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CASE STUDY

OLE THERAPY MOVES TO A NEW LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE AT OKLAHOMA HEART HOSPITAL WITH THE **VOLARA** SYSTEM

Oklahoma Heart Hospital, the first dedicated heart hospital in Oklahoma, is on a mission to provide the greatest possible care. And as the first all digital heart hospital in the nation,[1] they understand how to evaluate and incorporate new technology to deliver on that mission. The hospital's locations specialize in cardiovascular and pulmonary care, treating a variety of post-operative thoracic surgery patients in the ICU and interventional units.

HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITY
Oklahoma Heart Hospital
Oklahoma City, OK

PROFILE
- 141-bed heart hospital on two campuses
- 60+ clinics statewide

PARTNER
Justin Rowley
Respiratory Therapy Manager

REPORTED IMPACT
- Expanded clinical treatment options
- Provided versatility to treat specific patient needs
- Helped reduce time on ventilator and ICU length of stay
- Utilization of myVolara App

OVERVIEW

The hospital used the **MetaNeb** System to provide Oscillation and Lung Expansion (OLE) therapy since 2014. As those units began to reach end of service, leadership realized they had to explore other options. Their Baxter representative introduced them to the **Volara** System, the next generation to deliver OLE therapy.

"We had a great clinical evaluation period where we were able to look at some clinical results and get some good feedback from our therapists on the machine and the interface," says Justin Rowley, Respiratory Therapy Manager at Oklahoma Heart Hospital. "Being able to show the outcomes and the great versatility was key in being able to get the approval to move to the **Volara** System."

THE TRANSITION

Transitioning to a new system is no easy task. "It was a breath of fresh air at the time, in the middle of COVID," Justin says. "This is a big interface to bring into a respiratory department for what it can do and what it could replace. That requires a lot of work and qualifications to support that this is the direction we want to go. Working through those processes, having our Baxter representative there who worked closely with our biomed manager, and getting more units in here when we made the decision to move was critical."

THE PERFORMANCE

Moving to the **Volara** System opened up better ways for Justin and his team to deliver the therapy their patients needed. The **Volara** System has several attributes that help Justin's team treat patients, such as:

- the digital interface on the electromechanical **Volara** System versus the pneumatic **MetaNeb** System, and
- the ability to select manual or automatic modes to deliver precise pressure.

Customizable care

"It's been very beneficial for our therapists to use the manual mode and adjust to the patient, giving more or less pressure as clinically indicated," says Justin. "And the automatic mode gives physicians the ability to provide a standardized treatment for a specific patient population. It's customizable, so you can go in and make a custom care plan, identifiable by room number or patient name."

"As a heart hospital, we see some patients with heart and valve anomalies, or younger patients in that population that sometimes may require more pressure," he says. "Being able to go into the clinical menu and make that happen is a big improvement from the **MetaNeb** System."

Versatility

With its versatility and portability, the **Volara** System is helping the team deliver therapy where it's needed. "The nice versatility of the machine is it can go anywhere in the hospital," says Justin, "although our primary use and protocols are in the ICU and interventional step-down units. We have larger suites or rooms in our ICU, so sometimes the patient is sitting by the window, or they're in a recliner away from the bed. We can still provide that treatment anywhere in the room."

One example of how the **Volara** System is helping the team deliver therapy is in the ICU, where postoperative patients recover on a ventilator. Justin says, "We see a lot of lobular-specific atelectasis due to manual compression of the lung or patients having thick, retained secretions from being in surgery with dry anesthesia gases in their airways for three hours. Those secretions are sticky and hard to move and it plugs off the lung."

"We use either medication or normal saline in the nebulizer and are able to get those secretions moving with hyperinflation and oscillations," he says. "Within two or three treatments, we're seeing significant chest x-ray improvements off the ventilator. That's now a standard course for many of our postoperative heart patients. Before, we weren't able to get really deep into the airways to actively engage those secretions. Adding that modality with the **Volara** System has been a valuable addition to our immediate postoperative phase for lung function."

Accessible information

Another way the **Volara** System is helping therapists treat patients is by providing easy access to the information they need. "With the **Volara** System, you get a summary about the treatment, an average of your pressures, a total time for all modalities — CPEP, CHFO and your nebulizer. Having that information that the **Volara** System provides is a vast improvement over the **MetaNeb** System as far as pressure delivery."

Ultimately, for Justin and Oklahoma Heart Hospital, transitioning to the **Volara** System came down to two main considerations:

Patient outcomes

"The most important consideration is the outcomes we saw on patients treated with the **Volara** System," he says. "Going through a good clinical evaluation and being able to see the results — that's confirmation it's benefitting the patient."

Ease of use

Close behind that is the ease of use for the respiratory therapists. "When you have staff that are confident and comfortable using an interface, that alone is going to provide a better therapy to the patient," he says. "They're going to be more focused on the patient and what is going on clinically — the pressures and vital signs — instead of just operating the machine."

It frees up the clinician to focus more on the patient. You're not focusing so much on the operation of the machine. That's a huge advantage to the patient and therefore, the outcome. You have adjustability and versatility in giving the patient what they actually need to have the desired outcome.

— JUSTIN ROWLEY
RESPIRATORY THERAPY MANAGER

We've had top patient satisfaction awards for 20 years, and it's because we like to offer the best of what's out there to our patients.

— JUSTIN ROWLEY
RESPIRATORY THERAPY MANAGER

TECHNOLOGY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE

Any well-designed tool or technology is developed to allow people to do what they do best. In a hospital, that's to make it easier for clinicians to provide the best therapy and care for patients. At Oklahoma Heart Hospital, the **Volara** System is helping the respiratory team to deliver on their mission.

For more information, contact your Baxter Sales Representative, call us at 1-800-426-4224 or email us at cfs_customer_service@baxter.com.

Rx Only. For safe and proper use of product mentioned herein, please refer to the Instructions for Use or Operator Manual.

References

1. Oklahoma Heart Hospital South Campus celebrates first anniversary. Oklahoma Heart Hospital. January 13, 2011. Accessed November 7, 2023. https://www.okheart.com/about-us/ohh-news/oklahoma-heart-hospital-south-campus-celebrates-first-anniversary

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