

St. Petersburg Times

Dummy puts heart into his work; [STATE Edition]

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Abstract (Document Summary)

As Dr. Corey Evans listens to the patient's heart with a stethoscope, the sound is transmitted to specially designed stethoscopes worn by a dozen other people in the room.

Evans pushes a couple of buttons and suddenly the patient is sick. The second part of the heartbeat sounds different now, not quite right.

Harvey is Bayfront Medical Center's latest educational tool, designed to teach physicians in training how to listen to heart sounds. He has 54 brothers around the country, seven of them elsewhere in Florida.

Full Text (371 words)

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The patient stares at the ceiling, never blinking. Only his stomach moves up and down evenly as he breathes.

As Dr. Corey Evans listens to the patient's heart with a stethoscope, the sound is transmitted to specially designed stethoscopes worn by a dozen other people in the room.

Evans pushes a couple of buttons and suddenly the patient is sick. The second part of the heartbeat sounds different now, not quite right.

The patient, Harvey, doesn't seem to mind. For \$80,000, he is built for this kind of work.

Harvey is Bayfront Medical Center's latest educational tool, designed to teach physicians in training how to listen to heart sounds. He has 54 brothers around the country, seven of them elsewhere in Florida.

"Harvey is really the premier cardiac disease simulator that you can get," said Evans, Bayfront's director of family practice residency. "He is a fantastic tool."

Harvey was purchased for Bayfront by the H. Milton Rogers Foundation for Heart Research. The mannequin can simulate at least 40 different diseases. Not only do the sounds of the beating heart change, but the pulses change as well. Physicians can diagnose some diseases by the feel of the pulse in various locations.

"You just dial in the disease you want to demonstrate and then the pulses all change and the sounds change," Evans said. "In a hospital, you can't find patients and line them up to compare one condition to another."

Bayfront plans to use the mannequin to train residents and nurses. Students at the University of Florida's medical school also will have opportunities to train with Harvey.

Dr. David Weiland, Bayfront's chairman of continuing education, said one of the advantages of a training machine such as Harvey is that physicians can learn the signs of a disease without being confused by other signs a patients may have. That makes it easier when a physician is faced with a patient with a number of health problems.

"It is nice to be able to isolate a particular problem and learn it well," Weiland said.

[Illustration]

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, RICARDO FERRO; Caption: Dr. Corey Evans demonstrates Harvey, a dummy used in cardiac training, to Steve Friesen, Kristi Fitzmorris, Garrett Gause, Robert Campbell and Tina Busby.

The Simms Team - RE/MAX Metro (727) 866-0048

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