

Thinking inside the box – Paving the way for a new era of laparoscopic training

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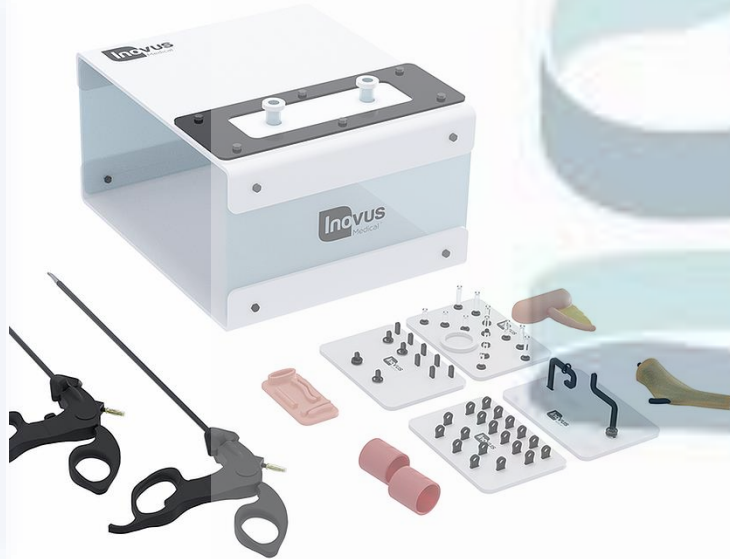
INTRODUCTION

- The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new challenges for gynaecological training. Due to cancelled theatre lists during the pandemic, it is nearly impossible for trainees to attend theatre sessions.
- Limited surgical exposure could result in future surgeons effectively being less skilled than surgeons of the current generation.
- The aim of the laparoscopic team at the University Hospital of Wales is to introduce a system for trainees to access surgical training via laparoscopic simulation.



METHOD

- The simulation team submitted a charity bid via the Cardiff and Vale Charity Fund dedicated for COVID-19 related projects.
- The goal was to receive funding to supply gynaecology trainees with laparoscopic training boxes.



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- The charity had recognised that funding simulation technology would help bridge the gap in surgical training caused by COVID-19, and has funded this project.
- Our goal is to improve access to training opportunities in line with a training curriculum and we would encourage other hospital to follow suit.

BSGE RIGS HUBS

- The British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy will be introducing a national credentialed laparoscopic standardised training program, which will be in line with the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology curriculum.
- This training program will be delivered via the Registrars in Gynaecological Surgery (RIGs) Hubs.
- The goal of this national training program will be to aid trainees in achieving surgical competencies via simulation to ensure safe surgical progression within training.
- Our simulation lead consultant Ms A Jones, has suggested that each unit introduce a simulation champion to coordinate designated teaching for laparoscopy which would supplement theatre sessions. These teaching sessions are encouraged to be linked up with the RIGs Hubs training programme.

CONCLUSION

- Supplying trainees with simulation technology will allow them to access this new training program which will aid the development of surgical skills for trainees during these difficult times.
- Hospitals, the deanery and laparoscopic surgeons need to recognise the current gap in laparoscopic training due to the covid-19 pandemic and support trainees in continuing their surgical training.