

# Virtual planning may help with nasal obstruction surgery

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(HealthDay)—Otolaryngologists report an overall positive experience

with a virtual surgery planning tool for nasal airway obstruction (NAO), according to a study published online Oct. 12 in *JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery*.

Derek L. Vanhille, M.D., from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and colleagues sought surgeon feedback about a virtual surgery planning [tool](#) for NAO based on computational fluid dynamics simulations. They conducted 60-minute face-to-face interviews with nine board-certified otolaryngologists.

The researchers found that the nine participants performed a mean of 2.2 nasal surgeries per month. On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (completely), the surgeon mean score for how realistic the virtual models were compared with actual [surgery](#) was 3.4. Using the same scale, participants gave the planning tool a mean score of 2.6 for how much it changed their decision making. Using a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree), the surgeons gave the tool a 5.1 for perceived usefulness and a 5.7 for their attitude toward using it.

"Surgeons felt that future applications and areas of study of the [virtual surgery](#) planning tool include its potential role for patient counseling, selecting appropriate surgical candidates, and identifying which anatomical structures should be targeted for surgical correction," write the authors.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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