

Futuristic Operating Room Opens at Riverside



Riverside's new OR should result in fewer surgeries and increased safety, efficiency and workflow.

Marylou Woytko was not an ideal candidate for major surgery. The 76-year-old retiree from Cambridge, Ohio, suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and had 10 stents in her arteries to help improve bloodflow. When one of her stents began to leak and she developed a new blockage, it looked like she would need two different surgical procedures.

But thanks to a new high-tech operating room at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Marylou's doctors were able to resolve both problems at once, in a minimally invasive procedure with less risk and a shorter hospital stay.

"Everything went smoothly. They just made a small incision and it's been a good recovery," says her husband, Steve Woytko.

Riverside is the first in the region to bring the latest high-tech innovations into the operating room. Its new Endovascular Hybrid OR is designed to provide faster, safer surgeries and better outcomes to cardiovascular patients by using technologies that integrate diagnosis and treatment.

"Instead of taking fluoroscopic images in the lab and then scheduling an appropriate surgery, we can now handle both those steps at one time and in one place, so our patients have a 'one episode' surgical experience," says **Dan Watson, MD**, medical director, Endovascular Medicine and Surgery.

Pioneering Innovation

Fewer surgeries is just one result that Riverside's new suite was designed to produce. Better safety, efficiency and workflow were also important goals of the design team.

Over the years, operating rooms have become cluttered with electronic equipment loaded onto carts connected by tubes and wires that cover

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much of the floor. In the Hybrid OR, nearly all of the equipment is ceiling-mounted for faster set-up and a more ergonomic, open and spacious environment.

Thoughtful design means the medical team can easily access and control the lights, medical equipment, electronic patient information and digital imaging systems. In addition to being more precise and easy to use, the high-tech devices and extra space create more opportunities for medical collaboration.

"With this equipment, we can bring the best expertise to the patient, whether it involves a cardiologist, vascular surgeon, interventional radiologist or all of the above," says Dr. Watson.

Allowing experienced physicians in different specialties to work together provides a forward-thinking, patient-centric model of care that goes beyond the operating room walls. The suite features cameras that can record and transmit surgeries so that specialists and doctors in training can contribute to procedures without even being in the room.

Patients like Marylou Woytko may not even be aware that they're receiving state-of-the-art medicine. "She just remembers the warm blanket the nurses put over her," says Steve Woytko. "She says it felt real nice."