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Press Release

‘Wii’ technology robot camera is good news for patients

Since July Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust urology consultant surgeon Mr John Donohue has been trialling a revolutionary new robotic camera while he performs laparoscopic (‘keyhole’) surgery for the treatment of prostate cancer.

Now he’s so impressed by how it helps him to perform better as he carries out the precise and delicate operations that the trust is buying the £10,000 equipment on his recommendation.

“It’s a really great piece of kit,” he said. “It’s similar to Wii wireless games technology in that I control it through a headset. The camera goes exactly where I want it to, steering through the patient’s abdomen precisely and effectively.

“There’s no shake at all, and I can see with complete clarity what I need to see, which makes my job much easier and means a better outcome for patients. Laparoscopic surgery already brings fantastic benefits to patients – people are generally well enough to go home the day after their operation, and there are far fewer post-operative complications.

“That could make the difference between having full continence, for example, or being able to resume a normal sex life, both of which are much more likely after laparoscopic surgery than the traditional method. This robot camera helps me provide an even better service for my patients.”

The device is very new – it won the prestigious American Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons Innovations of the Year Award in 2008. Now, uniquely in the South East, MTW patients are benefiting from it.

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