A Glimpse into the Future Hospital

Dr. Eyal Zimlichman
Deputy Director General and Chief Quality Officer at Sheba Medical Center

The hospital will undergo a revolution

"There was no consensus among the participants about what the future hospital would look like, but there was a general agreement that it will undergo a revolution," says Dr. Eyal Zimlichman, Deputy Director General and Chief Quality Officer at Sheba Medical Center, who heads the new center of innovation in the hospital. The center, launched last year, will study and introduce technological innovations in medicine that could change the hospital into a virtual facility. "Today, we can already see that the hospital will become more and more virtual," says Zimlichman. "The care of patients is being transferred to the home and even to remote places." The new center of innovation in Sheba Medical Center, headed by Zimlichman, will focus on studying the implications of technological advancements in medicine and developing innovative solutions for the future hospital.

Big Data and analytics will increase the chances of early detection of diseases, as part of the preventive and personalized medicine trends. "All these innovations, Zimlichman says, will enable hospitals to become more accurate, effective, and efficient in their decision-making processes...

Artificial Intelligence applications will enable better and more accurate medical decision-making processes...

This will enable him to create more contact human medical interaction.

The entity called a "hospital" will be physically reduced in terms of the number of beds in it, but will continue to offer medical care, combined with advanced technological means for monitoring...

The transition to a virtual hospital

Technological advancements, it seems, will also alter the medical system in the near future. "If we're able to have a virtual hospital, the addition of a telemedicine system that allows patients to be treated remotely, the entity called a hospital will be reduced in terms of its physical size," Zimlichman says. "We're already seeing a decrease in the number of beds in the hospital, and it's not just because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The development of remote care technologies has made it possible to treat patients at home, and to provide care to patients who are not hospitalized..."

"The transition to a virtual hospital will enable hospitals to provide remote care services, and how to turn the hospital into a virtual entity," stresses Zimlichman. "The goal of the virtual hospital is to provide the best care centers that manage hospitalization and divert as many patients as possible to home-based care services, and how to turn the hospital into a virtual entity..."

Dr. Zimlichman emphasizes that the transition to home-based care is already happening in many hospitals, and that this is a trend that is likely to continue. "The trend towards more human medicine will be fast-forward the transition towards a virtual hospital," he adds. "When a patient needs a hospital, the hospital will provide the best care center that manages hospitalization and diverts as many patients as possible to home-based care services. This will enable hospitals to provide remote care services and how to turn the hospital into a virtual entity...

In the future, it will be necessary to re-define many concepts related to the hospital, such as "hospital" and "hospitalization"..."