

CART: Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgery

The UPMC Center for Advanced Robotics Training (CART) provides surgical teams with technical and contextual resources to initiate and optimize complex robotic surgery programs. The Center provides participating surgeons and support staff with expertise through individualized pathways to proficiency, and remains engaged in maintaining trainees' skills through continuous quality assessment. This personalized approach supports reduced learning curves and high-quality, cost-efficient outcomes.



UPMC Center for Advanced Robotics Training

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CENTER FOR ADVANCED ROBOTICS TRAINING

Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgery



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Training Program Overview

The Center for Advanced Robotics Training (CART) program led by UPMC Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) surgeons serves as an introduction to the advanced robotic curriculum and exposes participants to the skill sets necessary to safely perform robotic surgery of the head and neck. The course offerings are highly customizable to address the skill level and needs of each participant.

This training program utilizes a distinctive approach to accustom surgeons to the technical skills needed to master the surgical robot. Throughout the program, participants will spend extensive time alternating between simulation and cadaver work. By favoring these two methods of practice, the CART ENT program strives to more effectively identify technical areas of improvement in utilizing the surgical robot, and to further solidify learned concepts with firsthand experience.

Sample Agenda

Day 1	
7:00 AM	Introductory Lectures and Course Overview
8:00 AM	Simulation Lab Session 1
10:00 AM	Robotic ENT Lab with Cadaver 1
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Simulation Lab Session 2
3:00 PM	Robotic ENT Lab with Cadaver 2
5:30 PM	Adjourn

Day 2	
8:00 AM	Simulation Lab Session 3
10:00 AM	Robotic ENT Lab with Cadaver 3
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Course Evaluation and Wrap Up

Experience

The UPMC Robotic Head and Neck Surgery program led by experienced ENT surgeons is a highly accomplished surgical program and has performed hundreds of complex robotic surgery cases, including transoral robotic resections and remote access neck dissections/thyroidectomies.

CART ENT surgeons are active contributors to robotics research. They have published a number of highly-cited articles in this field and have pioneered the development of novel clinical trials using robotic surgery as a modality to treat patients with head and neck cancer. Over the last several years, this program has dedicated significant resources to developing a comprehensive proficiency-based curriculum for mastering advanced robotic skills and applying these skills to expand the boundaries of head and neck surgery.

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