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OHSU uses mock injury technique to create hands-on training for trauma doctors

BY FOX 12 STAFF

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(KPTV Image)

OHSU is creating an authentic training experience for doctors that includes makeup that looks like it is straight out of Hollywood.

When doctors are trying to save a life, every second counts, so even training must seem like the real deal.

The technique is called moulage. It works by applying fake wounds and make-up for hands-on training purposes.

OHSU lead simulation specialist Lish Robinson knows the fun serves a serious purpose.

"What we do is sort of behind the scenes and we are getting ready to train all sorts of different levels of providers," Robinson said.

Inside an OHSU lab, Robinson is leading a team of simulation experts, applying moulage creations to actors so future trauma doctors can get some hands-on training.

"We're trying to simulate a hematoma sort of under the skin, and eventually we are going to blend all this stuff together, add blood, and make it look fabulous," Robinson said.

It's something you would see in a blockbuster movie, but better. One of the advantages on-screen is they can change the camera angles and the lighting, but what Robinson does has to be visible from all sides and up close.

When the process is complete, it's time for the students to put their skills to the test. With each simulation comes a new story, one these future doctors need to learn fast to save a life.

"There is nothing quite as stressful as an actual patient in front of you whose having trouble. but we try to recreate that as much as we can to kind of give them the practice of thinking through that scenario," OHSU Trauma Surgeon Dr. Mackenzie Cook said.

OHSU runs these advanced trauma courses using moulage about once a month, but the process isn't just for the medical field. Robinson tells us, it's also a big feature in the military.

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