

SPACE-AGE GERM-ZAPPING ROBOTS ENHANCE PATIENT SAFETY

Renown Health first to bring latest technology to the area, adds another layer of protection in the pursuit of quality patient care

RENO, Nev. (May 4, 2015) – As hospitals around the country look for innovative ways to continually enhance quality patient care, Renown Health introduces four germ-zapping robots that eliminate highly contagious superbugs in just minutes.



The Xenex germ-zapping robots use pulsed xenon ultraviolet (UV-C) light that is 25,000 times more intense than sunlight to effectively eliminate harmful superbugs, including *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*), MRSA, norovirus, influenza, measles and Ebola.

The portable robots are used as an extra layer of patient protection and are brought into operating rooms and certain patient rooms after hospital staff has done a thorough cleaning of the area. Renown is the first in the region to use this technology and joins nearly 300 other hospitals nationwide using the robots, including MD Anderson Cancer Center, Sharp and Stanford Hospital. The Xenex system has been credited with helping [U.S. healthcare facilities](#) reduce their rates of infection.

“Patient safety is always our top priority,” said Amy McCombs, director, infection prevention at Renown. “We are excited to add this new technology into our already strong infection prevention protocols so we can be even more proactive in protecting the health of our patients.”

Because the Xenex robots use UV light to disinfect rooms, they are able to reach every surface in the room and do not leave any chemical residue. To disinfect a room after standard cleaning procedures have taken place, a hospital employee wheels the robot into the room, begins the automated sequence, and then leaves the room to allow the robot to eliminate any bacteria in just five minutes.

“Renown has long been recognized as the region’s leader in technology and specialized care,” said McCombs. “So it’s only fitting that we bring this leading technology to our infection prevention measures.”

The Xenex robots are the latest to join other leading-edge, robotic systems already in use at Renown such as the [da Vinci Robotic Surgical System](#), the [Eksoskeleton robotic suit \(Ekso\)](#) and the [fully automated clinical laboratory](#).

Renown is enlisting the help of the community and employees to name three of the robots. The contest runs May 4-22, with two phases of voting. Details and voting at BestMEDICINENews.org/NameTheRobots.

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About Renown Health

Renown Health is a locally governed and locally owned, not-for-profit integrated healthcare network serving a 17-county region comprised of northern Nevada, Lake Tahoe and northeast California. Renown is one of the region’s largest private employers with a workforce of more than 5,600. It comprises three acute care hospitals, a rehabilitation hospital, skilled nursing facility, the area’s most comprehensive medical group and urgent care network, and the region’s largest and only locally owned not-for-profit insurance company, Hometown Health. Renown has a long tradition of being the first in the region to successfully perform leading-edge medical procedures. For more information, visit renown.org.

About Xenex Disinfection Services

Xenex’s patented pulsed xenon UV room disinfection system is a pesticidal device used for the advanced cleaning of healthcare facilities. Due to its speed and ease of use, the Xenex system has proven to integrate smoothly into hospital cleaning operations. The Xenex mission is to eliminate harmful bacteria, viruses and spores that can cause hospital acquired infections in the patient environment, and to become the new standard method for disinfection in healthcare facilities worldwide. For more information, visit www.xenex.com.