

UK version  International version | [About the versions](#)

[Low graphics](#) | [Accessibility help](#)



**LIVE** BBC NEWS CHANNEL

**News services**  
Your news when you want it



[News Front Page](#)

[World](#)

[UK](#)

[England](#)

[Northern Ireland](#)

[Scotland](#)

[Wales](#)

[Business](#)

[Politics](#)

[Health](#)

[Medical notes](#)

[Education](#)

[Science & Environment](#)

[Technology](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Also in the news](#)

-----

[Video and Audio](#)

-----

[Have Your Say](#)

[Magazine](#)

[In Pictures](#)

[Country Profiles](#)

[Special Reports](#)

-----

**RELATED BBC SITES**

[SPORT](#)

[WEATHER](#)

[CBBC NEWSROUND](#)

[ON THIS DAY](#)

[EDITORS' BLOG](#)

Last Updated: Thursday, 17 January 2008, 11:34 GMT

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

## 'Wii warm-up' good for surgeons

**Playing computer games such as the Nintendo Wii can improve a surgeon's performance in the operating theatre, a US study shows.**



Wii players use a wireless wand that detects acceleration in three dimensions

Only certain games are effective - those requiring delicate movements.

The fine hand control required to play these games acts as a warm up and hones scalpel skills the Banner Good Samaritan Medical Centre team claim.

Now they are designing Wii software that will accurately simulate surgical procedures, New Scientist reports.

They asked eight trainee surgeons to spend an hour playing the games on a console before performing "virtual reality" surgery on a computer system.

### Wii warm-up

Game players scored nearly 50% higher on tool control and overall performance than other trainees.

Marble Mania, in which a ball is guided through a 3D obstacle course - was particularly effective in the study.

Researcher Kanav Kohel explained that the type of game play was crucial.

"You don't gain a lot from swinging an imaginary tennis racket.

"The whole point about surgery is to execute small finely controlled movements with your hands, and that is exactly what you get with the Wii."

The fine control needed to move a virtual marble around a 3D maze is similar to the skills needed to perform keyhole surgery, for example.

### SEE ALSO

[Playing the game](#)

11 Dec 07 | [Magazine](#)

[Nintendo warns of Wii shortages](#)

14 Nov 07 | [Technology](#)

[Computer answer to child obesity](#)

16 Sep 07 | [Beds/Bucks/Herts](#)

### RELATED INTERNET LINKS

[Nintendo](#)

[New Scientist](#)

[Medicine Meets Virtual Reality](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

### TOP HEALTH STORIES

[Menus to display calorie counts](#)

[How scratching can stop an itch](#)

[Baby broccoli 'controls gut bug'](#)

[RSS](#) | [News feeds](#)

### MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW

[MOST SHARED](#)

[MOST READ](#)

[Powerful Italian quake kills many](#)

[Boys quizzed after vicious attack](#)

[How scratching can stop an itch](#)

[In pictures: Italy earthquake](#)

[Footballer puts wind up referee](#)

[UK deficit 'more than predicted'](#)

[Littering postal workers targeted](#)

[Warehouses destroyed by huge fire](#)

[Menus to display calorie counts](#)

[More parents to get flexible work](#)

[More parents to get flexible work](#)

[More parents to get flexible work](#)


[More parents to get flexible work](#)

[More parents to get flexible work](#)

[Most popular now, in detail](#)

Colleague Mark Marshall said the games consoles were cheap enough to be used to train surgeons in poorer countries where cutting-edge virtual reality systems were not available.

The researchers will present their work at the Medicine Meets Virtual Reality conference in California later in January.

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

Bookmark with:

[Delicious](#)

[Digg](#)

[reddit](#)

[Facebook](#)

[What are these?](#)

[StumbleUpon](#)

#### FEATURES, VIEWS, ANALYSIS



[Keeping count](#)  
Will calories on restaurant menus help tackle obesity?



[Week in pictures](#)  
Eye-catching images from around the world this week



[Secret society](#)  
Trying to discover the reality of life in Qatar

#### Most Popular Now

The most read story in Europe is: [Powerful Italian quake kills many](#)

**PRODUCTS & SERVICES**

[E-mail news](#)

[Mobiles](#)

[Alerts](#)

[News feeds](#)

[Interactive TV](#)

[Podcasts](#)

MMIX

Most Popular Now | The most shared story right now is: [Powerful Italian quake kills many](#)

[Back to top](#) ^^

[Help](#) | [Privacy and cookies policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Advertise with us](#)