

Reshaping the mammography experience with Senography Pristina™



GE Healthcare's new mammography system, the Senographie Pristina™, was installed for the very first time in the world at the Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus in Villejuif, France. In the following interview, Jean-Baptiste Brunet, a mammography radiographer at the Cancer Campus, explains his role contributing to the MammoNext programme and shares his experience working with the Senographie Pristina.





Jean-Baptiste BRUNET,
mammography radiographer
at the Cancer Campus
in Villejuif, France



What distinguishes the Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus and your mammography practice from other facilities?

"The Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus is an institution specialized in cancer treatment. It is particularly renowned in Europe for the way in which it manages breast cancer diagnosis and treatment with innovative techniques and the latest imaging technologies. The One Stop Clinic clearly illustrates this point. On Mondays, women who have already had an abnormal mammography or suspect breast lesion(s) diagnosed elsewhere are welcomed to the clinic and each of these patients leave on the same day with a diagnosis and possibly a treatment plan.

Today, our work is split between mammography, ultrasound and interventional. We perform diagnostic exams and carry out regular follow-up exams 6 months after diagnosis and after 1, 2 or 5 years, with regular monitoring of micro-calcifications. For the interventional aspect of the job, we perform pre-operative care, biopsies and fine needle aspiration biopsies."

What is the MammoNext programme and how has the Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus contributed to it?

"MammoNext is a consortium which includes the Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, GE Healthcare and other partners, with the aim to develop the mammography system of tomorrow. It's a relationship centred on sharing experience and expertise relating to mammography and biopsy.

As such, technicians from GE Healthcare came to Gustave Roussy to gain a clearer understanding of how we work and what we would need from the new system. After that point, we followed the development of the new mammography system and eventually had the opportunity to test the system born from this collaboration at the GE Healthcare site in Buc, France."

What did you expect from this system as a mammography radiographer?

"My expectations were primarily focused on improving and optimizing my daily work so that I could save time and work more comfortably. To help me achieve these goals, the new mammography system had to be ergonomic, more fast, and more simple to use."

Please describe how the new Senographe Pristina was introduced to the imaging facility

"The new system was installed within two days. After one afternoon of training with an application specialist from GE Healthcare, we were able to work autonomously. And on August 11th 2016, we performed the first mammogram in the world with the Senographe Pristina."

What are the innovations that you noticed on the new system? How did it help you to improve your practice and patient care?

"We quickly noticed the centrality of digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT) to the development of the Senographe Pristina. DBT technology was fully integrated into the new system, making it easy to quickly switch from a 2D to a 3D acquisition. There is also a 'parking' mode which allows us to easily move the tube out of the way when positioning patients for MLO acquisitions and to avoid twisting into uncomfortable positions. This helps us to position patients more easily and helps to improve the flow of patients. Moreover, the tube automatically returns to its initial position to acquire a 2D or 3D image. These innovations have a big impact on our work!"

Do these innovations have an impact on your interactions with patients?

"Such innovations have contributed to improvements to our workflow. We can speak with our patients and better explain the procedure, particularly for digital breast tomosynthesis."

What feedback have you received from patients about the Senographe Pristina?

"Our patients have told us that undergoing their mammography exam with the Senographe Pristina was less painful than what they had experienced in the past with other systems. We haven't changed the level of compressions so this is likely due to the fact that patients can be positioned more comfortably, with a new arm rest and thinner bucky. When their muscles are relaxed, the breast compression and image acquisition are made easier.

In addition to the exam itself, we have also worked to create an ambiance in the room that can help reduce patient anxiety, with coloured walls, dim lights, and soft music. With its LED lights, the Senographe Pristina fits perfectly in this environment. Patients no longer feel like they're in a hospital, which can help them relax."

Would you recommend the Senographe Pristina to other radiographers?

"Yes, I would recommend it because the Senographe Pristina has helped to simplify image acquisitions in both 2D and 3D."



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