



Baptist Health adds "cleaning robots"

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - It may look like R2-D2 of Star Wars fame. In fact, it's a tool revolutionizing hospitals across the nation.

"It's about 25,000 times more intense than sunlight," says Rachael Sparks with Xenex Disinfection Services.

Their new robotic cleansing tool uses ultra-violet rays to rapidly destroy more than 22 pathogens in a room. It only takes five minutes to work.

"Hospitals who are committed to patient safety have added Xenex to protect patients against super bugs like MRSA, C Diff. VRE," says Sparks.

Unlike other versions of this robot in the past, this one is mercury free and now an extra precautionary measure on every level, even in the most extreme cases, like Ebola preparation and training.

"Obviously we do a good job cleaning," says Michael Mayo, the hospital's president, "but when you receive patients from all over the region, opportunity for that to enter into your system can happen."

One in 25 patients leave hospitals with a new infection they picked up from bacteria there. So while one Xenex robotic device costs a whopping \$100,000 dollars, it all evens out because an infection can cost the hospital thousands of dollars that, under the new healthcare act, are not reimbursed

While some NFL teams used Xenex to ward of some serious infections, don't look for it in your local hardware store. The focus of the device is on hospital cleanliness and safety right now.

Baptist Health in Jacksonville has the largest volume of these devices in North Florida and is the first children's hospital in the state to use these germ zapping robots.

Source: <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/story/news/health/2015/02/18/baptist-health-hires-7-robots-to-the-staff/23639207/>

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