

SUCCESS STORY: Welch Allyn CardioPerfect™ Workstation



CASE STUDY:

FACILITY:

Hälsan Tornet Medical Centre

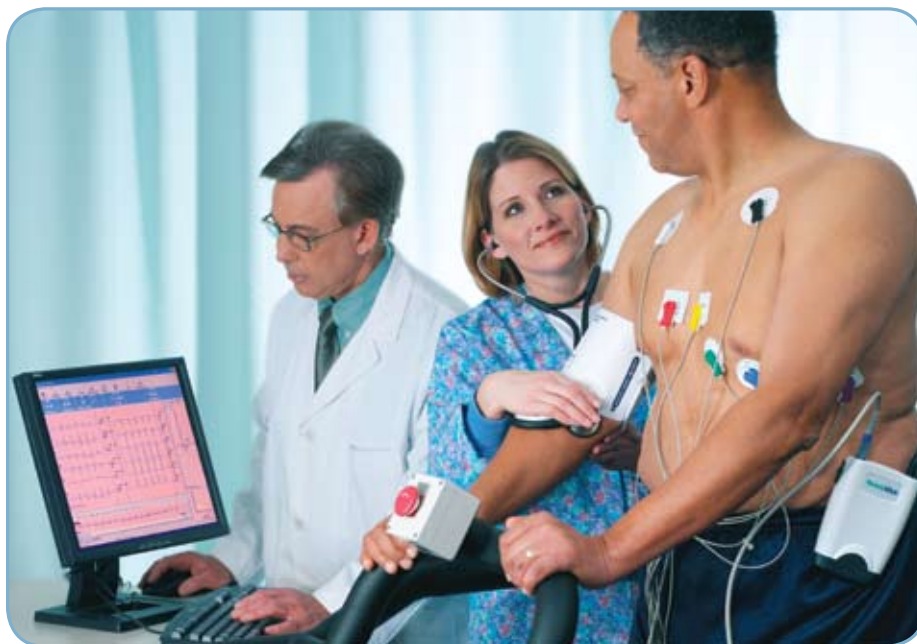
LOCATION:

Jonköping, Sweden

SUMMARY:

Sune Johansson works as a general practitioner at Hälsan Tornet Medical Centre in Jönköping. As a private general practice, Hälsan Tornet has listed patients and a responsibility in the Jonköping region. Sune and another doctor practice there, and have around 6,500 appointments annually. Before switching to the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation, the doctors had to worry about inconveniences such as locating test data in multiple locations or the possibility of mixing up patients while typing in their names prior to testing. The centre has been using the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation for eight years and has experienced increased efficiency.

Welch Allyn's extensive range of PC-based diagnostic modules integrates conveniently with the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation software. The Workstation can be used with many electronic health record systems all over the world. The following case study shows how one medical practice benefitted from Workstation integration.



Computerization a precondition for efficiency

For a long time—since 1984—physicians at Hälsan Tornet Medical Centre have been working with a computerized medical records system, called Medidoc. “The computerized medical records system is a precondition for working efficiently,” Dr. Sune Johansson says. “The register can hold a total of around 12,000 patients, and currently we have more than 5,500 listed. We also have total linkup to the county council’s intranet, and we are the only medical centre in Jönköping with full link-up in both directions.”

Straight from the medical records

The throughput of patients is demanding, and the need for efficiency is therefore high. To help them meet these demands – testing, transmitting, and managing their patient data – Sune and his colleagues use the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect™ Workstation. “The CardioPerfect Workstation

gives us a direct link between medical records, ECG, spirometry and 24-hour blood pressure tests,” he explains. “The system is directly linked to the medical records, and this means that we never have to register the patient’s personal identification number more than once. It really helps us stay efficient.”

Sune demonstrates this benefit when a patient arrives for a spirometry test. After the patient’s personal ID number is entered, Sune brings up the patient’s medical records. He clicks a spirometry link in the medical records and opens the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation. “I can see the patient’s history within a second and a half, without typing in a single name,” Sune points out. He can see that a 24-hour blood pressure test has already been done, and that an ECG test was carried out earlier.

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Hälsan Tornet Medical Centre*

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Saves time and space

As Dr. Sune begins to perform the spirometry test on this patient, an animation on the screen shows a fireman spraying water onto a fire. If the patient manages to blow into the mouth piece hard enough, the fire goes out. “A simple pedagogic trick, which people think is fun, and helps improve patient compliance” Sune says. Once the spirometry test is complete, the results automatically transmit back to the patient’s medical record. Sune then brings the patient back to the exam room, where he can call up the results of the test and review them.

“The systems are so simple and compact that I like to carry out the tests myself! I usually carry out the tests for spirometry, blood pressure and ECG, as they are so user-friendly,” he continues. “We are saving both time and space,” Sune comments.

Automatically stored in the right place

The Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation automatically transmits patient data back to the patient’s electronic medical record, eliminating the need to manually document patient testing data. The system ensures that the requested data is shown automatically, with the use of the patient’s personal ID number. Patient data can then be read and summarized easily on any computer at the medical centre. Sune points out that this means there is no chance of mixing up patients. “After all, the data we read is linked to the patient’s personal ID number and thus to the patient’s name,” he says.

ECG

Resting ECG and exercise ECG test data are also integrated in the medical records, and are equally accessible. “We use exercise ECG as a valuable diagnostic—and therapeutic— tool. An exercise ECG has a calming effect on patients.”

Sune explains that he recently saw a patient who complained about a pain in the chest. “The usual question they ask is if it ‘might be the heart?’ It is helpful to prove to the patient, quickly and simply with an exercise ECG test, that he does not have heart disease. There are, after all, many other reasons why you might have a pain in the chest. The simple exercise ECG lets us concentrate on finding out what is actually going on.”

In addition to standard exercise ECG functionality, Sune also uses many of the advanced features on the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation’s ECG module. “There are many help functions that make it easy for me to make relatively detailed interpretations—despite not being an expert within this area.”

Effective pedagogic aid

Using the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation system, 24-hour blood pressure tests can also be carried out—and have been used at Hälsan Tornet since 2000. “Our experience is that blood pressure is quite complicated, and requires good equipment for registration and presentation,” says Sune. “These 24-hour tests have meant, among other things, that we have prescribed lots of necessary blood pressure medication. But there is also a big pedagogic advantage of the measurements. For patients needing medication, you really want them to take their prescription as directed. With the ABPM module on the CardioPerfect Workstation, you just have to bring up the results of a blood pressure reading on the screen and say ‘look here,’” explains Sune. “You can show the patient a graph, and this can be really important for ensuring that the patient understands the importance of taking his or her medication. It could be blood pressure medication, but also asthma medication, for example.” For this reason, Sune thinks that the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation contributes significantly to good patient compliance.

For the past eight years, the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation has helped this medical centre in Sweden become efficient, save space and increase patient compliance. This is just one example of how this multifaceted software can integrate with electronic health records systems worldwide in virtually any medical facility. To find out more about how the Welch Allyn CardioPerfect Workstation software can interface easily with your system and help bring solutions to your facility or practice, visit www.welchallyn.com.

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