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HISTORY ARTICLE

The Radiology and Imaging Service at the *Hospital General de México Dr. Eduardo Liceaga,* 120 years of history

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Nowadays, it is difficult to conceive of the idea of making a medical diagnosis without the support of radiological studies, so that radiology has become a fundamental part of the multidisciplinary team for the comprehensive care of the patient, not only for its participation in the diagnosis but also for the treatment of minimal invasion.

A few years after Röentgen discovered X-rays, a radiology cabinet was already included in a marked effort to provide the hospital with the most advanced equipment, so the Hydrotherapy, Mechanotherapy, and Electrotherapy (Radiology) Service of the *Hospital General de México* had the first Mexican radiologist, Dr. Roberto Jofré. Radiology Service began properly in 1934 when the first X-ray machine was installed under the command of the Head of Service, Dr. Carlos Cogui, however the boom of radiology at that time occurred in 1952 when technician manual development devices from the Westinghouse company arrived. It is at this time when the Rehabilitation and X-ray Services were separated. Around the 70s, the first ultrasound arrived in Hall 10. In 1990, a computed tomography (CT) scanner was integrated into the Service, and in 1993, the structural modification of the Nuclear Medicine and Tomography Service began. In 1994, the structural modification of Interventional Radiology Room 1 began for the installation of two angiographs. In 1995, a 0.2 T Siemens open resonator was added to the service (Fig. 1).

Technological development has radically transformed the practice of all fields of medicine, medical diagnostic imaging constitutes a paradigm of needs for any computer system, so in May 2006, the system of digitization of images in central X-rays was inaugurated, however still under the modality of development and printing of radiographic film and by June 2010, it was replaced by a Radiology Information System (RIS) and one of Communication and Image Archive (PACS) in the short, medium and long term that achieves the total digitization of radiological studies (Fig. 2).

In 2023, more than 144,353 patients were treated, of which the most requested are conventional X-rays, with a total of 73,402 studies performed, with a prevalence of chest X-rays, 53,642 ultrasounds, and 36,187 CT scans. At present, there are 6 “C” arches, 16 portable digital X-ray equipment, 2 tomographs of 128 slices, 1 magnetic resonance of 1.5 Tesla, 5 general ultrasound rooms, 2 mamographs with tomosynthesis and stereotactics as well as 3 ultrasound rooms for the care of breast studies, 3 conventional radiology rooms, and 1 fluoroscopy room. A second 1.5 T magnetic resonance equipment donated by the Public Welfare is in the process of being installed to speed up diagnosis and treatment, especially in patients with neurological conditions. The Department of Nuclear Medicine has a Gamma camera, and the acquisition of positron emission tomography/CT equipment for the care of cancer patients is in the process of being invested.

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Figure 1. Radiology Service *(personal archive TR. Ivette Martínez de los Ríos)*.

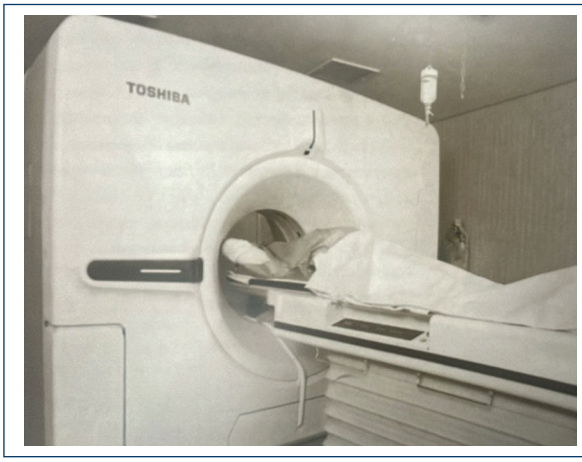


Figure 2. Tomography Service, taken from "History of the General Hospital of Mexico 1905-2010."

It is worth highlighting the work carried out by the Interventional Radiology Service, whose vision of radiology aimed at treatment is based on the use of "C" arches and the hybrid operating room that has a state-of-the-art Angiograph in which minimally invasive treatments and highly complex surgeries are performed.

Technological progress has allowed diagnostic studies to be carried out today using techniques such as spectroscopy in Magnetic Resonance Imaging, which provide us with biochemical aspects of the lesions and therapeutic aspects with a minimum invasion of the patient in the field of Interventional Radiology. As radiology intervenes in all medical specialties, it is necessary to train specialists in this branch who contribute to the multidisciplinary and highly qualified medical care of the patient. Before Dr. Ceballos, the teaching was totally tutelary; the residency in Radiology began around 1967-1969. At present, it has the endorsement by the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* of the Medical Specialization Course in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Imaging, as well as the Postgraduate Courses of High Specialty in Medicine in Vascular and Interventional Radiology. Whole Body Tomography, Breast Imaging, and Head and Neck Intervention and Imaging, which supports the training of new radiologists who work throughout the country and in the rest of Latin America.

At present, it is inconceivable to think that a digital hospital does not have technologies that allow health personnel and users to have a more efficient and faster flow of care, so this year, the RIS/PACS System was renewed and the digital information of the studies carried out in the service of the last 5 years is being migrated according to current regulations with 50 interpretation stations that speed up radiological interpretation, which aims to reduce the long delivery times of results.

