13 November 2007

FACT SHEET

South East Asia’s First Fully Equipped Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Digital Interactive Operating Theatre (OT) In National University Hospital (NUH)
Reduced operating time allows 260 more patients to be treated earlier every year

1. National University Hospital’s Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre (MISC), set up in 1993 was one of the pioneer centres for minimally invasive surgery in the world. Over the years, it has established itself as a leading MISC for clinical care, education and research.

2. In October 2007, it achieved another milestone by launching a MIS OT equipped with a digital interactive system - to bring greater benefits to patients. For the first time, MIS resources are consolidated in a single location and the fully automated system eliminates the need to set up and dismantle equipment. The technology reduces procedure time for each patient by at least 20 minutes. This means patients can now have their MIS done earlier as the surgeon can perform more surgeries than before in a day; and advanced and difficult procedures can also be performed with more ease aided by the system.

3. The dedicated MIS Digital Interactive OT is an intelligent and ergonomically friendly system for patient safety. All equipment - from the diathermy machine, camera systems and so forth - are interfaced so that patient’s parameters (e.g. blood pressure) are continuously monitored on the screen. The single central control panel allows surgeons to effectively access the parameters with a touch of the screen. This enhanced efficiency enables surgeons and nurses to spend more time on direct patient care.

4. With the system’s image mix function which allows the use of other image sources, and the built-in self-diagnostics, the surgeon can now perform endoscopy and operation using one system instead of separate equipment or the need to transfer the patient to different suites. This further cuts down patient’s operation time.

5. The MIS Digital Interactive OT will be used as an international and regional training and education centre with emphasis on quality teaching, training and treatment protocols in MIS. Its highly integrated system and high definition images facilitate teaching and training amongst surgeons across the globe through live surgery teleconferencing, telemonitoring and teleproctoring.

6. We also aim to partner various agencies to establish it as an advanced centre for research & development of new devices and products, leveraging on its technological advancements and highly skilled surgeons.
Opening of University Surgical Centre (USC) on Thursday, 15 November, 2007

7. The MIS Digital Interactive OT is part of the NUH’s USC, which will be officially opened by our Minister of State for Health, Mr Heng Chee How on Thursday, 15 November 2007.

8. At the USC, a multi-specialty group provides a one-stop specialised care for all surgical conditions.
   - Paediatric Surgery
   - Breast Surgery
   - Cardiac, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery
   - Colorectal Surgery
   - Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery
   - Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
   - Thyroid & Endocrine Surgery
   - Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
   - Urology Surgery
   - Pelvic Floor Surgery
   - Neurology Surgery
   - Liver and Kidney transplants

9. It houses eight consultation rooms, two patient counseling rooms, two treatment rooms and one mini OT.

Patient’s Interview

10. One of our patients went through a MIS for his stage I stomach cancer in November 2007. The dedicated MIS system, with improved image resolution and sophisticated equipment, enabled the surgeon to perform the delicate and advanced procedure with greater ease and efficacy. A phone interview can be arranged with the patient if required.

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About National University Hospital

The National University Hospital (NUH), a member of the National Healthcare Group, is a specialist hospital that provides advanced, leading-edge medical care. Our unique position as a university hospital enables us to be at the forefront of clinical research, and to translate new knowledge into safe, advanced treatment options for our patients.
With state-of-the-art facilities and dedicated, well-trained staff, NUH is a major referral centre for specialist care including Cardiology, Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics and Orthopaedic Surgery.

In 2004, NUH became the first hospital in Singapore to be accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI), which is an international stamp for excellent clinical practices. It was also the first hospital to receive a triple ISO certification simultaneously for its Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems in 2002.