

The impact of robotic surgery on teamwork (Phase 1)

Information sheet for staff

Invitation

We would like invite you to take part in a research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

An increasing number of NHS Trusts are purchasing da Vinci® robots but at the same time there are reports that the technology is not being used as much as it could be, so that it is not providing the anticipated benefits for patients. At the moment we do not know what is needed for robotic surgery to be successfully introduced into the NHS, by which we mean that it comes to be used routinely and successfully for surgical operations where it offers benefits to the patient over other surgical techniques. Robotic surgery has the potential to negatively impact teamwork in the operating theatre, because the surgeon is physically separated from the patient and the rest of the team. Effective teamwork in the operating theatre is important for safe patient care but we currently do not know the impact of robotic surgery on teamwork. Therefore, this study has two main aims: (1) to develop guidance for NHS Trusts on how to facilitate successful implementation and integration of robotic surgery; and (2) to develop guidance for operating theatre teams on how to ensure effective teamwork when undertaking robotic surgery.

Why have I been asked to take part?

An important part of this study is finding out about the processes through which robotic surgery is currently introduced into the NHS, what staff perceive to be important for the successful introduction of robotic surgery, and how staff perceive robotic surgery impacts communication and teamwork in the operating theatre. For this reason, we are requesting to interview you about your experience of robotic surgery. We propose to conduct these interviews with staff across 10 NHS Trusts and we wish to interview all members of the operating theatre team.

Do I have to take part?

- No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study.
- If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw without giving a reason. You can withdraw once the interview has taken place, up until analysis of the data begins.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, a member of the research team will arrange a time that is convenient for you to take part in the interview. The interview will take place over the telephone and will be audio recorded. This interview will take no more than an hour.

All collected data will be transcribed and analysed to see if there are any common themes. All data will be anonymised, removing all personal information, so that you will not be identifiable. If after the interview you change your mind about participating, you can choose for the audio recording and transcript to be destroyed or returned to you immediately.

Are there any risks?

We do not think that there are any risks to you in taking part in the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Information from this study will provide guidance for NHS Trusts on how to facilitate successful implementation and integration of robotic surgery and guidance for operating theatre teams on how to ensure effective teamwork when undertaking robotic surgery.

Will the information I give stay confidential?

Yes. All data will be treated in confidence. Participants in the research will not be identified by name in any publications. Quotations may be used in publications, but all personal information will be removed so that it is not possible to identify you. All information will be safely stored at the University of Leeds for ten years from the completion of the study, after which it will be disposed of securely. The information collected will only ever be used for research purposes.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of this study will be shared with other hospitals. They will also be presented at conferences and published in journals. A summary of the results of the study will be distributed to all staff members that participate in the research.

Who has funded and sponsored this research study?

This research has been funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Services and Delivery Research Programme. The sponsor is The University of Leeds. The Research Ethics Committee has reviewed this study.

If you have any questions or concerns or complaints please contact: the Principal Investigator Dr Rebecca Randell, telephone: [REDACTED], email: [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.