

Medical Simulator in UAE Soon for Surgeons to Practise

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ABU DHABI — A medical simulator that replicates a patient's organ and allows surgeons to practise before operating on the actual patient will soon be available in the UAE.

The surgical simulator enables surgeons to practise complex surgical procedures before performing them on humans without exposing the patients to immediate risk.

A three-dimensional digital X-ray of a patient is uploaded in the system, rebuilding the anatomy. Surgeons can then identify the appropriate tools to use and do the operation in the machine.

"The medical simulators have different versions for different procedures such as coronary bifurcation, carotid, renal, iliac, below the knee lesions, and aneurism in the brain," according to Thomas Gogolin, customer service manager of Orzone, an expert in the field of virtual reality, medical simulation, training and education.

"With this machine, fewer people die during operation and chances of successful procedure improves," he added.

The simulator, which is being featured at the first Abu Dhabi-GCC Health and Development Investment Forum currently being held in Abu Dhabi, was developed by Mentice, a leading provider of medical simulation systems in the areas of endovascular intervention and minimally invasive surgery, while the educational concept was developed by Orzone.

The companies are currently in talks with the health authorities in the region including the UAE.

Studies on some simulators have shown that surgeons who were trained on the simulator before they operate on a patient have 30 per cent fewer errors than the ones who were not trained on simulators.

"There are over 200 academic studies that show that surgeons get better by at least 30 per cent, have many less mistakes and quicker and better once trained on the simulator," added Tom Kass, head of Healthcare Investment Services and senior vice-president of EFG Bank, a Swiss bank that made substantial investment in the development of the medical simulators.

Launched in 2001, the simulators are widely used in the US and Europe. In the Middle East, only Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, which received the machine last year, have the machine.

The medical simulator, which requires a surgeon to train five hours per year, are ideal for revalidation, re-certification exams and continuing education for doctors.

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