

# Web-Based Cardiovascular Interpretation – Anywhere, Anytime

Great technological advancements broaden the spectrum of the possible.

*They change people's lives.*

The Digisonics system is one such evolution – its remote reading capability simultaneously improves the quality of physicians' professional care *and* the quality of their personal lives. 47-year old Dr. Theodore Richard Lieux of Baton Rouge, Louisiana is one person who has experienced the benefits of Digisonics remote reading feature. He's an internist with an independent multispecialty group of 87 doctors, and he reads cardiology studies for the group.

Dr. Lieux is married, he and his wife have four children ranging in age from 8 to 16 years, and it isn't always easy for him to balance competing family and professional responsibilities. On Friday afternoons, Dr. Lieux tries to break free of the clinic and devote himself to his children's activities. Unfortunately, it's very common for someone to come into the clinic that afternoon complaining of chest pain. The clinic administers a treadmill stress echo test and notifies Dr. Lieux, who might be watching a child's sporting event or theatrical performance. "I've always wondered why so many people get sick on Friday afternoons," he laments, but instead of admitting the patient or rushing back to the clinic, as he would have had to do in the past, Dr. Lieux finds a quiet spot and uses his laptop and cell phone combination to remotely log into the Digisonics system, read the test, write and proof a report, and pass it to the primary care physician. "Usually, I can get the results back to the clinic in ten or twenty minutes, which is about as fast as I'd be



able to do it if I were actually in the clinic. If it's negative, we're 90% certain it's not a heart attack and that person doesn't need to be admitted. It keeps people out of the hospital, and that keeps costs down."

Professional responsibility covered, Dr. Lieux returns his attention to his child's event. The number of cardiology studies he reads varies greatly; backlogs sometimes

accumulate. The Digisonics system allows him to leave his office at the end of a normal working day and spend time with his wife and children he wouldn't otherwise be able to enjoy. He gets up early and clears his backlog reading from home before his family wakes. Digisonics' remote reading capability has freed his family to travel. He's used the system to read studies from Yosemite National Park, Boston, Washington, DC, and Baltimore. He simply signs in remotely – with cell phone service or from a coffee shop, hotel room, or friend's house with

high speed Internet access – reads the required studies, makes his reports, and passes the results to his fellow doctors in Louisiana. It's fast, efficient, and accurate, and "it improves the quality of my personal life and the quality of my patient care. Really, there is no compromise."

Incidentally, none of Digisonics' competitors deliver the full benefit of remote reading. Competitive systems require downloading the full study prior to reading –

impossibly slow if you're at a soccer game, and an annoying delay many hurried cardiologists won't weather regardless of the circumstances. Digisonics provides streaming image review; physicians can begin reading over the Internet as soon as they click a study, and all Digisonics features function remotely – analysis, electronic signatures, and instant distribution to all concerned parties.

Dr. George Rizk, a 52-year old cardiologist with a private practice in Prescott, Arizona, concurs with Dr. Lieux's assessment of the benefits of remote reading. On average, he reads ten studies a day. He tries to get through them before leaving his office, a task he isn't always able to accomplish. Without the Digisonics remote reading capability, he'd have to sacrifice family time and finish at the office. Now, he goes home at a reasonable hour, spends evenings with his wife and children, and catches up with his reading in his home office after the children are in bed.

Previous systems made it nearly impossible for him to take long vacations. Being absent for a week paralyzed his practice. "I have a busy schedule for studies and stress tests, and I just couldn't do them when I was away. The old system of FedEx videotape delivery and telephone dictation or cassettes and Dictaphones was a nightmare.

Now, I just sign in from wherever I am and do my reading. It's easy, it's fast, and it's less error prone. If a physician needs a study read while I'm out of town, I'm able to provide him with instantly responsive care."

Even more amazing are a pair of anecdotes from Dr. Kalyana Sundaram, of Cedar Valley Medical Specialists in Waterloo, Iowa, and Dr. Cem Nasuhoglu, one of the leading pediatric cardiologists in West Texas. Dr. Sundaram was in India recently and he kept up with his patient load from the other side of the world. Reading remotely via the Internet, he read and reported on more than 100 studies every day. Dr. Nasuhoglu's pediatric cardiology practice serves three hospitals and he loves the flexibility Digisonics adds to his life. Last summer, he was reading studies on a three week vacation with his wife and four children in the mountains of Turkey above the Mediterranean coast.

The bottom line is simple: easy, fast, flexible access to information improves patient care, it improves the quality of physicians' lives, and Digisonics delivers those benefits better than anybody else in the industry. "Remote reading is a blessing that helps patients and physicians," Dr. Rizk laughs, "but the person who loves it most is my wife."



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#### **About Digisonics, Inc.**

Digisonics has set the standard for image management and reporting software for more than 40 years – with the first review station, the first fully functional web-based system and the most configurable multi-modality reporting.

Rated Best in KLAS for Cardiology in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, Digisonics systems combine high-performance image analysis, professional reporting and a comprehensive clinical database. With a powerful PACS image archive, exceptional remote connectivity and a comprehensive suite of links to other systems, Digisonics provides the top choice for a full cardiovascular workflow solution.