

Enhancing patient care: an interview with Michael Foster-Greenwood

Aplio i700 / Prism Edition – the complete solution for every patient

Michael Foster-Greenwood serves as the ultrasound clinical coordinator at I-MED Radiology in southeast Queensland. With 16 years of experience as a clinical sonographer, he is responsible for training QLD I-MED sonographers and in 2023, he was named the ASA Sonographer of the Year for Queensland.

For the past three years, Michael has used the Canon Medical Aplio i700 / Prism Edition at sites specialising in high-end musculoskeletal (MSK) examinations and women's health, including obstetrics, dynamic pelvic floor, and breast examinations. He now shares his experience working with the Aplio system.



One of the significant imaging challenges my team and I face is the increasing workload, characterised by a growing number of patients, extended waiting lists, and heightened expectations for ultrasound services from both radiologists and referrers. This surge in demand necessitates greater efficiency in our operations.

It's essential for us to have a machine that is easy to use and consistently delivers high performance across all examinations. The Aplio i700 meets these needs perfectly.

Our sonographers frequently work across various clinics, so having consistency with machine setup is imperative. The clinical confidence provided by the Aplio i700 significantly enhances workflow and efficiency. Notably, since adopting the system, we have observed a decrease in callbacks, particularly in obstetrics. This speaks volumes about the impact that the advanced technology and image quality have on helping to enhance patient care and operational effectiveness.



Uniformity, resolution and penetration

The image quality, particularly in MSK and obstetrics, is great. The uniformity, resolution, and penetration provided by the system are exceptional, enabling clear visualisation of structures. Additionally, the high temporal and spatial resolution achieved with the iBeam+ beamformer, combined with the i18LX5 transducer, provides great anatomical detail which allows for a more efficient and accurate diagnosis.

When it comes to abdominal scanning, the matrix probe delivers excellent results, even at high frequencies, with consistent penetration and no noticeable slowdown in frame rates. This not only enhances the quality of our imaging but also streamlines our workflow, helping to improve throughput without sacrificing image quality.

Meeting women's health imaging needs

I particularly value the obstetric scanning functionality of the system, especially its fetal heart colour imaging. The Advanced Dynamic Flow (ADF) feature instils confidence, particularly when dealing with challenging patients, as it provides exceptional clarity at depth during scans with the i8CX1 and iBeam+. Additionally, Canon's latest improvements to their Superb Microvascular Imaging (SMI) technology enhance vessel filling visualisation, leading to a clearer depiction of fetal heart structures.

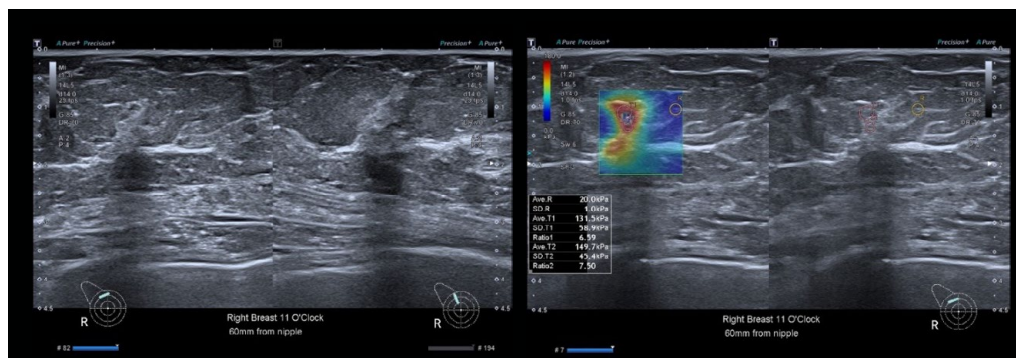
“ These advanced capabilities enable us to consistently meet the rigorous standards demanded by leading tertiary obstetric clinics such as SO+GI scan, for whom we hold the reporting contract ”

Our Chermide practice performs a large number of breast examinations, breast biopsies and dynamic pelvic floor studies. Utilising the 14MHz probe on the Aplio i700, we achieve exceptional depth and detail crucial for pelvic floor examinations. Additionally, the system offers outstanding visualisation of breast structures, including calcifications, even in patients with difficult anatomy to scan. Canon's transducers empower our sonographers to adjust settings as needed, ensuring optimal visualisation during challenging breast examinations.

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The true-extent of a 4-5mm invasive ductal carcinoma visualised using Shear Wave Elastography (SWE).

Addressing the increasing demand of nerve referrals

The number of nerve-related referrals we receive is growing. There is more education for referrers on the value of ultrasound for peripheral nerve visualisation and a recognition that you can visualise more nerves on ultrasound compared to MRI.

All ultrasound systems are good at visualising superficial structures, but tracking deeper ones on other systems can be difficult. The i700 has great spatial resolution to confidently visualise deep nerves and the temporal resolution to track them with confidence.



Using the i18LX5 transducer, the nerve fascicles making up the ulna nerve can clearly be visualised adjacent to the ulna bone, heading towards the distal forearm.

Support

The support from Canon, particularly through their application assistance, has been invaluable. They provide extensive training for our sonographers, ensuring we maximise the capabilities of the ultrasound machines. This support not only improves our workflow efficiencies but also ensures consistency in machine setup, which is critical for maintaining high standards across different cases and operators.

Canon Medical's service support is great; we know all the engineers, they are easily reachable and quick to respond, ensuring any issues are dealt with promptly.

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