frame has begun to decline.

Additionally, siting of the 2020tc system required no room alteration, the overall clinical flexibility is excellent, it is easy to use, there has been no down time, and patients are imaged in relative comfort. Finally, minimal training was required. Overall, Harbor-UCLA has been pleased with its new mobile imager.



2020tc Single-Head Mobile Imager from Digirad

"Digirad has been very responsive to our needs," Washington said. "The company has been attentive, the product does what we wanted, the images are consistently good, and our experience has been very positive. From an imaging and overall departmental standpoint, we've been very satisfied."



