



BAHAMAS

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PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL (NASSAU) DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY – PERFORMS THE FIRST SINGLE INCISION LAPAROSCOPIC ANTERIOR RESECTION OF THE RECTUM IN THE REGION



The Department of Surgery at the Princess Margaret Hospital and the University of the West Indies recently staged a workshop on March 17th and 18th respectively which featured the latest techniques in laparoscopic surgery.

The objectives of the workshop were to promote single incision laparoscopic surgery or scarless surgery in the region. Organizer of the workshop, Dr. Wesley Francis, Consultant Surgical Oncologist at PMH, invited **Professor Giovanni Dapri** from Brussels Belgium who is a pioneer in the field, and Dr. Shamir Cawich from Trinidad who has promoted the technique in the Caribbean.

Dr. Francis who is also the lead surgeon for the Hyper-thermic Intra-Peritoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC) procedure at PMH said laparoscopic procedures are becoming the norm with most surgical interventions being done today. *“Laparoscopy uses small incisions to reduce the trauma to the abdominal organs, and this leads to less pain and a faster recovery for patients versus traditional surgery methods. Laparoscopy has also advanced to scarless surgery where even smaller incisions are used to treat common surgical problems this is known as Single Incision Laparoscopy or SILS,”* Francis said.

The workshop which spanned two days consisted of lectures demonstrating the use of the technique and its benefits. These lectures were held at Public Hospitals Authority's corporate office. Video-conferencing linked participants from Freeport, Jamaica and Barbados. The workshop also involved three live surgical procedures, including a SILS *cholecystectomy* (gallbladder surgery) and a SILS *right hemicolectomy*, which were done at PMH and broadcasts via video-conferencing to Freeport, Jamaica and Barbados with real time interaction between participants across the region. It marked the first time any such event has taken place in the region. This event show cased the technological capacity of the Princess Margaret Hospital as a leader in the region in the

advancement of surgical education. One of the procedures, the SILS-Anterior Rectal Resection, was performed for the first time in the region during the workshop. The course was accredited by the Bahamas Medical Council for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.

The promotion of laparoscopy surgery at the Princess Margaret Hospital is designed to increase significant benefits to patients, as they recover quicker and are able to return to their normal way of life.

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MEDIA INFO:

Corporate Communications
Public Hospitals Authority

Tele: + 1.242.502.3228/1.242.502.3262
Mobile: + 1.242.376.3760/1.242.376.1883