



C-Gen 14

Guidelines for performing Robotic Surgery

Robotic surgery is defined as the use of a fixed or mobile automatically controlled, multipurpose manipulator reprogrammable in three or more axes, to assist in surgical procedures. The patient and surgeon may be separated from the procedure by a master slave telerobotic system, which allows the surgeon to perform the operation in a remote location.

Guideline

Robotic procedures fall under the auspices of minimally invasive surgery and are considered advanced laparoscopic surgical procedures. Robotic surgery has been explored in a number of procedures and may be an acceptable form of treatment for a variety of conditions. At the time of this statement, there is insufficient evidence to determine the safety or efficacy of robotic surgery compared to other minimally invasive procedures.

Robotic surgery has specific risks and hazards that require guidelines for minimum standards in relation to training, practice, skill acquisition and the understanding of the appropriate equipment.

It is recommended that gynaecologists not perform robotic surgery until they have reached appropriate skill levels in advanced operative laparoscopy. Credentialing of robotic surgeons is undertaken by individual hospitals or regional credentialing committees who should refer to the guidelines in this document. In particular, credentialing bodies need to understand that robotic surgical skills do not fall within the general ambit of credentialing for gynaecological surgery and need to be acknowledged as advanced skills.

It is appropriate that robotic surgery only be performed independently by individuals credentialed for a minimum of RANZCOG Skill Level 5 for Advanced Operative Laparoscopy and provide evidence of on or off site robotic surgery training.

Applicants for credentialing in this area should therefore provide proof of suitable training and skills until appropriate centres of excellence have arisen in Australia.

References

None available

Links to other related College Statements

[C-Trg 2 Guidelines for performing advanced operative laparoscopy](#)

[C-Gen 2 Guidelines for consent and the provision of information regarding proposed treatment](#)

Disclaimer

This College Statement is intended to provide general advice to Practitioners. The statement should never be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of each patient.

The statement has been prepared having regard to general circumstances. It is the responsibility of each Practitioner to have regard to the particular circumstances of each case, and the application of this statement in each case. In particular, clinical management must always be responsive to the needs of the individual patient and the particular circumstances of each case.

This College statement has been prepared having regard to the information available at the time of its preparation, and each Practitioner must have regard to relevant information, research or material which may have been published or become available subsequently.

Whilst the College endeavours to ensure that College statements are accurate and current at the time of their preparation, it takes no responsibility for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material that may have become available after the date of the **statements**.