



## Ceiling-mounted hoists facilitate work in operating theatres in Horsens, Denmark

By Dorthe Lundh, Byggeplads.dk,  
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*Fitting a ceiling hoist in an operating theatre makes it easier for staff to do their job and improves patient safety. However, the presence of other ceiling-mounted equipment is one reason why so few operating theatres in Denmark have ceiling-mounted hoists. The Regional Hospital in Horsens is now installing ceiling-mounted hoists in all the operating theatres in its new surgical department.*

When the Regional Hospital in Horsens opens the doors of its new surgical department this August, it will do so in renovated 1100 square-metre premises. The renovation project includes the establishment of six new operating theatres equipped with ceiling-mounted hoists.

### **Early collaboration crucial**

Structurally, a lot of work went into the operating department's optimised enhancement.

Construction engineer René Kongsdal from C.F. Møller Architects is the project manager of the new surgical centre in Horsens:

"Installing hoists in an operating theatre can be a huge challenge because there is already so much other equipment, with which the ceiling-mounted hoist needs to be coordinated," explains Kongsdal. He believes this is why so few operating theatres in Denmark have ceiling-mounted hoists.

According to the project manager one of the challenges is the interplay between the existing columns and modification of the ceilings. The collaboration with the supplier of the hoists



considerably influenced the decision to install visible traverse rail systems in the new operating theatres.

René Kongsdal is pleased that the building's owner opted for Guldmann, as he feels that they are among the suppliers with most expertise in this area, although he emphasises that there was a need for input from many sides throughout the process:

"With renovations, it is important that everyday use can be precisely mapped out at an early stage in the process, and that surrounding structures are taken into consideration. Coordination between the hospital, its users, manufacturers and consultants worked well in this project, and this consequence of the early collaboration is one we will exploit in similar projects going forward," says René Kongsdal.

The hospital unit in Horsens already has Guldmann ceiling-mounted hoists installed in the vast majority of its departments.

#### **An instructive pilot project**

Staff in the surgical department are looking forward to start using the new ceiling hoists. A pilot project in the existing department showed that moving and turning patients under anaesthetic becomes far easier when the hoist can be pulled down from the ceiling, instead of the manual efforts of several staff members typically currently required to reposition a patient on the operating table. In addition, lifting and moving will be gentler on patients. This is the assessment, based on the pilot project, of the head nurse of the surgical department, Tina Fortuna. During this period,

ceiling-mounted hoists were installed in the hospital's existing surgical department, in one of the operating theatres and a prep room, where patients are prepared for surgery.

According to the head nurse, the staff see ceiling-mounted hoists as a very positive improvement. She does emphasise, however:

"When you install ceiling hoists in a surgical department, they need to be fitted in all the operating theatres and prep rooms, otherwise you do not avoid the strain of pushing a patient on a heavy bed across the department." This is something staff in the surgical department in Horsens will not have to worry about after the summer holidays.