

Rehabilitation robotics in surgery: Transforming patient recovery and surgical precision.

Shiang Chi*

Department of Post-Baccalaureate Medicine, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan

Introduction

Rehabilitation robotics is emerging as a transformative field in surgery, offering innovative ways to enhance patient recovery, improve surgical precision, and optimize healthcare outcomes. With the integration of robotic systems into surgical and rehabilitation processes, there has been a significant advancement in how surgeries are performed and how patients recover post-operation. This article explores the role of rehabilitation robotics in surgery, its benefits, challenges, and the future of this evolving technology. Rehabilitation robotics refers to the use of robotic systems designed to aid in the recovery of patients after surgery or injury. These systems typically consist of robotic devices that assist with physical therapy, mobility training, or neuromuscular reeducation. [1,2].

They can be used in various medical fields, including orthopedics, neurology, and post-operative recovery following major surgeries such as spinal, musculoskeletal, and neurological operations. In the context of surgery, rehabilitation robotics is an umbrella term encompassing devices that support the surgical team during the operation as well as those that aid in post-operative rehabilitation. These systems can provide patients with repetitive, controlled movements during rehabilitation, which can accelerate the healing process, reduce pain, and improve the overall outcome. Robotic surgery systems such as the da Vinci Surgical System allow surgeons to perform complex procedures with increased precision and smaller incisions. [3,4].

These systems enable fine motor control and provide surgeons with a 3D high-definition view of the surgical area. This can reduce the trauma to surrounding tissues, lead to faster recovery times, and lower the risk of complications. After surgery, robotic rehabilitation systems play a key role in a patient's recovery process. Devices like exoskeletons or robotic arms assist in the gradual movement of limbs, offering assistance in tasks like walking or using the arms. These robots help patients regain mobility and strength at a much faster rate than traditional rehabilitation methods. For patients recovering from neurological surgeries, robotic rehabilitation technologies such as robotic exoskeletons or brain-machine interfaces help retrain motor functions. [5,6].

These devices work by providing precise and consistent movement training, which can help reestablish neural pathways and improve muscle coordination in patients recovering from

stroke, spinal cord injuries, or traumatic brain injuries. In orthopedic surgeries, robotic devices can help patients recover from joint replacements or fractures. These devices assist in range-of-motion exercises and strength training, providing patients with controlled, customizable movement patterns to ensure proper healing while reducing the risk of post-surgery complications like joint stiffness. Robotic systems offer surgeons enhanced precision and control during operations. [7,8].

Rehabilitation robotics can significantly reduce recovery times for patients. By providing consistent, guided exercises post-surgery, patients can begin rehabilitation almost immediately, which accelerates the healing process. In many cases, robotic rehabilitation helps patients regain mobility more quickly compared to traditional manual therapy. With robotics ensuring controlled movements and assistance, patients experience less strain and stress on their body. This results in fewer complications such as muscle atrophy, contractures, or joint stiffness. The consistency and precision of robotic rehabilitation also ensure that the right amount of resistance and support is applied, helping patients recover without overexerting themselves. [9,10].

Conclusion

Rehabilitation robotics is transforming the landscape of surgery and patient recovery. By improving surgical precision and aiding in post-operative rehabilitation, robotic systems are enhancing the healing process and offering patients the opportunity for faster, more effective recovery.

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Correspondence to: Shiang Chi, Department of Post-Baccalaureate Medicine, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan. Email: hsiufn@shiangchi.tw

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