



Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Ingenua Ambition 1.5T

Interview with **Ravi Ayer, Consultant Radiologist,**
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Q. Tell us about Poole Hospital...

Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is a general district hospital for both inpatients and outpatients from the Bournemouth and Poole area. We are primarily an acute centre: approximately 80 percent of the work we do is emergency care, the other 20 percent is elective. Because we are a general district hospital, rather than a tertiary centre, complicated cases such as neurosurgery and cardiothoracic surgery are often referred to hospitals slightly further afield (Southampton and Oxford).

Q. Tell us a little bit more about your current radiology department and Magnetic Resonance (MR) Imaging systems...

We have a full suite of imaging services within our radiology department with the capabilities to perform ultrasound, X-ray, PET-CT and SPECT-CT. The department is staffed by 12 radiographers who work a mix of full and part time.

For MRI specifically, we conduct 15,500 scans (approximately 50 patients per day) across three MR imaging scanners, including the new Philips Ingenua Ambition X 1.5T. Although we are not a tertiary referral hospital, we conduct the imaging that would be required for these types of centres and send the images to Southampton or further afield. Therefore, we are able to attend to all types of MR cases from neurological to cardiac to musculoskeletal and breast.

Q. Why have you installed the Ingenua Ambition X 1.5T MR?

Patient experience is important to us at Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and therefore a key consideration when choosing a new MR imaging scanner.

We perform a lot of paediatric scans and therefore have a long waiting list for general anaesthetic to manage patient anxiety. Our play therapist department has already made great strides in decreasing patient anxiety before MR scans. However, the Philips Ingenua Ambition X 1.5T MR combined with in-bore experience stood out as something that could help us take things one step further. The in-bore experience provides visual aids to support patients while inside the scanner, giving them imagery to

increase their comfort along with audio updates to guide them through the scan. Since installing this feature, we have significantly reduced the number of children requiring anaesthetic by helping ease them into the scanner and showing them cartoons while inside.

Sometimes, we may need to anaesthetise adults before MR scans too. Since introducing the Philips Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR combined with in-bore experience, we have converted three patients, who in the past have always undergone general anaesthetic prior to their MRI scans, to going straight into the scanner.

The Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR also has lower build and maintenance costs due to the fact that it operates 'helium-free'. Most MR scanners require a helium quench pipe to be installed to allow the liquid helium to escape. However, by fully sealing the helium, these pipes are not required. Our existing helium pipe at Poole was in need of repair and therefore by opting for the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR, we were able to eliminate the costs of replacing the current pipe.



Q. Tell us more about the installation...

We installed the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR in June 2019. Its user interface is intuitive, which makes the machine extremely user friendly compared to previous MR scanners that we've operated. Our radiographers have found it easy to adjust to and have no difficulty producing images.

Q. What is your experience of the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR's overall performance?

The Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR operates 'helium-free' which has no perceived impact on overall performance compared to standard MRI scanners. The image quality is the same as standard MR scanners and copes with the same high throughput of patients, operating between 10 – 12 hours per day.

Overall, the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR's diagnostic accuracy and image quality is very good. We use the Philips Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR in combination with Compressed Sense, an acceleration technique which shortens MR sequences and full MR examinations. Essentially, this gives us something for nothing – we can produce the same image quality, certainly perceivable to the human eye, and decrease the time taken for the sequence to run. The machine's fast setup, quick scans and comfortable scanner environment made possible from the in-bore experience make for a more relaxed patient and therefore better image quality compared to standard MR scanners.

Although the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR can be operated by one radiographer, such as when staff are 'on call', our preference, as with our other MR scanners, is for two radiographers to operate the machine – one to monitor the patient and one to conduct the scan.

Q. What is your overall impression of the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR?

We are quite early on in our experience of using the Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR, however our overall impression is that it is very good. We are still optimising image quality, which is quite typical with a new MR scanner, and have had several site visits from Philips to support us with this.

Q. How do you plan on using the new Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR in the future?

Compared to CT scans, the radiotherapy field for soft tissue tumours can be more closely mapped and the radiology dose reduced by using an MR scanner. With this in mind, we hope to use the Philips Ingenia Ambition X 1.5T MR for radiotherapy planning.



Lisa Probert, Customer Project Manager, Philips

Aleksandra Kudyk, Deputy Superintendent MRI Radiographer, Poole Hospital Trust

Jonathan Coupland, MR Sales Specialist, Philips

David Reed, MRI Superintendent, Poole Hospital Trust

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Philips UK is part of Royal Philips

The Philips Centre,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 8XH.

www.philips.com

Printed in the UK