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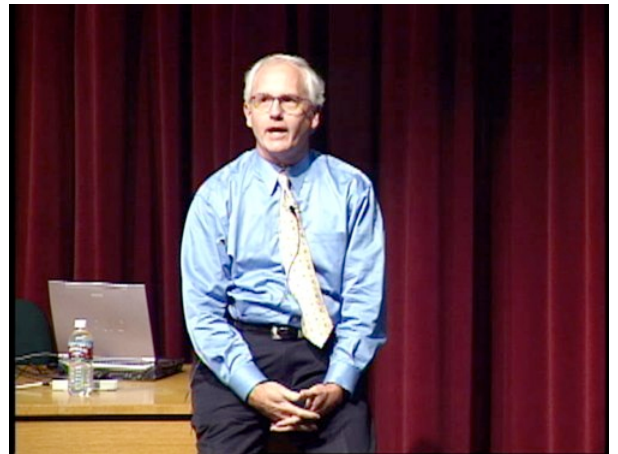
Future of Robotics in Minimally Invasive Surgery?

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/462/Future-of-Robotics-in-Minimally-Invasive-Surgery>

Yock discusses the future of minimally invasive robotic surgery. He says it is very exciting and Stanford actually has a lot of expertise in this area.



Transcript

What is the future for minimally invasive surgery using robots versus catheter technology? Good. I think I heard what's the future of robotic minimally invasive surgery? Well, that's an exciting area and it's one where there's a lot of expertise actually here. Ken Salisbury particularly in CS is one of the pioneers of robotic surgery. I think there is tremendous excitement among the surgeons long term for the applicability of robotic surgery and the reason is that you can just do a much more careful job of getting to areas that are tough to get to through small holes. So for example, if you're working on the back of the heart, instead of having to open the patient's chest wide open and move things around, you can use these instruments to get to the back. There's no question that the robotic surgical techniques are very precise. You can scale motion so surgeons who had too much coffee the morning, you can take the trimmer out of the sewing. My opinion for what it's worth is that it's going to be quite a long time before those benefits really translate into major practical savings of time. Right now, the robotic procedures take quite a bit longer than the regular procedures to do. So I think that timeframe is kind of in the greater than five or 10 years where it crosses over to really helping with efficiency but there's no question in my mind that that technology is going to be important and that is worth training up on and it's worth putting resources into the technology development.

So certainly, 10 years and on, we're going to be doing a major amount of robotic surgery.