

Thank you for considering letting your operation be observed by surgeons and colleagues from the ALSGBI. This information sheet is designed to answer any queries you might have and is designed to supplement - not replace discussions with your surgeon.

What is the ALSGBI?

The Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland was formed in 1994 in the very early days of laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery. Since then it has expanded to over 600 active members from all over the British Isles who practice and teach keyhole surgery. We consist mainly of surgeons but also of expert nurses and other allied professions and we meet, usually once a year, to share our learning and expertise at our annual national post-graduate meeting.

We have become the Britain and Ireland's leading Society in the education, training and assessment of junior trainees in minimal access abdominal surgery and we also develop guidelines and provide advice throughout the year to our members and trainees as well as run local courses.

What happens at the Annual Scientific Meeting?

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the ALSGBI is the highlight of the year for our members. It is held

over a three day period in November each year at a different city each time.

One extremely valuable component of the meeting is a day of live operating by experts in particular operations. This is where new techniques are demonstrated and where surgeons at the meeting may watch and learn subtle improvements in established operations from recognized experts. Several operations are undertaken through the day and beamed by satellite to the conference hall where delegates may watch and discuss with the operating team (through mediators) the operations being performed. Approximately 300 people attend each annual meeting, mainly surgeons but also nurses, and representatives from the companies whose equipment is used for laparoscopic surgery.

The operations provide a unique opportunity to educate in all the aspects of laparoscopic surgery and have proved extremely valuable to our member through the years. We have seen how the best surgeons practice surgery in live time and this in turn drives up all our standards.

To have the best educational experience we invite recognized experts to perform operations on this day and we request patients who are having these operations to consent to their operations being screened and recorded in this way. Patient names and details are kept confidential from the audience and only those aspects of the clinical history relevant to the understanding of the surgery are divulged.

What happens if I agree to be involved in the meeting?

You will have been asked to participate because the operation you are due to undergo is one which we wish to learn from. You will meet the surgeon who is due to operate before the operation and be introduced and given the opportunity to ask as many questions as you choose. The surgeon will be an expert in their field and may be the surgeon who usually looks after you, or may be a national or international expert who might normally practice in another centre or country. All surgeons will be recognized experts in their field, hold all the necessary qualifications as laid down by the General Medical Council and be experienced in your specific operation. They will officially be employees of your hospital at least for the day of your operation to ensure you have all the legal rights you would normally enjoy. If the surgeon is a visiting surgeon then there will be a formal handover of your care to your local normal consultant who will look after you post operatively as if they had performed the operation themselves.

You are under no obligation to participate and may withdraw your consent to participate at any time without it affecting your surgery.

Live transmission will only commence once you are asleep and follow placement of the surgical drapes to ensure your privacy and anonymity is protected.

The conduct of the operation will follow strict guidelines designed to ensure your safety as the paramount concern. These guidelines may be found at our website at www.alsgbi.org

We thank you for considering to allow us to watch your operation and to learn from the expert who will be performing it. Please remember your comfort and safety are of paramount concern to us and you may withdraw your consent at any time.