BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATIONS IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

5 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN HEALTHCARE

Infiniti Research
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MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

How is medical technology changing the face of modern healthcare?

Earlier, healthcare was deemed to be one of the most 'conservative' industries, but with healthcare players embracing technological innovations, it looks like they are finally ready to get rid of that tag. With tremendous technological advancements and innovative healthcare, the coming years are poised to be game-changing for the healthcare industry.

What is medical technology?

Medical technology refers to any technology that is used to save lives of individuals suffering from a wide range of conditions. In its many forms, medical technology is already diagnosing, monitoring, and treating virtually every disease or condition that affects human beings.

Developments in medical technology have long been confined to procedural or pharmaceutical advances, while neglecting a most basic and essential component of medicine - *patient information management.*

Basic medical technology can range from familiar, everyday objects such as sticking plasters, syringes, or latex gloves to spectacles, wheelchairs, and hearing aids. At the high tech end of the scale, MedTech includes total body advanced machines like scanners, replacement joints for knees and hips, and implantable devices such as heart valves and pacemakers. In fact, there are over than 500,000 medical technologies that are currently available, and they aim to achieve a common objective: **improving and extending peoples' lives.**

Medical technology aims at empowering citizens for the society. Furthermore, it improves the quality of care and the efficacy and sustainability of healthcare systems.

Here are five emerging medical technology innovations to keep a close watch on:

MelaFind optical scanner: This handheld tool approved by the FDA, aids medicos for multispectral analysis of tissue morphology. The MelaFind optical scanner does not provide a definitive diagnosis but rather gives additional information to a doctor to help in determining whether or not to order a biopsy. The ultimate goal of using this device is to reduce the number of patients left with unnecessary biopsy scars. Additionally, it also helps to eliminate the cost of unnecessary procedures.

Electronic aspirin: A technology that is in the research stage at **Autonomic Technologies**, Inc., (Redwood City, CA) for permanat cure of chronic headaches. This system involves the use of a permanent implant of a small nerve stimulating device in the upper gum on the side of the head that is usually affected by a headache. When a patient senses a headache and places a handheld remote controller on the cheek nearest the implant, it blocks the pain-causing neurotransmitters.

Needle-free diabetes care: Medical researchers are working on a **transdermal biosensor** that reads blood analytes through the skin without drawing blood. The technique involves a handheld electric-toothbrush-like device that removes just enough top-layer skin cells to put the patient's blood chemistry within signal range of a patch-borne biosensor.

Robotic check-ups: Medical robots can now patrol hospital hallways on more routine rounds, check on patients in different rooms and manage their individual charts and vital signs without direct human intervention. The robots are equipped with a two-way video screen and medical monitoring equipment, which are programmed to maneuver through the busy halls of a hospital.

Alternatives to open heart surgery: The technology called **Sapien**, manufactured by Edwards Life Sciences, is a life-saving alternative to open-heart surgery. This technology is designed for patients who need new a new valve but can't go through the rigors of operation.

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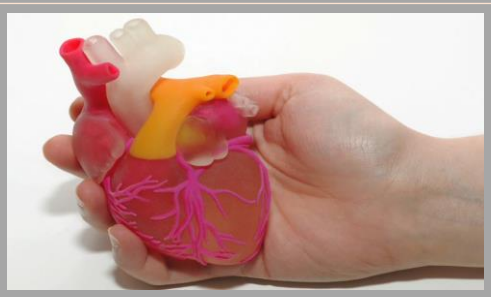

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Insights

Improved the efficiency of clinical trials and cost-effectiveness of therapies.

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