

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***LESS* surgery – Laparo-Endoscopic Single-Site surgery**

#### **A new horizon in minimally invasive surgery?**

Prague, 18 June 2009. At this year's Congress of the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) in Prague, Olympus Medical Systems Europa GmbH demonstrated impressively that minimally invasive surgery is entering a new dimension: during the Olympus symposium, attendees learnt that Laparo-Endoscopic Single-Site surgery (*LESS*) – a technique enabling surgeons to perform complicated procedures through a single incision – can offer great advantages in the field of general surgery. Olympus not only invited international surgeons to listen to reports by leading experts on the most recent developments in *LESS* surgery, but also to witness *LESS* surgery live. Professor Abe Fingerhut, Poissy, France, and Professor Philippe Morel, Geneva, Switzerland, hosted the symposium and presented the live surgery on a large screen in the main auditorium. Together with the other speakers, they shared their insights into this promising technology and explained how the special instruments required to perform laparoscopy through a single umbilical incision are used. Not only can *LESS* surgery improve post-operative cosmesis, but the experts anticipate that it will lower complications caused by injury to inner organs, infections and post-operative hernias. The live surgery session performed by Dr Pascal Bucher, Geneva, Switzerland, impressively illustrated the feasibility of a complex surgical procedure performed through the umbilicus as the only entry.

**The audience were riveted by the live event which has inspired them to perform *LESS* surgery on their own. The future of *LESS* surgery as an advanced laparoscopic procedure seems promising – throughout the entire event the consensus was that *LESS* surgery will open up new horizons in minimally invasive surgery.**

*LESS* surgery, an advancement on conventional laparoscopy, is currently one of the most promising minimal surgical techniques. Whilst contemporary laparoscopic interventions require several cuts in the abdominal wall – usually between 3 and 5 incisions – *LESS* surgery enables surgeons to perform complicated procedures through a single incision. Beyond the obvious cosmetic advantages, surgeons are hoping that, with less invasive procedures, they will be able to offer their patients benefits that include reduced morbidity and faster recovery times. Questionnaires personally administered by the lecturing surgeons have shown that there is great interest and demand on the part of patients for new, more gentle operative methods. One survey conducted at Geneva University Hospital in Switzerland revealed that around 90 per cent of those questioned would prefer *LESS* surgery over conventional laparoscopy or NOTES<sup>1</sup>.

### **Indications in general surgery – huge potential for *LESS* procedures**

The last few years have seen the number of *LESS* procedures performed in urology, gynaecology and general surgery surge into the thousands. Presently, the discipline of general surgery appears to hold the greatest potential in terms of future indications for *LESS* surgery.

The number of case reports in the field of general surgery is increasing by the day. To date, innumerable examples of indications for *LESS* surgery have emerged from the field of general surgery, starting with standard

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<sup>1</sup> NOTES = Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery

procedures like cholecystectomies. As experience in *LESS* surgery rises, so, too, does the number of indications for *LESS* procedures.

## ***LESS* surgery – the evidence is promising**

The speakers at the symposium are among the most experienced practitioners of *LESS* surgery in the field of general surgery.

Surgeons like Professor Morel and Dr Pascal Bucher from Geneva University Hospital, Switzerland, have performed over 160 *LESS* procedures. All interventions were completed successfully without any notable complications. The procedures covered a broad range, from cholecystectomies and appendectomies to various types of colectomies. The other lecturers, Dr Roberto Tacchino (Rome, Italy), Professor Alex Rosemurgy (Tampa, USA), Dr Ronald Raakow (Berlin, Germany) and Dr Paras Jethwa (Redhill, UK) also reported on their wealth of experience gained in *LESS* surgery and discussed them with members of the audience.

## **Technological advances determine progress in *LESS* surgery**

As the symposium progressed, it became clear that the successful breakthrough of *LESS* surgery would not have been possible without advances in technology. The key to *LESS* surgery is the TriPort from Olympus. The TriPort is a multichannel port that has enabled surgeons for the first time to pass three instruments into the patient's abdomen simultaneously through one small incision.

Soon, Olympus will be expanding its product range with the QuadPort, which allows not just three but four instruments to share a single entry point.

Alongside its multichannel ports, Olympus supplies the complete product range needed for *LESS* surgery, including items such as the unique 5-mm deflectable EndoEYE and various hand instruments.

To facilitate surgeons' work during *LESS* procedures and enable them to perform more complicated operations, it is still necessary to modify and streamline existing, conventional minimally invasive surgical devices like optics and hand instruments.

As a manufacturer committed to leveraging research into progress, Olympus is continually working on the development of innovative instruments. By the end of this year, they envision the roll-out of curved hand instruments that will give surgeons even more freedom of movement and flexibility during surgery.

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