

Dermatology Customer Case Study

The Skin Wellness Center

Knoxville, Tennessee



Photo documentation has long been a valuable tool in the dermatology healthcare market segment. Skin is the largest human organ and there is no solution available for quickly imaging it in its entirety. Devices and software for internal organ imaging such as digital x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) and computed axial tomography (CAT) for example are well developed, but too costly and inappropriate for dermatology applications.

What has been needed is a solution that works with the broad range of off-the-shelf digital camera products and that supports the broad range of potential workflows commonly used in healthcare practices today. 4D Imaging Systems' [PhotoStation Manager](#) provides a simple and cost effective approach for dermatology practices to capture, organize, and report patient status and proof-of-improvement using photo documentation. The PhotoStation Manager has been available as the brains behind the fully integrated solution called the [4D PhotoStation System™](#). Now the PhotoStation Manager is available as a software solution that turns any PC & digital camera into a full-blown photo documentation system allowing fast access, measurements, and reporting.

[The Skin Wellness Center](#) of Knoxville, Tennessee is one practice that has incorporated 4D Imaging Systems' solutions fully into their practice. The Skin Wellness Center is a full service dermatology healthcare clinic that provides both medical dermatology and cosmetic dermatology services to a large clientele in East Tennessee. In addition to patient-centric services, The Skin Wellness Center also participates in clinical trials and testing of newly developed pharmaceuticals. In all areas of the practice, the use of photo documentation is key a tool used for recording patient status and for providing visual proof of improvement.

The Skin Wellness Center approached 4D Imaging Systems in order to address their labor intensive and time consuming manual photo documentation workflow. The cosmetics area of the business had begun documenting all patient before and afters using an off-the-shelf digital camera. The practice medical records were fully digitally, allowing all patient data to be electronically accessed via one of the top-tier Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems. A single camera was used in the cosmetics area, and

during the course of any given week, dozens of patients were photographed. In order to identify which patient was in any particular photograph, a protocol was developed that required shooting a picture of the patient chart form and ID information prior to shooting the actual patient photos. A subsequent manual upload procedure then copied the files from the camera memory card to a server computer. Then the collection of photos were manually segmented, one patient at a time, and uploaded into the practice EMR system.

4D Imaging Systems has configured a flexible solution for the practice using two systems, one in the cosmetics area and the other in the medical area. The PhotoStation Manager software includes an [EMR Upload Option](#) based on the HL7 interface standard. Using HL7, the PhotoStation Manager can connect to the practice EMR system, enabling the photos to be directly transferred into the appropriate patient medical record without the need for any manual copy or upload procedures. Currently, the practice has captured and organized photo images from over 2100 patients.

The new PhotoStation Manager Version 2.0 release will enable the practice to further incorporate support of additional digital cameras used for clinical trial testing. The PhotoStation Manager Image Loader feature, will enable the photos from any digital camera used in the practice to be imported and associated with the patient electronic medical record. Further, in clinical trials where documenting changes in the size of clinical features is required, the new digital ruler feature will provide a convenient and accurate measurement based on what is visually documented in the photo.

According to George Smith, CMPE and Administrator at The Skin Wellness Center in Knoxville, "The 4D Imaging Systems solution has enabled our practice to increase patient satisfaction by clearly showing proof of improvement for our cosmetic patients."

