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Robot helps check patients

By JEAN ENERSEN / KING 5 News

A high-tech robot is helping doctors and patients talk to each other from different locations, but they still have face-to-face contact.



The robot's head is a video screen.

A 5-foot-tall medical worker uses a computer screen for a head and real-time video cameras for eyes and ears so doctors and patients can communicate with each other.

Cardiologist Dr. Samer Salka said it's especially helpful when he's at home and wants to check on his patients.

It helps "make good medical decisions faster for better patient care and expedite their care as well," said Salka.

The robot also allows doctors to get immediate updates on important tests like X-rays and EKG's.

For safety, there are 24 infrared sensors on the robot to help prevent it from bumping into people and walls as it makes its rounds visiting patients throughout the hospital.

The medical robot is being tested at 15 medical centers around the country.