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Laparoscopic live surgery training a first in Durban



Photo (back row): Dr Marlon Naicker, Dr Hélder Ferreira (Portugal), Dr Morgan Pillay, Professor Bruno van Herendael (Belgium), front: Dr Siva Moodley, Professor Bhaskar Goolab, Dr Suren Ramphal, Dr K T Subrayen

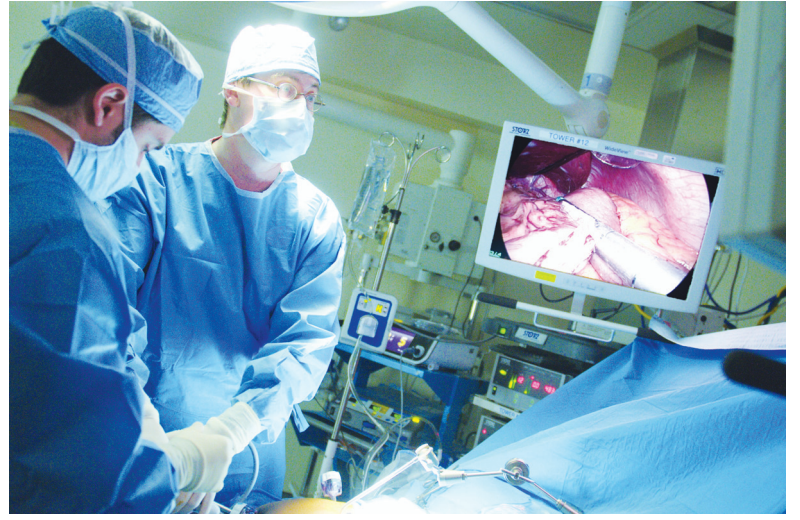


Photo Surgeons performing the laparoscopic surgery on a patient

eThekweni Hospital and Heart Centre hosted a joint workshop between International Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (ISGE) and the Durban Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society (DOGS) to train gynaecologists in KZN in the new advances in laparoscopic surgery. The workshop was held over 2 days at the hospital on Wednesday, 18 and Thursday, 19 March 2015.

According to Professor Bhaskar D Goolab, President of the South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Chairman of the Training Committee of ISGE, said that laparoscopic surgery is the finest, most modern method of teaching.

"The new technological advancement of telescopic surgery treats endometriosis, myomectomy, hysterectomy, and ovarian cystoscopy in a minimally, invasive manner. Through this surgery, local gynaecologists are trained to become as equally skilled as in Europe, so we can offer our patients the same benefits of the advanced surgical skills," said Professor Goolab.

Laparoscopic surgery, also called minimally-invasive surgery, bandaid surgery, or keyhole surgery, is a modern surgical technique in which operations are performed far from their location through small incisions elsewhere in the body.

There are a number of advantages to the patient with laparoscopic surgery versus the more common, open procedure. Pain and haemorrhaging are reduced due to smaller incisions and recovery times are shorter. The key element in laparoscopic surgery is the use of a laparoscope, a long fibre optic cable system which allows viewing of the affected area by snaking the cable from a more distant, but more easily accessible, location..

There are two types of laparoscope: (1) a telescopic rod lens system, that is usually connected to a video camera (single chip or three chips), or, (2) a

digital laparoscope where the charge-coupled device is placed at the end of the laparoscope. The abdomen is usually insufflated with carbon dioxide gas. This elevates the abdominal wall above the internal organs to create a working and viewing space. CO2 is used because it is common to the human body and can be absorbed by tissue and removed by the respiratory system. It is also non-flammable, which is important because electro-surgical devices are commonly used in laparoscopic procedures.

Laparoscopic surgery includes operations within the abdominal or pelvic cavities, whereas keyhole

surgery performed on the thoracic or chest cavity is called thoracoscopic surgery. Laparoscopic and thoracoscopic surgery belongs to the broader field of endoscopy.

Professor Bruno van Herendael (Belgium) and Professor Hélder Ferreira (Portugal) were invited to share their skills and knowledge with the local gynaecologists in KZN.

eThekweni Hospital and Heart Centre has pioneered the teaching of advanced tele-surgery by building dedicated and fully-wired theatres for the transmission of the operation from the theatre complex to the auditorium with two-way communication between the surgeon and the audience.

"Mr Niresh Bechan, General Manager of eThekweni Hospital and Heart Centre, was instrumental in

putting eThekweni Hospital and Heart Centre as the leading hospital in Durban, to promote advanced laparoscopic surgery in KZN. It is because of his vision, passion and enthusiasm and, together with the assistance of the resident gynaecologist, Dr K T Subrayen, also an expert in laparoscopic surgery, that this live surgery training programme was conducted for the third year in succession".

It is through their input that this surgery and the skills in Durban have been significantly enhanced. This training programme will significantly benefit the patients in Durban requiring advanced laparoscopic surgery procedures" added Professor Goolab.

Some of the benefits of this advanced technological telescopic surgery include minimal pain, quick recovery, minimal blood loss and superior cosmetic results.

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