Pioneer in the hybrid operation room (H IM AX)

top+ award 2010 - Winner of category "Innovation"

Common pioneer work: The Team of H IM AX with the Artis zeego

Replacing a heart valve is a matter of life and death. It's also a very expensive business. That's why hybrid operating rooms are an important trend in cardiovascular surgery. Conventional open operating techniques are increasingly being replaced by minimally invasive methods, although these require an X-ray system to be integrated into the operating room. A laparoscopic heart valve replacement operation takes just one instead of three hours. As well as reducing the number of complications and patient deaths, the new techniques enable hospitals to cut their costs by reducing operating times and sending patients home sooner.

The H IM AX business unit spotted the trend toward hybrid operating rooms way ahead of its competitors. Just a short while after the first minimally invasive heart valve replacement operation took the industry by storm at the end of 2005, H IM AX unveiled its groundbreaking technology for hybrid ORs at the German Congress of Heart Surgeons. The Artis zeego angiography system, launched at the end of 2007, is the market leader in the new, highly profitable field of hybrid systems. An innovative pioneer, it's two years ahead of the competition.

Artis zeego supplies images in high 3D quality; this is crucial during operations as it enables surgeons to move instruments around the patient's body in real time. What's really exciting is that, for the first time, a robot arm such as those used in the automotive industry is combined with an angiography system. This enables the operating table to be adjusted individually to maximize access to the patient, and the angiography system itself features unprecedented freedom of movement. The innovative floor mounting meets the most rigorous OR hygiene standards.

Other success factors were the early involvement of the entirely new customer target group of surgeons, the provision of prototypes, and the close collaboration with leading surgical centers such as the Leipzig Heart Center. The technology was so well received that every second hybrid operating room, whether in Asia, Europe or North America, is now fitted with an Artis zeego.

Siemens' pioneering first steps in the field of hybrid operating rooms have opened up a wide range of applications with huge potential. The trend toward minimally invasive methods in all surgical disciplines has already seen hybrid ORs installed in the areas of trauma surgery, orthopedics, neurosurgery, abdominal surgery and urology. They are revolutionizing therapy for conditions including vascular malformations in the brain, pelvic fractures, kidney tumors and, more recently, lung cancer.

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