

A surgeon in a blue surgical mask and cap is looking down at a computer monitor displaying a 3D transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) image of a heart. The monitor is part of a Siemens ultrasound machine. In the background, other medical professionals are blurred, indicating an operating room environment.

Case
Study

Improving Cardiac Care with 3D Transesophageal Echocardiography

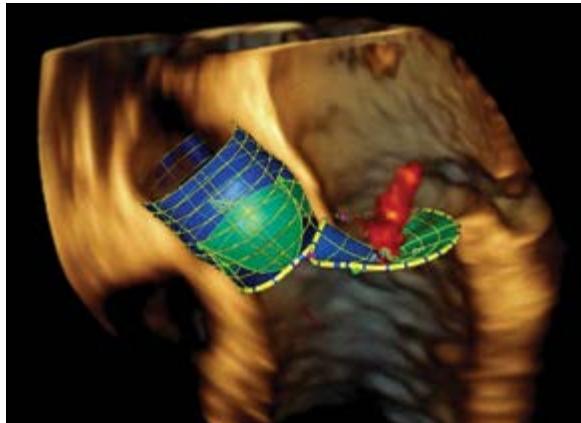
Kansas Heart Hospital

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Kansas Heart Hospital is a 54-bed hospital serving Wichita, Kansas and surrounding communities.

Precision at the Speed of Life at Kansas Heart Hospital



“The resulting images and detail of the 3D TEE probe from Siemens Healthineers are far superior to competitive products.”

Deb Sikes
RDCS, RDMS, RVT
Manager of Non-Invasive Department
Kansas Heart Hospital

Putting the Patient First

When patients are sent to Kansas Heart Hospital (KHH) for cardiac care, they benefit from recent advances in echocardiography, which enable clinicians to evaluate cardiac structure and function in 3D using transesophageal or TEE probes.

“3D is now the gold standard of care,” said Deb Sikes, RDCS, RDMS, RVT, manager of the Non-Invasive Department at KHH. “It is a powerful diagnostic tool and provides a new window into heart evaluation.”

“We had success with 2D TEE, but wanted to raise the bar to 3D,” said Sikes. “The resulting images and detail of the 3D TEE probe from Siemens Healthineers are far superior to competitive products. Our cardiologists, anesthesiologists, and surgeons are so impressed with the images, capabilities, and overall information we can now see.”

Dr. Ernest Hoeckel, Jr., a board-certified anesthesiologist at KHH, agrees with Sikes, calling the 3D probe exceptional.

“It shortens treatment time for exams,” said Dr. Hoeckel. “In addition, the 3D technology enables us to definitively answer questions that could only be surmised under 2D.”

Real-time Guidance for Valve Therapies and Arrhythmia

“What’s especially great about their 3D probe is that we can see live volume color flow while working on patients. We don’t have to go to the workstation to do calculations and can make on-the-spot repairs,” said Sikes.

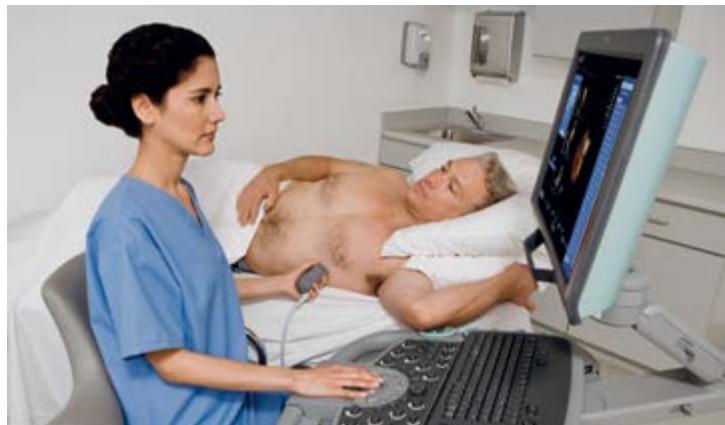
Dr. Hoeckel added, “The real-time 3D capabilities are remarkable. For this reason, I believe it is a superior product.”

In fact, Dr. Hoeckel recently treated a patient with a history of atrial fibrillation. “We were going to do an ablation on the patient and tie off their atrial appendage. With 2D, I could only suspect a clot in the left atrial appendage. Utilizing the 3D probe, I could absolutely be certain that there was a clot,” said Dr. Hoeckel. “It changed our course of action and likely improved the outcome for the patient.”

Unlike 2D, which relies on standard imaging planes, 3D TEE uses volume datasets. Normal or pathologic cardiac structures can be viewed from multiple perspectives.

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Kansas Heart Hospital

Drawing Straws to Assist in Procedures

To encourage adoption, KHH leveraged the robust training and educational offerings from Siemens Healthineers. "The training and application specialists from Siemens Healthineers were incredibly helpful. There's a bit of a learning curve as none of our staff had previous 3D training, but now our sonographers absolutely love it," said Sikes. "They're so excited that we have to draw straws to see who gets to assist in procedures."

Dr. Hoeckel added that the probe is "exceptionally easy to use" and that he's using 3D "for every possible exam."

"The 3D TEE has been a huge success at Kansas Heart; it's amazing what we can accomplish in real-time," said Sikes. "It increases physician and staff satisfaction, and, more importantly, it also improves patient care—which is always our ultimate goal."

Kansas Heart Hospital in Brief

Annual Procedural Volume

- Over 2,500 catheterizations
- An average of 375 open heart cases
- 175 valve surgeries and primary lung surgeries
- Endovascular stenting for abdominal aortic aneurysms
- Carotid artery surgery
- Carotid artery stenting
- Peripheral vascular surgery
- Peripheral vascular stent procedures

Siemens Cardiac Solution

- Four ACUSON SC2000 Ultrasound Systems with three 3D TEE probes
- Two ACUSON Sequoia™ Ultrasound Systems
- Two AXIOM Artis systems for Interventional Cardiology
- AXIOM Artis biplane system for Electrophysiology
- AXIOM Sensis for Hemodynamics
- SOMATOM® Sensation 64 CT Scanner
- SIREMOBIL Compact L mobile C-arm
- syngo® Dynamics for Cardiovascular PACS

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