

Mayo Clinic Minute

How 3D printing helps lung surgery

Video	Audio
	3D printing gives lung surgeons many benefits in the operating room.
Shanda Blackmon, M.D. General Thoracic Surgery Mayo Clinic	"It helps us to communicate with our patients in a way that they really understand what's happening."
	Dr. Shanda Blackmon says most patients don't know how to read a CT scan or X-ray.
	"But when I show my patient a 3D print, they immediately understand what surgery we're planning on doing, how we're going to do it, and what approach we'll take."
	Dr. Blackmon says 3D models of a patient's anatomy are particularly helpful when preparing for complex lung surgeries.
	"If we have multiple teams in the operating room and we're doing a complex surgery, it really helps us to plan who will do what part of the surgery and how will we do it."
	3D printing inspires surgeons to innovate.
	"It really helps us to think outside the box and to practice novel approaches without having to practice on the patient."
	Dr. Blackmon expects that eventually ...
	"... 3D models will just be another tool in our toolbox that we'll use to help us to become better, safer, more efficient, more innovative surgeons."

	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.
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