

The impact of robotic surgery on teamwork (Phase 2)

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 how communication and teamwork differ between laparoscopic and robotic surgery and how operating theatre teams manage those differences. For this reason, we are requesting to observe and video record laparoscopic and/or robotic operations that you are involved in and to interview you about your experience of robotic surgery. The aim is not to assess your work practices, but to understand differences in teamwork between laparoscopic and robotic operations. A total of 40 operations across 4 NHS Trusts will be observed as part of this study.

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 will be given this information sheet to keep. You will be asked to sign a consent form, but you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

- If you decide to withdraw from the study, data already collected would be retained and used in the study but no further data will be collected from you.
- You can also request that we stop recording an operation without withdrawing from the study as a whole.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, a maximum of ten operations that you are involved in will be observed by a researcher. The researcher will video record and make notes on the operation. We will do our best to ensure that the research does not interfere with your work. After the operation, we will ask you to fill in a brief questionnaire which will only take a few minutes to complete. If time allows (and you give your consent), the researcher may ask you a few questions about the operation. This will take about 10 minutes. The interview will be audio recorded.

The interviews and extracts of the videos will be transcribed. These and the researcher's notes from the operation will be analysed to see if there are any common themes.

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 to 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. All information will be safely stored at the University of Leeds and King's College London for a period of 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 and teaching purposes. All uses for commercial or other purposes are prohibited.

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. Video images or short clips may be used for illustrative purposes in presentations, publications, and training materials. We would like to be able to use these images and clips without using techniques to anonymise the data (such as purposefully blurring the face). This is because using these techniques will limit our ability to illustrate behaviours (such as eye contact and visual attention) that are important when studying teamwork. However, if you do not agree to this, we will always ensure that you cannot be identified in the images and clips that we use. 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.