Teaching and research are areas that have benefited from digital radiological archives, since it is possible to immediately access the image files of patients where there is no loss in image quality, and they are available to medical personnel and residents of the different clinical areas. Surgical, diagnostic, and treatment assistants, so that study reviews, bibliographic sessions, research protocols, courses, and publications can be carried out more quickly.

Within the service, there are 36 specialists in nuclear medicine and radiology and imaging with various courses of high specialty, 99 radiology technicians trained in the different imaging modalities, 15 nurses, 28 administrative people, 14 cleaning people, and 2 stretcher bearers, who together provide care to patients, from the granting of appointments for procedures, the performance of imaging studies and their interpretation, all with the aim of providing professional and timely care with quality and warmth to the patient.

The future of the Radiology and Imaging Service is aimed at continuing with the use of state-of-the-art technologies, seeking the incorporation of artificial intelligence, and continuing with teaching guided by teachers with decades of experience, contributing to research but above all, to direct all efforts to the multidisciplinary care that our patients require (Fig. 3).

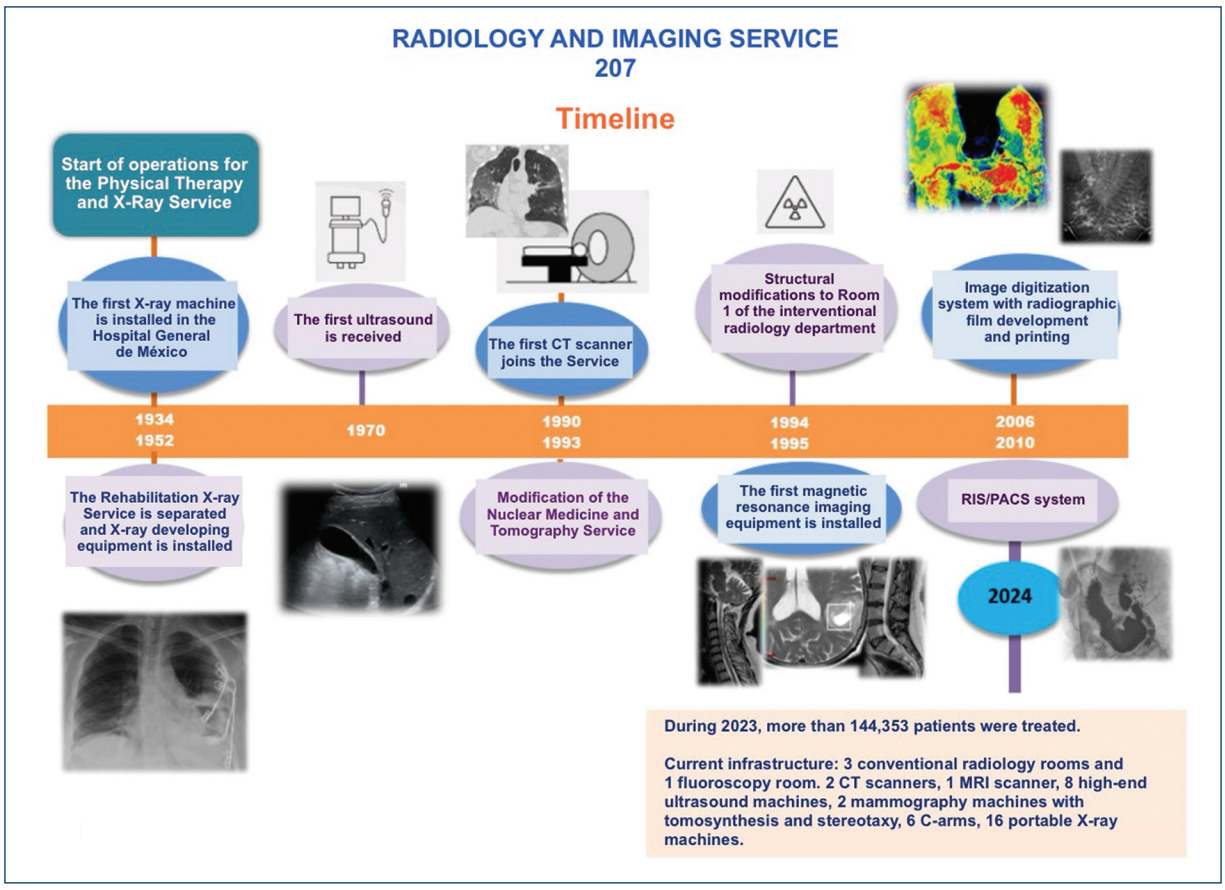


Figure 3. Timeline, Radiology and Imaging Service, *Hospital General de México*.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

Protection of humans and animals. The authors declare that the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation and with the World Medical Association and the Declaration of Helsinki. The procedures were authorized by the Institutional Ethics Committee.

Confidentiality, informed consent, and ethical approval. His study does not involve personal patient data, medical records, or biological samples and does not require ethical approval. SAGER guidelines do not apply.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence. The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence was used in the writing or creation of the content of this manuscript.