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# Local Brain Surgeons Use GPS During Procedure



Reporting Tracy Kornet

PLANO (CBS 11 / TXA 21) — Thanks to new GPS technology at one Plano hospital, patients who have undergone brain surgery can walk around a few days after the procedure and no one would ever know.

Our cameras were allowed inside the operating room at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano to see it in action on a 58-year female patient. She was brought to the emergency room after having vision problems while driving. An MRI revealed a brain tumor.

Her doctor, neurosurgeon Rob Dickerman, said after removing the tumor Monday, she could be out shopping come the weekend.

"This is basically like a global positioning system just as you have in your car, but much more refined. I can come within one millimeter of accuracy," said Dickerman.

"If I make a wrong move, even a couple of millimeters off, I could leave the patient with a severe deficit: her visual field cut, inability to feel the left side of her body, all kinds of things that can happen," he continued. "This system allows us to avoid those critical areas."

The tool uses a patient's MRI, plugged into a computer, giving Dr. Dickerman a 3-dimensional image to work with.

"It's pretty neat. No one even realizes what it is. It's like a video game. It's on a computer system to where when I touch her head, I can look at the picture and see exactly where I'm at on her brain," explained the doctor.

The computer shows him the safest, most direct route to the tumor. Plus, the smaller incision means faster healing time, fewer complications and less time in the hospital.

"You always hear about minimally-invasive surgery from gallbladder to spine surgery. Brain surgery is the same way. Now we can make much smaller incisions, much smaller bone flaps. It shortens the surgery and actually significantly increases our accuracy," said Dickerman.

The technique also uses less radiation than x-rays, making it safer for patient, surgeon and staff.

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano is one of the few hospitals in the country offering this brain surgery technology.

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