

Experiences with ViewPoint 6



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Introduction

Initially, we only intended to use ViewPoint 6 for the documentation of ultrasound examinations, but we soon realized that ViewPoint can be used in several fields in our hospital. The user interface and the layout of the findings are excellent and much more intuitive than most hospital information systems, so we extended the use of ViewPoint here to other areas; initially laparoscopy and then the entire surgical area. ViewPoint was connected to various imaging systems in the hospital and ran completely flawlessly, even when connected with non-GE equipment.

The aim of this white paper is to present the diverse options for using ViewPoint 6 at the Danube Hospital in Neu-Ulm, and to show how much this software supports everyday working life—not only in the area of women’s health.

Workflow

“Efficiency” describes the workflow with a ViewPoint 6 in just one word. At the press of a button, all images and measurements from the ultrasound equipment are sent directly to the ViewPoint program and automatically fed into the fields corresponding to the patient in the screen. This saves a considerable amount of time, as no manual input is needed. In addition, the flat hierarchical structure of the software means that only the necessary screens are completed. Missing ranges are displayed by the software, providing a certain degree of interactivity.

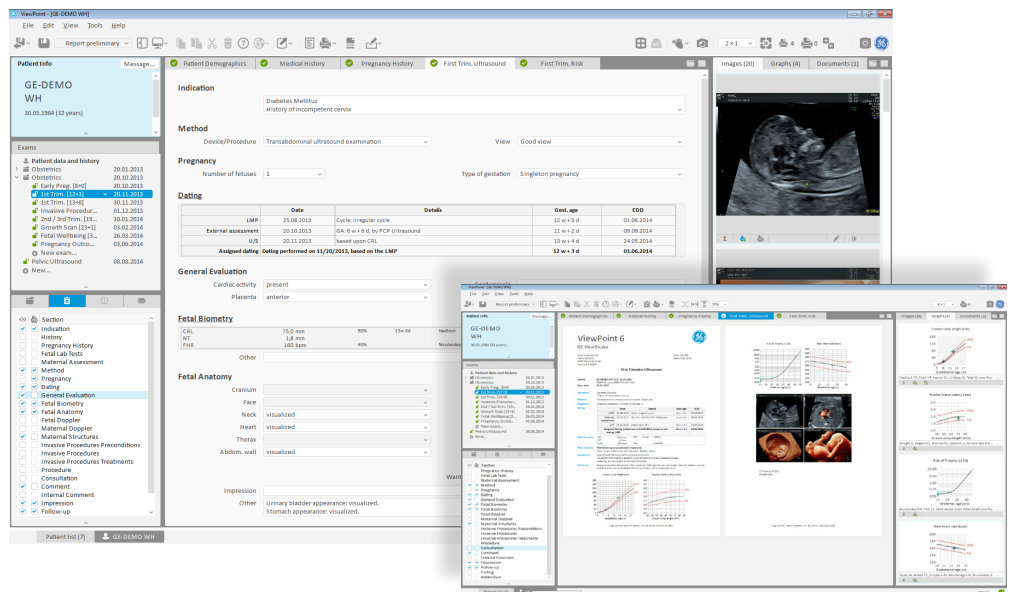


We work almost exclusively with ViewPoint at the women's clinic in Neu-Ulm. It is one of the most advanced systems on the market. The automated processes improve our workflow, which saves us a lot of time.

Compared to the previous year, in 2015 we doubled the number of births supported in our hospital care, and the surgical figures also doubled. From this, it became clear that, from the patient histories of all patients that we carry out in ViewPoint, through invasive and non-invasive prenatal diagnosis up to the operating range, ViewPoint is covering more and more fields in the everyday work of our hospital.

The ability to open several patient files at the same time in ViewPoint 6 shortens our morning meetings and provides a better overview, especially in relation to gynecological emergencies or complicated procedures.

