

right direction to pass through. Two images are projected onto the screen, one on top of the other. One image is composed of light waves for one lens while the other is composed of light waves for the other lens.

Without the glasses, the on-screen image is blurry. With them, the two images combine in a way that allows the eyes to see three dimensions.

"TrueVision doesn't replace the microscope, it enhances what the microscope does," said Michael Reimer, a field engineer at TrueVision.

Bucholz's small, slim, surgical forceps look as big as barbecue tongs on the screen as they pull white, gristly pieces of tumor from a hole in the patient's brain. The 3-D effect makes it seem as if you could pull your entire body into that hole and, well, go spelunking.

Bucholz said the system allows him to stand upright rather than having to hunch over the patient's head to see. Those assisting him can better anticipate his needs because they can see what he's doing. It makes the surgery quicker, decreasing the time a patient is under anesthesia.

TrueVision systems like SLU's, which has recording software, run about \$99,000. Systems without recording software are \$75,000.

McDurmont said another benefit is that surgeons don't have to step aside to let residents look through their microscopes. Two residents had just walked in, put on glasses and were peering at the TrueVision screen.

"Oh, my God," one of them said, "look at that. It's amazing."

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