ROBOTIC CARDIAC SURGERY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICA

This intensive one-week pre-clinical training program is designed to enable cardiac surgeons to become proficient in robotic cardiac surgery using the da Vinci® platform. Through structured theoretical instruction, simulation, and hands-on operating room exposure, participants acquire the technical and cognitive skills required to safely initiate robotic cardiac surgery in their home institutions.

1. Objectives

To provide comprehensive theoretical and practical training in robotic cardiac surgery, allowing surgeons to understand the fundamental principles of robotic surgery, master system controls and instrumentation, and develop decision-making and problem-solving skills specific to the da Vinci® platform.

2. Target Audience

This program is designed for experienced cardiac surgeons, particularly those with prior experience in video-assisted or minimally invasive cardiac procedures. Younger or less experienced surgeons may also be accepted, provided they have solid experience in independently performing complex conventional cardiac procedures.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Participants must be fully trained cardiac surgeons with independent operative experience.

4. Course Structure

- Step 1 – Online Theoretical Training: Asynchronous online instruction introducing the robotic platform, system architecture, terminology, and operational concepts, completed prior to on-site training.
- Step 2 – In-person Theoretical Course (4 hours): Covers patient selection, indications, system docking, preoperative preparation, and postoperative management.
- Step 3 – Simulation and Hands-on Training (28 hours): Twenty-four hours of simulation using the Mimic® system, complemented by four hours of hands-on training on plastic and animal heart models, focusing on video-assisted skills and bedside surgeon techniques.
- Step 4 – In-service Operating Room Training (4 hours): Hands-on practice using the da Vinci Xi system, including core robotic skills and procedural simulation for mitral valve repair (neochordae implantation and annuloplasty).

5. One-Week Detailed Timetable

Pre-course (Remote): Completion of preparatory theoretical activities.

Monday: Morning – In-person theoretical course (08:00–12:00); Afternoon – Simulation training (13:00–17:00).

Tuesday and Wednesday: Full-day simulation training (08:00–12:00 and 13:00–17:00).

Thursday: Morning – Hands-on training on plastic and animal heart models; Afternoon – Case discussions and procedural planning.

Friday: Morning – Simulation training; Afternoon – Live observation of one robotic cardiac surgery case.

Saturday: Morning – Simulation training; Afternoon – Free time (self-guided).

Sunday: Morning – In-service operating room training; Afternoon – Live-in-a-Box case presentation and course wrap-up.

6. Certification

Successful participation in all components of this intensive one-week program prepares surgeons to transition into the clinical phase at their home institutions. Participants will receive an official certificate summarizing the complete pre-clinical training pathway.

Additional Information

Further information and enrollment: coordenacao@institutopoffo.com

Course Director / Technical Director: Dr. Robinson Poffo
Program Supervisor and Instructor: Dr. Sergio Curcio

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