The flat design of the ViewPoint 6 user interface resembles modern graphical interfaces such as Microsoft* or Apple*. Consequently, the emphasis is also on user-friendliness and making it easy for the user to navigate through the program. The partitioning of the interface is excellent; the image gallery, patient data and examination types are brought together in one single interface, which makes the entire workflow—from greeting the patient to bidding her farewell—faster and more efficient. I now use ViewPoint 6 to document the entire stay of a patient. This starts with the medical history and goes through examinations, PDF scans of external findings, use of ViewPoint 6 on a Surface Pro* during the visit, right up to the final reports. All data is documented and saved here.



ViewPoint 6 in the OR

We also use ViewPoint 6 in the surgical area. Our laparoscopy towers have a Wi-Fi connection that allows us to send images in DICOM* format directly to ViewPoint 6. After the operation, the surgeon goes directly to the ViewPoint 6 workstation, has all the image material available and creates the surgical report using text blocks that can be modified according to the situation. The archiving of images can also be extended to open surgery using DICOM-enabled cameras.

The previous form of backup involved using USB sticks or SD cards and then importing into the software; this is now completely unnecessary, saving the IT team and the doctors work.

In my opinion, ViewPoint 6 is essential for a modern form of digitization.

ViewPoint 5 vs. ViewPoint 6

I believe that ViewPoint 6 is one of the most advanced software platforms in my field of medicine. Based on many years of experience with ViewPoint 5, I am constantly discovering new possibilities during my work. ViewPoint 6 gives a far clearer overview compared to ViewPoint 5. The improved and intuitive design of the new interface is not only visually attractive, but it also helps me find important information very quickly. Patient data, previous examinations and findings, as well as images and graphs are clearly displayed. The user interface can also be very easily adapted and customized to meet the needs of the user.

Findings

The findings preview for the doctor's letter is an elegant solution. In ViewPoint 6, I can navigate from the preview directly back to the findings input to quickly make changes. This practical solution simplifies my work flow enormously. Above all, I can clearly

highlight abnormalities in ViewPoint 6, making my colleagues immediately aware of a critical finding in a patient.

My patients consider the findings in ViewPoint 6 to be very visually appealing. The design options have been expanded and modernized compared to the previous version.

The opportunity to select various images and graphs for printing, and to adjust their size to fit the page, allows me to visually optimize relevant information and images for colleagues or patients.

Feedback from several private practitioners on the findings has also been extremely positive. They find them to be very aesthetically and appropriately structured. Since the introduction of ViewPoint 6, my team of doctors has been exceptionally pleased with this solution.

Our hospital also treats many foreign patients who do not speak any German. The language switching function in ViewPoint 6 enables us to easily create findings for these patients in English, for example.



Data Security

In the past, we have experienced data losses with other software and wanted to move to a stable and secure program. The support at an early stage, the presence of GE employees and the development of suitable backup solutions allow us to work securely.

Statistics

The statistics module in ViewPoint 6 is indispensable, particularly for the analysis of conspicuous images and for scientific work. I can use the archive to access my patients' data, compare them against each other and use them for analysis. The anonymization of images and videos in ViewPoint 6 is particularly easy, so I can discuss these and findings with colleagues if needed, or use them in scientific presentations.

ViewPoint 6 is also unbeatable for analyzing surgical figures, the numbers of ultrasound examinations carried out by my medical team, etc. All parameters can be obtained at the press of a button.

Conclusion

Our experiences with ViewPoint 6 have been excellent. This reliable software enables us to have a smooth workflow in the clinical routine, saving both time and money.

ViewPoint 6 provides us with advanced software that supports us, especially in demanding cases, as well as in creating diagnoses and doctor's letters. Thanks to the extensive archives, all patient files can be called up and can also be used for scientific work. Looking ahead, we intend to use ViewPoint 6 to cover more and more fields in our hospital. ViewPoint 6 is a future-proof software platform that will further develop into the digital center of the hospital.

Hard Facts

- Births: approx. 1200–1300 per year (2016)
- 1400–1500 surgical procedures per year
- 15 doctors in Gynecology
- 5 Ultrasound devices
- 2 laparoscopy towers

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