VOXEL-MAN Tempo is a unique virtual reality simulator for training and planning surgical access to the middle ear. The system is based on virtual 3D models of the skull base, derived from high-resolution CT data. Using force-feedback techniques, it provides a look and feel close to the real procedure. Following its predecessor TempoSurg—installed in more than 50 institutions worldwide—the new version Tempo exhibits striking new features: All functions in real time, automatic skills assessment, bleeding and suction (second instrument), online updates, and a new compact setup with a 3D flat panel display.

ENT Surgery Training. Next Level.
See and Feel the Difference

In VOXEL-MAN Tempo, skull and instruments are modeled in high resolution inside a computer and visualized on a 3D screen. The drill is controlled by a force-feedback device which can be moved in three dimensions and provides a very life-like sense of touch. With VOXEL-MAN Tempo, you can actually feel the subtle differences between the different bony structures of the mastoid.

Instruments provided include a selection of metal and diamond burs, with the drill speed controlled by a foot pedal, as well as a suction device. At any time, the surgical site may be inspected from all sides, magnified as desired, and even shown as cross-sectional images.

Problem-Based Training

VOXEL-MAN Tempo offers seven pre-defined training cases (left and right side each) of the middle ear, with different anatomy and pathology. Organs at risk, such as facial nerve, tympanic chord, vestibular labyrinth, cochlea, auditory ossicles, carotid artery, sigmoid sinus and dura are marked. When in training mode, the distances to the organs at risk are constantly monitored and navigation is supported by cross-sectional views at the position of the drill’s head. All procedures can be practiced as often as needed, with no costs for disposable parts.

Skills Assessment

A further step is VOXEL-MAN Tempo’s automatic skills assessment. Both process and result of a trainee’s preparation can be evaluated objectively, based on predefined master preparations. Hence, trainees get immediate feedback on their work, progress over time can be monitored, and instructors are substantially relieved from supervision work. Likewise, the automatic skills assessment provides the basis for a great deal of additional self-study.
Patient Specific Training Cases

With VOXEL-MAN Tempo, you can also import CT data of your patients. This feature allows you to create your own training cases, which may also be used for surgery rehearsal. Within minutes, the system provides a bone model that can be drilled on. While the organs at risk are not marked in such a model, navigation on simultaneous cross-sectional views substantially facilitates orientation.

Setup

VOXEL-MAN Tempo is a compact unit that comes as a table-top or stand-alone system.

Prototype of VOXEL-MAN Tempo

Coming up: VOXEL-MAN Sinus, the Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Simulator

Based on the same mechanical setup, the endoscopic sinus simulator VOXEL-MAN Sinus is under development. The input devices serve as cutting instrument and endoscope, respectively. It will be available in September 2011 as a separate system or an add-on to VOXEL-MAN Tempo.
Availability

VOXEL-MAN Tempo will be available in April 2011.

About VOXEL-MAN

VOXEL-MAN, a spin-off of the Hamburg University Medical Center, is a pioneer in medical simulation technology. VOXEL-MAN Tempo is the market leader in ENT surgery simulation. In addition to ENT, VOXEL-MAN is currently developing simulators for dental education.

Benefits

- Training of both manual dexterity and problem solving skills
- Wide spectrum of cases
- Automatic recording and administration of training results
- Objective evaluation of performance (skills assessment)
- Self-study facilities
- Reduced need for supervision
- Reduced laboratory and material cost
- Training with own patient cases
- Ideal as warm-up prior to an intervention

Features

- 3D display with 3D glasses
- Leading image quality
- Simultaneous handling of drill and suction
- Drilling with realistic force feedback (patent pending)
- Additional cross-sectional images
- Complete set of burs with matching haptics and sound
- Foot pedal
- Compact table-top or stand-alone system
- Online updates provide the latest features