

This document describes the work of the laparoscopic surgical education centre (The Iceni Centre) at Colchester General Hospital (CGH). Colchester has built up one of the largest teams of advanced laparoscopic surgeons in the UK and is hence probably performing more of this type of work than anywhere else in the country. The evolution of laparoscopic surgery in Colchester from the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy to the development of a team of surgeons competent in advanced, multidisciplinary, laparoscopic techniques is outlined to demonstrate that, rather than a stand alone project, the Iceni Centre is the result of a continued programme of advancement in the performance and teaching of laparoscopic surgery which has been achieved in this hospital over the last 17 years. For further information on our surgery, courses and master-classes, Please visit www.colchesterlaparoscopic.com or Phone: +44 (0)1206 742757 Fax +44 (0)1206 742030

- 1987 First laparoscopic cholecystectomy (France)
- 1989 First laparoscopic cholecystectomy (Colchester)
- 1992 First surgical laparoscopic teaching course at Colchester General Hospital
- 1994 Appointment of Donald Menzies, laparoscopic upper GI surgeon
- 1996 First nursing laparoscopic teaching course at Colchester General Hospital
- 1997 First laparoscopic nephrectomy at CGH (multidisciplinary procedure with urology)
- 1998 Roger Motson appointed to European Association of Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) board
- 1999 Roger Motson becomes President of the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1999 – 02 Inclusion in the UK CLASICC trial of laparoscopic colorectal surgery
- 2001 Roger Motson appointed to Professorship at Anglia Polytechnic University
- 2002 Design and purchase of the first purpose built, dedicated laparoscopic theatre in the UK
- 2002 Appointment of Ralph Austin, laparoscopic colorectal surgeon
- 2002 Creation of Laparoscopic Nurse Practitioner (LNP) post followed by the more recent creation of posts for laparoscopic course coordinator and a further LNP
- 2004 Donald Menzies becomes Treasurer of the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland
- 2004 Appointment of Tan Arulampalam, laparoscopic colorectal surgeon
- 2004 Appointments of gynaecological (Barry Whitlow) and urological (Gerald Rix) surgeons with a laparoscopic interest
- 2004 Ethicon Endosurgery supports the post of Laparoscopic Clinical Fellow at Colchester
- 2005 Purchase of 2 Storz OR1 integrated laparoscopic theatres
- 2005 - PFI new build for Colchester General Hospital
- In progress Purchase of a third Storz OR1 theatre for Gynaecology, Urology and ENT work, centralising laparoscopic services in Colchester General Hospital

For further information re courses, master-classes and laparoscopic surgery please visit www.colchesterlaparoscopic.com

Staff

With four general surgeons fully trained in advanced laparoscopy, a laparoscopic fellow supported by Ethicon UK and several laparoscopic nurse practitioner posts, Colchester General hospital has one of the highest concentrations of advanced laparoscopic expertise in the UK. The four laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgeons are: Professor Roger Motson who is internationally known for his work in laparoscopic surgery which he started in the early 1990's; Donald Menzies who has one of (if not *the*) largest individual experience of laparoscopic oesophagectomy and gastrectomy in the country and Ralph Austin and Tan Arulampalam who both trained at Colchester as well as visiting the world famous laparoscopic units of Dr George Fielding in Brisbane and Prof Christiano Hüscher in Rome respectively and who together, set up a joint Consultant laparoscopic operating training list performing over 80 laparoscopic colorectal resections in their first year.

Workload

Colchester General Hospital is probably performing more advanced laparoscopic surgery than anywhere else in the UK. We carry out all the standard advanced laparoscopic operations such as common bile duct exploration, hernia repair, fundoplication and splenectomy etc. but Donald Menzies has also completed around 60 laparoscopic oesophago – gastric resections, possibly the largest personal series in the country. Similarly, we are performing around 150 laparoscopic resections per year for colorectal disease (both benign and malignant) and have presented the results internationally. To put this in perspective, a recent survey of specialist colorectal surgeons in Great Britain and Ireland found that only 6 of them had performed more than 30 laparoscopic colorectal procedures in one year.

Courses

The first laparoscopic course in Colchester in 1992 was one of the earliest in the country and was 2 years before similar courses in Strasbourg. It helped in the development of bile duct surgery courses in the UK. We are now on our 21st common bile duct course having run 46 courses to date. With more personnel we are now running over 10 courses every year which include regular transmissions of laparoscopic surgery from external centres such as Rome and Hong Kong covering all aspects of advanced laparoscopic surgery. We also run laparoscopic theatre nursing courses and provide “in-theatre” laparoscopic master classes for visiting surgeons and their theatre teams. We have all been on the teaching faculty of the Ethicon European Surgical Institute in Hamburg.

Multidisciplinary laparoscopy

All four of the above general laparoscopic surgeons also actively promote multidisciplinary laparoscopic surgery, all having performed joint procedures with Jon Corr and Gerald Rix (Consultant Urological surgeons) such as total or partial nephrectomy and pyeloplasty etc. With the appointment of Barry Whitlow (Consultant Gynaecologist) we have carried out joint laparoscopic procedures for the treatment of endometriosis, a multidisciplinary disease requiring the availability of surgeons trained in laparoscopic colonic, urological and gynaecological surgery. Two of us, together with Consultant vascular surgeon Chris Backhouse, have visited Professor Kolvenbach in Düsseldorf with a view to considering laparoscopic aortic surgery.

At the present, we are aiming to centralise laparoscopic surgery in Colchester via the purchase of a third OR1 theatre situated in the general surgical theatre block for the other specialties which, together with the Iceni education centre, would further facilitate true multidisciplinary laparoscopic surgery.

