First medical imaging application introduced for iPhone and iPod touch

Daniel Zimmermann

LEIPZIG: Apple’s new iPhone 3G has found its way to stores around the globe. An US company has now developed a software that is supposed to help physicians and dentists to view medical images on the device without being tied to an imaging workstation. The MIM iPhone application developed by MIMvista Corp. from Cleveland provides multi-planar reconstruction of data sets from modalities including CT, PET, MRI and SPECT, as well as multi-modality image fusion. Using the multi-touch interface, users will be able to change image sets and planes; adjust zoom, fusion blending, and window/level, the company said in a press release.

"Patients will be even more impressed," he added.

Individual patient data can be downloaded to an iPhone or iPod touch from a MIM Workstation or MIM Storage Server. Though the company says that patient privacy is assured because all communications are transmitted over a secure connection that uses password locks, tamper prevention, and data encryption, dentists in some countries might encounter problems with the software because their provider might not support the system.

Problems might also occur in countries where a telediagnosis can raise legal issues, e.g., in Germany where doctors can only diagnose something they see on a large high-resolution monitor.

The software which currently received an Apple Design Award for Best iPhone Healthcare & Fitness Application is part of the new application store for the iPhone 3G and iPod touch that was introduced earlier this year in a new strategy to open up the device for third party software. MIM is available for free and can be downloaded from iTunes on Windows and Mac OS X computers under the category Healthcare & Fitness or directly to the iPhone via a wireless internet connection. A fully featured MIM Pro for the iPhone, for physicians and radiology use, will be available in the near future.

"The MIM application for the iPhone is the essence of cool for a radiologist who thrives on image display. The software is fast and intuitive," says Peter Faulhaber, M.D. Director at the Case Medical Center in Cleveland, USA. "I think referring physicians will be able to seamlessly review a patient’s images while consulting over the phone.”

The new application store on the iPhone 3G, Photo: Apple

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