

PREMIUM HEALTH CARE

Regional One Health adds several robotic surgical systems

By [Aisling Mäki](#), Daily Memphian

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Regional Medical Center at Memphis' new hybrid operating room combines a surgical suite with advanced imaging technology to treat patients with complex vascular cases. (Courtesy Regional One Health)

Regional One Health is improving its surgical care by upgrading its technologies with the addition of a hybrid operating room and robotic surgical systems.

The hybrid operating room combines a surgical suite with advanced imaging technology to treat patients with complex vascular cases.

Regional One CEO plans options in case state money doesn't come through

“We can now expand upon the current level of care that we offer and provide much needed care for our city and region,” said Dr. Erica Mitchell, Regional One Health director of vascular and endovascular surgery.

Real-time imaging techniques during surgery allow surgeons to precisely locate and address vascular damage, which makes for more targeted and effective treatments.

Using real-time fluoroscopic imaging, vascular surgeons can treat conditions such as thoracic and abdominal aortic dissections or aneurysms, complex high-risk carotid disease and end-stage peripheral arterial disease, which contributes to limb loss.

Regional One Health is poised to begin building an estimated \$1 billion new hospital on the site of The Commercial Appeal's former campus at 495 Union Ave.

The hospital's Elvis Presley Trauma Center is the region's only designated Level 1 trauma center and one of the nation's busiest.

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Many cases that come through involve polytrauma, meaning patients have injuries affecting multiple organs or areas of their bodies.

The hybrid operating room allows surgeons to provide advanced-level trauma care and life-saving surgical procedures after traumatic injuries to the chest, abdomen, neck and extremities.



Real-time imaging techniques during surgery allow surgeons to precisely locate and address vascular damage, which makes for more targeted and effective treatments. (Courtesy Regional One Health)

It also encourages multidisciplinary teamwork among specialists like surgeons, interventional radiologists, anesthesiologists and other health care professionals who can use the space to collaborate on complex procedures.

“Our hybrid OR raises the level of care for our patients, enhances surgical educational opportunities for our trainees and positions us for clinical research trials that advance and drive vascular surgical care nationally,” said Mitchell, who’s also a professor and division chief of vascular and endovascular surgery at the University of Tennessee Health and Science Center.

Regional One Health has also added three da Vinci 5 robotic surgical systems — one in an inpatient operating room and two in the outpatient surgery center.

Regional One Health build could bring new life to Downtown ‘gateway’

This “enhances our flexibility to meet patients where they are so they receive the care they need,” said Dr. Evan Glazer, a Regional One Health surgical oncologist and associate professor at UTHSC.

The surgeon sits at a console about 10 feet away from the patient and performs the procedure by remotely operating the robotic arms.

The platform gives surgeons the ability to actually feel the instruments. It offers them enhanced dexterity, control and visualization during minimally invasive procedures, which results in reduced pain and shorter recovery times and hospital stays for patients.

Glazer said the da Vinci 5 robotic surgical systems increase the ability to personalize care for each patient.

Planned gallbladder, appendix and hernia surgeries, as well as some oncology and gynecological cases that



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require little recovery time, can be scheduled for the outpatient surgery center.

Head of Regional One advocates for academic medical center

This will open up inpatient operating rooms for sicker patients whose recoveries require longer hospital stays.

The technology will also benefit the UTHSC students, residents and fellows who train at the hospital.

More than half of all physicians in Tennessee receive training at Regional One Health through its affiliation with the university, and the hospital has been pushing to create an academic medical center in partnership with UTHSC.

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Aisling Mäki covers health care, banking and finance, technology and professions. After launching her career in news two decades ago, she worked in public relations for almost a decade before returning to journalism in 2022.

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