Virtua launches robotic-assisted joint replacement technology

Virtua, with hospital locations in Marlton, Shamong and Hackettstown, has been using the top-of-the-line Mako System, a minimally invasive robotic surgery system with computer-guided technology that helps surgeons deliver more consistent outcomes.

The system, with 1650 robotic technology developers right now, allows doctors to navigate around tight spaces to place a joint in the correct position, according to Tom Szczygielewicz, Virtua's chief clinical officer.

Controlling precision in the operating room, highly complex software reduces the risk of mistakes or complications when operating on a patient with an injury or ailment.

"It allows us to access parts of bone and muscles that are otherwise access to surgeons," Szczygielewicz said. "It makes it much easier to do it the first time."

The technology is built around a team of surgeons who work with the software.

"Once you go through the learning curve, it becomes easier and more efficient. It allows us to be more consistent with our approach."

Virtua's Orthopedic Center is one of only 400 centers across the country with access to the technology.

It's a massive addition to the services Virtua has to offer, according to Mark Baum, Virtua's vice president of technology and strategy.

"It's a great technology, and we're really excited to have it," Baum said. "It's going to change the way we deliver care."