

Life depends on time

– that's why I chose a POC solution from RADIOMETER

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Need for faster results and better work flow

Riverside Methodist Hospital and Grant Medical Center are both part of OhioHealth, an Integrated Delivery Network located in central Ohio.

"...new point-of-care solution ... to make faster clinical decisions and improve the work flow..."

We recently implemented a new point-of-care solution for blood gas analyses. This new step was driven by our need to make faster clinical decisions and improve the work flow in both hospitals.

These two hospitals are located in close proximity but are different in size (Riverside approx. 650 beds, Grant approx. 350 beds), and they had separate and unique reasons for considering a new point-of-care analyzer. As Point-of-Care Manager, it was my responsibility to find a solution that would satisfy the diverse needs of both hospitals.

"...delays meant that the ED doctors had to suspend the treatment of patients..."

At Riverside, the central lab previously ran all Emergency Dept. (ED) blood gas analyses. The ED physician would order a test, and the respiratory therapist (RT) would draw the sample and transport it to the lab (50 yards away) for processing. This work flow implied a typical turnaround time of 15 minutes, but occasionally there were longer delays, which meant that the ED doctors had to suspend the treat-

ment of patients or proceed without the results. This frustrated the doctors and everyone else involved, and drove the need for moving blood gas testing directly into the ED.

"...the perfusionists spent too much time maintaining the instruments..."

Grant already had decentralized testing of blood gases with two benchtop analyzers in the Cardiovascular Operating Room (CVOR). However, the perfusionists spent too much time maintaining the instruments, and the cold temperatures often meant problems with quality control. Despite their effort, the instrument downtime was considered too high.

"...time should be spent on patient care..."

We all agreed that the CVOR needed a testing solution that would be ready at all times and that would allow the perfusionists to spend time on patient care rather than on instrument maintenance.

"...a solution that would satisfy the diverse needs of the two hospitals..."

The ABL™77 is a small portable analyzer designed for point-of-care testing. ABL77 measures pH, blood gases, electrolytes, and hematocrit.



Trouble-free point-of-care testing

After an extensive evaluation of available instruments, we chose the ABL77 Series analyzer from RADIOMETER since it was the only solution that fulfilled our needs for parameter profile, ease of use, reliability, and accuracy, and at the same time met our laboratory's requirements for performance and regulatory compliance.

"...no cartridge preparation before each analysis"

Fast results and analyzer uptime were primary concerns of both hospitals. It is a great advantage for the physicians in the CVOR and ED that the ABL77 is always ready and does not require any cartridge preparation before each analysis. They do not have time to waste on special preparation procedures, especially under the intense conditions in these departments.

"...simplifies the testing process..."

At Grant, the ABL77's simple operation is really important. Potential technical errors are avoided because RTs, technicians, as well as perfusionists can easily operate the system.

"I feel confident about point-of-care testing with the ABL77..."

Control of user access and analyzer performance was one of our major concerns about moving the testing out of the lab. The ABL77's programmable user access levels and quality assurance options enable me to monitor that testing is being conducted in compliance with all regulatory requirements. This helps me feel more confident and secure about testing at the point of care.

"The ABL77 has improved the work flow..."

The ABL77 has improved the work flow considerably in both hospitals. At Grant, the time spent on maintenance has been nearly eliminated. At Riverside, the ED physicians now get sample results immediately, which lets them make faster decisions.

"We found the point-of-care solution we needed."

Our ABL77 point-of-care solution has strengthened the team spirit and tightened a common bond between the laboratory staff, the physicians and RTs in the ED at Riverside, and the perfusion/OR staff at the Grant campus.

Our Mission Statement at OhioHealth is "To improve the health of those we serve." We needed a vendor with a documented track record and one that was visible to us in terms of sales and service support. Furthermore, it is part of our strategic plan "to deliver clinical excellence, to build a reputation for quality health care, and to improve cost position."

The implementation of the ABL77 analyzers at Riverside and Grant has been critical in our efforts to reach these goals. We found the point-of-care solution we needed.

The ABL77 is being used in both of the CVOR suites in the Surgery Department in Grant, hence portability is particularly important.

