Nihon Kohden's Polysmith Sleep Polysomnographic Solutions

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SLEEP DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM

The product that we purchased from Nihon Kohden was a sleep diagnostic system that originally had JE-912 amps. We also purchased a couple of EEG's sleep combo systems and now we are using JE-921 amps in some of our newer sites because they offer more channels which I think are its most important feature. It allows you to sample at high frequency rates or low frequency rates determining on how large you want your file sizes to be, whereas other PSG companies only give you a standard sampling frequency. I think that the amplification is clean and I think that the graphics representation of the digital signal is about close as you can get to a paper signal, which anybody in the sleep field would know is the best looking signal.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES

We had a committee that actually met together and brought in every manufacturer of sleep systems and then we tested them out. In considering which product to use, we had a list of factors, a list of wants, and a list of needs that we desired to fulfill our systems. One of the major factors in deciding whom we were going to go with was the ability to record EEG and to do a full-head EEG, as well as a polysomnogram because we were interested in doing seizure detection and EEG monitoring during the night as well as standard PSG montage. Another key factor that was important to us in choosing was that we wanted the ability to work with the system and have it do with what we wanted it to do. We were not looking for a turn-key type of system where we are limited to what the manufacturer wants us to be limited to. Nihon Kohden's Polysmith offers us that opportunity and freedom to rework montages and to rework channels that have more of a traditional style of amplification settings than some of the other systems allowed us to do.

ANYBODY CAN USE IT

I think that Polysmith is a little more involved than some of the other sleep systems in a way that is easy to understand. I think that it is certainly more for the advanced user. It accommodates the beginner user and the advanced user and it allows you to do as much as you want to do with the system. You do not have to be advanced and you do not have to stay basic if you do not wish to and I think that it is a big plus to the system.

THE POLY-SUITE

The Polysmith has lots of advantages in the database department. They have a program called Poly-Suite which is an extensive database that allows the user to track pretty much anything in a sleep recording and sort it by any field in the sleep recording database especially for research. It is a very useful tool to be able to queue the kind of lists of certain patients that you want to be queued. I think that the Polysmith software is constantly being upgraded, which is a really nice feature. It is good to see bugs being fixed on a regular basis and improvements being made in the interface on a regular basis as well.

PRODUCT TRAINING

For all our initial installations, we either have the product manager or the senior product manager stay here a couple of nights in the lab to assist with the training of the technical staff. They would also send someone out to do an in-service with the techs in the lab when the new one is installed and they would train our managerial staff, whom would in turn help train newer techs. They were very involved with the training process during the initial start-up as well as continuing support for new releases of the software.

NIHON KOHDEN'S AFTER-SALE SUPPORT

Nihon Kohden's after-sale support has been excellent and it is largely due to the fact that our salesperson has been an absolute pleasure to deal with. He comes out for every installation and he is available by phone if we cannot reach technical support. He goes above and beyond what he needs to do as far as actually getting us products. After he sees that we are in need of something else he is readily available to get us the product as quickly and inexpensively as possible. After we received our order, we sat down with the product manager and the assistant product manager. They were willing to listen to our concerns about the software in general and implement changes to suite us. Their method is not to eliminate something that people like, but rather to add things on and they do it quickly. Their sales support has just been phenomenal and I really cannot say enough about it. It was just great!