



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

University to Conduct Course on Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

A practical course on laparoscopic cholecystectomy organized by the Department of Surgery of The Chinese University of Hong Kong will be held from September 3 to 6 at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is a revolutionary technique for removing the gall bladder in patients with gall stone disease. Instead of cutting the abdomen open, the operation is performed through tiny puncture holes, with an image conducted by a television camera introduced through the umbilicus at the start of the operation. Compared with conventional surgery, laparoscopic cholecystectomy leads to much less pain, a shortened convalescence and minimal scarring. Because of its obvious advantages, laparoscopic cholecystectomy has become the treatment of choice for most patients with gall stones.

The Department of Surgery of the Chinese University has been one of the pioneers of this new technique. The first laparoscopic cholecystectomy in Hong Kong was performed by the team of doctors of the Surgery Department in June last year. Since then more than 100 patients have been successfully treated by this method at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Most of the patients have stayed in hospital for one to two days after the surgery and would return to work within a week.

Although the basic steps in removing the gall bladder are the same whether the operation is open or laparoscopic, the new operation requires complex instruments. The surgeon is also required to master a different set of manual skills. There is increasing demand from surgeons in Hong Kong and overseas to be trained in this new technique. In order to rapidly disseminate the skills and experience to the benefit of more patients, the Department of Surgery has decided to hold a course for surgeons who desire training in laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

The course is designed for experienced general surgeons who wish to start a programme of laparoscopic surgery at their own hospitals. The course will be conducted by the doctors of the Surgery Department and the Prince of Wales Hospital. More than 50 local and overseas surgeons will attend the course. The response to the course has been overwhelming and oversubscribed as they recognize this to be a major course conducted in Hong Kong by Hong Kong surgeons. The course will include a symposium on laparoscopic surgery, live close-circuit TV transmission of operation procedures, hands-on training on simulators and animal surgery on pigs. It is hoped that the course will provide the participants with sufficient practical exposure to make it easier for them to set up a service at their hospitals.

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