



Robot disinfecting rooms at Life Line Hospital in Wintersville

WINTERSVILLE, Ohio — Studies show that only about 50 percent of germs are disinfected with traditional cleaning products.

That statistic is not enough for hospitals.

That's why Life Line Hospital in Wintersville is taking things a step further with a little help from Pat G, a robot created with Xenex technology.

Using UV light, the robot disinfects patient rooms throughout the hospital.

"Numerous hospitals are reporting 50, 70, even 100 percent decrease in infection rates when they use this robot to disinfect their rooms," said Melinda Hart from Xenex Disinfection Services. The robot disinfects everything in the path of its light, significantly decreasing the chance of patients and their visitors picking up diseases.

"What Life Line Hospital is doing is ensuring that patients have the safest environment possible, by destroying pathogens like MRSA, C. dif, VRE, CRE, all these things you read and hear about," Hart said.

To ensure safety, no one is permitted in the room when Pat G disinfects. The robot is not intended to replace cleaning crews, but instead, assist them.

"Life Line Hospital is the first LTACH hospital with the Xenex technology in Ohio," CEO Jim Steinkirchner said. "And we're proud of that fact because our owners have made this commitment to patient safety."

Pat G and robots of the same model are also being used in schools, workplaces, and beyond. For now, Pat G will be committed to serving the Ohio Valley anytime it's under the weather. "We should certainly have the best infection rate in any of the health care providers," Steinkirchner said.

The robots cost about \$100,000, but the folks at Life Line say if it prevents just two diseases, it pays for itself.

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