Keyhole Surgery Demands Operating Room Upgrades

LONDON, UK (GlobalData), - Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) is on the rise, as waiting lists lengthen and patients call for fast results, says a new report by healthcare experts GlobalData.

The new report shows that advanced surgery procedures promise patients smaller scars and faster healing, but demand state of the art technology for surgeons to perform their work, which in turn demand high levels of investment.

Minimally invasive procedures have witnessed rapid growth globally, and are expected to continue to grow in the future. According to Kaiser Permanente, the largest managed care organization in the US, MIS procedures account for over 60% of operations in the US during 2008, rising dramatically from less than 5% in 2003.

Small incisions made in minimally invasive techniques promise less post-operative pain, a lower risk of blood loss, lower risk of infection, and shorter recovery time. This has led to its wide adoption in a number of surgical specialties.

However, MIS is more challenging to perform than open surgery due to challenges related to visualization and spatial orientation, and these difficulties can lead to injuries and medical errors during surgery. Therefore, surgeons and surgical staff need an efficient environment, where high quality image handling, room layout and devices are designed and integrated to be controlled centrally.

Cameras and monitors are vital for MIS, providing a clear view of the surgical area to all surgery staff, reducing miscommunication between team members, and improving coordination to result in better surgical outcomes. An uninterrupted workflow and open space can also be created for surgical staff through the use of centralized touch panels and the suspended positioning of equipment and monitors, freeing the operating room from tangled cables and cords on the floor. Such an integrated operating suite has been found to enhance surgeons’ skills and help reduce medical errors, but incur huge costs to the hospitals which have to fund these advanced technologies.

As the number of MIS procedures continues to grow, the demand for operating suites with advanced and latest operating room solutions is also expected to increase in the near future, but whether strained healthcare trusts will be able to meet soaring costs is another matter.

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