Laser Lead Extraction Simulation System

Spectranetics Corporation introduces a new advanced Laser Lead Extraction Simulation system. The new simulation system is intended to augment traditional procedural training for physicians on laser-assisted lead extraction procedures by permitting hands-on practice with extraction tools and techniques in multiple case scenarios in a virtual operating environment.

Due in part to the large and growing number of leads to manage in patients implanted with pacemakers and defibrillators, in May 2009 HRS updated its expert consensus recommendations for lead extraction. Acknowledging the challenge for physicians to achieve the desired volume of proctored cases in a training regime, HRS experts highlighted lead extraction simulation with realistic scenarios as an important future component of initial hands-on exposure and subsequent maintenance of skills.

Spectranetics has partnered with Medical Simulation Corporation (MSC) to develop the customized Laser Lead Extraction Simulation in conjunction with MSC's SimSuite® simulation technology platform. The simulation system features simulated patient scenarios that allow physicians to manipulate lead extraction tools with tactile feedback and visual diagnostics such as "virtual" x-ray imagery that closely mimics real-world patient scenarios. Physicians are able to experience the force interactions coinciding with successful techniques and encounter potential complications to learn avoidance and management skills. The simulation system specifically incorporates use of the Spectranetics SLS® II Laser Sheath, LLD EZ® Lead Locking Device and VisiSheath® Dilator Sheath in the lead extraction process.

Leads, or insulated wires that connect devices to the heart, may become non-functional or infected resulting in the need for removal. As scar tissue can bind the leads in several places along their length, removing cardiac leads can be challenging and requires proper training in extraction techniques and management of potential complications. Spectranetics provides its excimer laser sheath technology to vaporize the binding scar tissue, thereby freeing the leads for removal.

For more information, visit www.spectranetics.com [1] and www.medsimulation.com [2]

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[1] http://www.spectranetics.com/
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