

## **Pilot study of laparoscopic theatre equipment in Kent & Wales**

The Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (ALS) launched a national audit of hospital laparoscopic theatre equipment in late 2008.

There has been a significant development in technology since the introduction of laparoscopic general surgery in the UK in 1990. The last decade has seen a massive increase in the variety of laparoscopic operations performed worldwide. Almost all gastro-intestinal or abdominal operations done as open procedures have now been performed laparoscopically. This increase in laparoscopic operations has also led to an exponential increase in the percentage of day-case operations especially in United Kingdom. Patient expectations and aspirations have also been a major factor in this development in addition to the enthusiasm of individual surgeons who have developed a multidisciplinary approach to provide laparoscopic techniques for most operations. This has resulted in shorter hospital stay in addition to all the major advantages of laparoscopic surgery such as smaller scars, less pain, rapid recovery and return to normal activities including work.

The rapid technological developments that have occurred in the field of laparoscopic surgery have resulted in some operating theatres having inferior equipment which might affect the ability of surgeons to carry out complex laparoscopic procedures safely.

This audit was therefore initiated by the President of ALS focusing on the safety aspects of theatre equipment and patient care. ALS has launched this national audit to assess all the individual hospitals in the United Kingdom

- 1) To assess the availability of specialist laparoscopic equipment
- 2) The quality of equipment used (includes age <5yrs or >5yrs)
- 3) To check if systems are in place for the maintenance of equipment
- 4) To assess systems of replacement (contracts) for damaged or old equipment.

This audit takes into account the type of laparoscopic theatres, camera systems, types of trocar and energy sources.

All aspects of the audit were assessed against the type and levels of complexity of operations performed in the individual hospitals.

The ALS initially chose to pilot this audit of all the hospitals in Kent and Wales prior to the launch of a national audit later in 2009. The methods of grading of the equipment and ranking of the individual hospitals have been discussed and agreed by the ALS Council in 2008. The ranking system of the hospital equipment was devised with three grades or levels as gold, silver & bronze ratings with gold representing the availability of the best equipment, with systems in place for maintenance and bronze the other end of the spectrum with old or outdated equipment. The non-responders have been identified with an asterix. In some cases where the information was not clear, one audit member has contacted the responding hospital member to verify details. Random inspections of hospitals will also be taking place to maintain a quality control of the audit.

## KENT

In the Kent region there are 10 NHS hospitals and 11 private hospitals. One NHS hospital in Dover (Buckland) has been excluded as the hospital replied that they do not perform any surgery.

The results of the audit in Kent are as follows

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Returned</b>
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	Silver	Completed
Kent & Canterbury Hospital	Silver	Completed
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate	Gold	Completed
Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford	Silver	Completed
Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	Silver	Completed
Maidstone Hospital	Gold	Completed
Medway Hospital, Gillingham	Silver	Completed
Princess Royal University Hospital, Orpington	Silver	Completed
Buckland Hospital, Dover		
Nuffield Health Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	Silver	Completed
The Somerfield Hospital, Maidstone	Silver	Completed
Benenden Hospital	Gold	Completed
Fawkham Manor Hospital, Longfield	Silver	Completed
The Chaucer Hospital, Canterbury	Silver	Completed
The Chelsfield Hospital, Orpington	Bronze	Completed
The Sloane Hospital, Beckenham	Bronze	Completed
Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	*	
Spire Alexandra Hospital, Chatham	*	Declined
	*	
Spire St Saviours Hospital, Hythe		Declined
Spire Tunbridge Wells	*	Declined

## WALES

The Wales region has 16 NHS & 5 private hospitals of which nine NHS & three private hospitals responded

The results of the audit in Wales are as follows

Hospital	Grade	Returned
Morrison Hospital	Silver	Completed
Singleton Hospital	Gold	Completed
Neath Port Talbot Hospital	Bronze	Completed
Nevill Hall Hospital, Gwent	Bronze	Completed
West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen	Silver	Completed
Princess of Wales Hospital	Silver	Completed
Royal Gwent Hospital	Silver	Completed
University Hospital of Wales	Silver	Completed
Prince Philip Hospital, Lanelli	Silver	Completed
BMI Werndale Private Hospital, Carmarthen	Silver	Completed
Spire Cardiff Hospital	Silver	Completed
St Joseph's Hospital, Newport	Bronze	Completed
Withybush General Hospital, Haverford west	*	
Wrexham Maelor Hospital	*	
Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital	*	
Royal Glamorgan Hospital	*	
Prince Charles Hospital, Mid-Glamorgan	*	
Bronglais District General Hospital, Aberystwyth	*	
Glan Clwyd Hospital	*	
Spire Yale Hospital, Wrexham	*	
Sancta Maria Hospital	*	

## **Conclusion**

This ALS pilot study has identified two hospitals with Gold rated Laparoscopic equipment in Kent & one in the Wales region.

In view of the success of the audit it will now be rolled out nationwide and the results are expected to be available on the ALS website by November 2009.