

# **Are you good enough for your patients ?**

## **The European certification model in gynaecological endoscopic surgery**

R. Campo, Y. Van Belle

European Academy of Gynaecological Surgery

### **Abstract**

Since the early 1990s, laparoscopic surgery has been implemented in nearly all surgical disciplines.

On one hand it offers the possibility to improve the surgical outcome and patient compliance but on the other hand it demands the surgical community to train and acquire specific skills.

In recent years it has been shown that performing endoscopic surgery without training and proper validation of the required psychomotor skills, is linked to increase in patient morbidity and mortality and also reduces the performance efficiency during the surgical procedures.

The apprentice-tutor model in the operating room (OR) has been successfully used in the training of surgeons for a long time. It is progressively becoming more accepted that endoscopic surgery should have an important training phase outside the operating theatre.

The innovative approach of the Gynaecological Endoscopic Surgical Education and Assessment (GESEA) programme lies in the fact that it has successfully defined a learning model outside the OR, that will provide a system of validating credentials of these skills prior to entering the clinical apprentice-tutor surgical training programme.

The programme consists of three stages; within each stage a skill certificate has to be acquired before entering the clinical programme for the corresponding diploma. The skill certificate is acquired after taking an exam which comprises of theoretical and validated practical tests. The programme provides universal accessible tutorials online and practical exercises with self-evaluation modules which can be used to prepare for the skill certificate.

There are three diplomas that can be awarded: (a) the Bachelor in Endoscopy (b) the Minimal Invasive Gynaecological Surgeon (MIGS)-and (c) the Master level. The master level provides two different types of diplomas: the Laparoscopic Pelvic Surgeon and the Master in Hysteroscopy.

To achieve these diplomas, the programme has identified specific surgical procedures which through continuous medical education can be developed professionally with credits and skills of the corresponding level.

The GESEA is a dynamic programme which is based on recent and relevant scientific knowledge and it can be considered as a major step towards standardization of endoscopic surgical training in general.

