ZEISS FORUM Case Study
Dardenne Eye Clinic Bonn
Everything from a Single Source

The ZEISS FORUM data management system helps the Dardenne eye clinic in Bonn optimize its day-to-day processes in many ways.

“Goodbye,” says an older lady somewhat uncertainly; an eyepatch covers one of her eyes, but she is smiling as she says goodbye to the driver of the minibus that has brought her home. Like many other patients, the 72-year-old uses the pick-up and drop-off service offered by the Dardenne eye clinic in Bonn — this is a service that helps the clinic remain competitive, and appealing to its patients. The eye clinic also has to contend with rising patient numbers — and this is an area in which the Dardenne excels: since the end of 2015, it has been working with the FORUM® eye care data management system by ZEISS.

All existing diagnostic devices (at the Dardenne, these are primarily ZEISS devices) are connected to ZEISS FORUM. This means that image data is created and saved directly in ZEISS FORUM, and is therefore available at all ZEISS FORUM workstations in the practice, e.g. in the consultation rooms, immediately after the examination. This completely eliminates the need to print and transport examination images and paper files. Further, ZEISS FORUM is linked to the electronic patient files (EPA) at the Dardenne, where creation and maintenance of administrative files is handled.

Demographic data such as name, age and above all the patient identification number are directly transferred from the EPA to ZEISS FORUM via an interface. You therefore only need to enter this data once instead of on each examination device. In this way, redundant or incorrect data is largely avoided, which can save a tremendous amount of time in day-to-day operations.

The following surgeries were performed in 2016:

- Cataract: 6,603
- Intravitreal injections: 4,030
- Retina: 165
- Glaucoma: 220
- Lid: 548
- Cornea: 51
- Refractive & other: 87

ZEISS FORUM Viewer is installed on eight workstations and two laptops at the Dardenne.

“I have all the examination data I need in one place. It’s just brilliant.”

Dr. Hans-Wilhelm Große, Dardenne eye clinic
The eye clinic in Bonn (Bad Godesberg) was established by Dr. Michael Dardenne in 1989; it was one of the first private practices for eye surgeries and it specialized in cataract treatments. Since 2015, the eye clinic has achieved excellent outcomes using FORUM, the intuitive data management solution from ZEISS.

ZEISS FORUM does not only offer added value in administrative work, it also helps boost efficiency in the clinical domain: the doctor has access to all the examination results he needs in one place in order to make a diagnosis. The doctor thus has all the essential information about the patient’s status at their fingertips and doesn’t need to rifle through files or switch between different applications. “I have all the results I need in one place. It’s just brilliant!” says Dr. Hans-Wilhelm Große, praising the ZEISS FORUM system.

But it wasn’t love at first sight. “We didn’t work with the previous version very much at all,” says Dr. Große, “but the Retina Workplace (as a diagnostic tool for macular diseases) got us very interested, and prompted us to try again with the current ZEISS FORUM Version.” And that really paid off: in collaboration with the Carl Zeiss Meditec Sales and Service company, the existing system was updated to the latest version and staff was trained once more – now, ZEISS FORUM is part and parcel of daily work at the Dardenne eye clinic and has been very well received by the entire team. “As soon as you know how ZEISS FORUM works and use it every day, it runs very smoothly,” agrees Dr. Marion Schäuble. Alongside Retina Workplace, ZEISS FORUM is an integral part of the procedure for correcting cataract, a speciality at the Dardenne, which was in fact one of Germany’s first eye clinics to offer outpatient cataract surgeries on a large scale.

Another application for ZEISS FORUM at the Dardenne eye clinic is the on-site training of its staff; this normally takes place once a week. Against this backdrop, patient cases are analyzed and discussed. The display of the image files in ZEISS FORUM facilitates exchange among the staff and presentations to the team.

So is the staff at the Dardenne eye clinic completely satisfied with ZEISS FORUM? “Not quite,” says Dr. Große with a smile: “We plan to link up our four nearby medical centers as soon as possible.” This will be a major move for the Dardenne if the image data from all sites is available via ZEISS FORUM.
Interview with Dr. Hans-Wilhelm Große and Dr. Marion Schäuble on 19 April 2017.

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