Pros and Cons of Augmented Reality in Healthcare

Augmented reality is giving the medical field a great advantage. New AR technologies are providing the medical field with an edge, allowing doctors such as surgeons, nurses, and pediatricians to advance their techniques, as well giving tools to ordinary civilians to improve their help with their healthcare.

For doctors, tools like Accuvein can help increase accuracy when administering shots, by helping them locate the vein with a projection. This technology could be applied to surgeries as well, although the delicacy of surgery would require the technology to be incredibly accurate, so there would be no risk of the patient being harmed. Furthermore, there are downsides to current technology, such as the Microsoft HoloLens, that could inhibit a surgery. The HoloLens’ tint might make an operation more difficult to see. On top of that, it doesn’t offer much protection more bodily fluids that may splash during an operation; normally the surgeon would be using safety goggles.

Also, medical education can further be augmented with AR, allowing students to see models of the human body in front of them. This is a massive improvement over the abstract textbooks and static models currently being used. Although the HoloLens has a very limited field of view that it can display. Along with that, the cost of the AR hardware may restrict this example to top of the line medical schools.