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ECG-1550A ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH

Affordable 15-Lead ECG for the Physician's Office

It may come as a surprise to many to discover how long **Nihon Kohden America (Foothill Ranch, CA)** has been in business. The parent company was founded in 1951 and the U.S. division in 1979. As the actor, Michael Caine, might have said "Not a lot of people know that!" The company is a market leader in patient monitoring, sleep assessment, neurology and cardiology instrumentation. Having achieved annual worldwide sales of more than \$1 billion, Nihon Kohden is the world's second largest ECG supplier.

Their latest product offering is a new 15-lead electrocardiograph, the ECG-1550A. One look at this new instrument and you can see exactly why it is such an attractive option for patient care. The most obvious visual is a large, fully-articulating, color screen showing the patient's ECG, complete with an on-screen grid, exactly as it prints on calibrated paper using the internal thermal printer. Another fact that people may not know is the cost of the 1550A. With a four-year warranty and a list price of \$6,995, it is very affordable for many physicians' offices.

For speedy and efficient patient data entry, a virtual keyboard appears on the TFT-LCD touch screen; a very elegant and user-friendly feature. ECG interpretation (both adult and pediatric) is standard with the 1550A, as are data communications and storage through LAN, USB, and SD cards. Furthermore, bar coding is an option, together with sufficient internal memory to store 400 patient ECG records. Extended



Nihon Kohden America's ECG-1550A features a large, color, fully articulating screen, and a user-friendly interface for entry of patient data.

data storage is simple using removable SD memory with the capacity to store data for over 3,000 patients on a single, inexpensive card.

When printing 12-lead ECG, the built-in thermal printer features a high-resolution, four-column by three-row format with a rhythm strip across the bottom of the page. The 15-lead printed presentation is a lead-by-lead vertical top-to-bottom format starting with Lead I and ending with Lead V9.

The most recent five minutes of ECG waveforms, on all leads, are stored in memory, increasing your chance to document important clinical data. To save those data, it is possible to select, analyze and print just the necessary region from five minutes of full disclosure ECG, allowing for the precise selection of ECG for the 15-lead or 12-lead report. This is an especially useful feature when assessing "less than compliant" patients, most notably those seen in pediatrics.



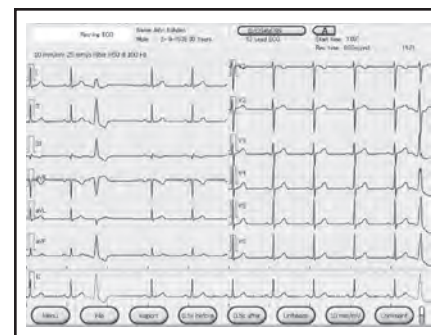
With its clear visual displays, easy-to-use functions and extensive data memory, the ECG 1550A 15-lead electrocardiograph is a welcome development in long-established ECG technology.

The real value of the 1550A, however, is that it offers a 15-lead ECG. Why is that important? The best way to describe it by analogy is to say it is like being able to look at the dark side of the moon. The value of such technology has been examined in a study to compare the sensitivity and specificity of posterior chest leads (V7, V8, and V9) and 12-lead electrocardiography in detecting posterior injury pattern during single-vessel

percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.¹ The authors concluded that posterior leads significantly increased the detection of posterior injury pattern compared with the standard 12-lead electrocardiogram. Using all 15 leads significantly further improved the detection of circumflex coronary-related injury pattern over the standard 12-lead electrocardiogram.

Practical Application

Gregory Hong, MD, Director of Good Heart Cardiology, Los Angeles agrees that more cardiologists need to know about Nihon Kohden, and is surprised that many of his colleagues are not as familiar as they could be with the company. He has a high opinion of Nihon Kohden and says that their equipment is indeed very reliable and very affordable. Bert Reimer is a Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician for the Integress-Blackwell Regional Hospital, Blackwell, OK also states that the 1550A is very reliable. On the one occasion they had an inadvertent issue with the unit, he says that the response from Nihon Kohden to supply a replacement part was excellent, and could not have been any better. It is always refreshing to hear stories of outstanding customer service.



The most recent five minutes of all lead ECG waveforms are stored in memory.

Conclusion

With its clear visual displays, easy-to-use functions and extensive data memory, the ECG 1550A 15-lead electrocardiograph is a welcome advance in long-established ECG technology. Most importantly, it allows physicians to examine those parts of the heart that might otherwise not be accessible. A visit to the dark side of the moon is now possible, thanks to Nihon Kohden, and at an affordable price! ♦

To Learn More

For more information about the **ECG-1550A Electrocardiograph**, please call 1-800-325-0283, or visit the company's Web site at www.nkekg.com.

References:

1. Khaw, K. *et al. Amer. Heart J.* 1999 138 934-940.