UK FIRST ROBOTIC-ASSISTED DAY CASE SURGERY PROGRAMME

OXFORD, UK, 30 September 2024 - The UK's first robotic-assisted day case surgery programme has launched at Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust (PHU) to demonstrate how da Vinci surgical systems can be harnessed to improve patient outcomes and support sustainable productivity improvements in the NHS.

Surgeons have already performed more than 400 day case robotic procedures across multiple surgical specialties on a da Vinci Xi dual console surgical system. The system is installed in the Day Surgery Unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital (QA), which is dedicated solely to day case procedures.

Whilst examples of robotic-assisted day case surgery exist in some hospitals across the NHS, this is the UK's first programme to have a dedicated da Vinci system based in a day surgery unit, creating increased capacity for surgeons to treat patients with a wider range of conditions with robotic-assisted surgery.

Clinicians at PHU are undertaking a study to assess the impact of this on patient outcomes, productivity and efficiency across the hospital over the course of the next three years, and hope that once published, the findings could inform a blueprint for a wider roll-out of robotic-assisted surgery in day case settings across the NHS.

Professor Jim Khan, Consultant Surgeon at Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, and Chief Investigator of the study said: "We have already proven that robotic-assisted surgery using the da Vinci systems can deliver better outcomes for patients when used in our main hospital theatres for cancer and complex benign procedures. We believe that if we apply the use of this technology to our day surgery practice, robotic-assisted surgery could enable us to treat more patients, across more specialties, whilst providing a valuable resource for safe training of surgeons and theatre staff, as well as improve productivity across the wider hospital. This is the concept we're evaluating in this study."

Mr Stuart Mercer, Clinical Director, and Consultant Surgeon at Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust who is leading the programme said: "We're delighted to continue to build on the strong foundations of our multi-specialty robotics programme by bringing robotic-assisted surgery using da Vinci technology to the new environment of the Day Surgery Unit.

"This dedicated programme has allowed us to design workforce and workflow around the da Vinci surgical system, so that we can truly explore the impact that this innovative technology can have for patients, hospitals and the NHS if applied in a day case setting."

The first phase of the three-year programme has already seen all existing keyhole day case surgery at QA being converted to robotic-assisted surgery.

The programme will now expand to convert a proportion of current in-patient robotic procedures to day cases with a 23-hour hospital stay and remote monitoring.

Until now, the use of available robotic-assisted surgical systems has been prioritised by the NHS for malignant procedures, limiting clinical access to systems for simpler or complex benign procedures.

David Marante, Vice President of Intuitive UK & Ireland, makers of the da Vinci surgical system said: "It's an honour to work collaboratively and support the care teams

at Portsmouth in expanding their da Vinci programme into the day surgery unit to demonstrate the value of da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery in helping to improve patient outcomes, increasing productivity and therefore lowering the total cost of care in the outpatient setting in the NHS."

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Notes to editors

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About robotic-assisted surgery

Robotic-assisted surgery is a form of minimally invasive surgery in which surgeons use robotic-assisted surgical systems to perform delicate and complex operations through a few small incisions, using instruments attached to the arms of the surgical system. Surgeons have total control of the system's movements.

By providing surgeons with enhanced visualisation, dexterity, precision and ergonomics, da Vinci robotic-assisted surgical systems help surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures across a range of surgical specialties, including urology, gynaecology, colorectal, thoracic, and abdominal or general surgery.

About Intuitive

Intuitive (Nasdaq: ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, is a global leader in minimally invasive care and the pioneer of robotic surgery. Our technologies include the da Vinci surgical system and the Ion endoluminal system. By uniting advanced systems, progressive learning, and value-enhancing services, we help physicians, and their teams optimize care delivery to support the best outcomes possible. At Intuitive, we envision a future of care that is less invasive and profoundly better, where diseases are identified early and treated quickly, so patients can get back to what matters most.

For more information, please visit: https://www.intuitive.com/en-gb

About Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust is one of the largest acute hospital trusts in the country treating over half a million patients each year. The Trust is the second largest employer in Portsmouth. It is also a major provider of training and education to a wide range of health professionals.

The Trust provides comprehensive secondary care and specialist services to a local population of 675,000 people across South East Hampshire and provide many services to a wider catchment area in excess of two million people.

Most of its services are provided at Queen Alexandra Hospital, in Cosham, but it also offers a range of outpatient and diagnostic facilities closer to patients' homes in community hospital sites and at local treatment centres throughout South East Hampshire.

The hospital also hosts the country's largest Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit, Joint Hospitals Group South, treating current and former members of the armed forces and their families and training clinicians.

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