

## THE IMPACT OF A FORMAL MENTORING PROGRAM FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY ON SURGEON PRACTICE AND PATIENT OUTCOMES

Daniel W Birch, Al Hassan Asiri, Christopher J de Gara  
Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Purpose:** Canadian surgeons are in need of a process for safely introducing new procedures in minimally invasive surgery (MIS) into practice. Emerging evidence would suggest an effective strategy is the implementation of a mentorship program. This study analyzed the effect of mentoring on a single institution's advanced MIS practice.

**Methods:** We analyzed clinical outcomes by completing a retrospective review of patient charts 1 year before and after the recruitment of a fellowship trained advanced MIS surgeon whose job description included facilitating the introduction of advanced MIS.

**Results:** A total of 7 surgeons were mentored at one site. The outcomes of formal mentoring are:

	Pre-Mentoring	Mentoring	
MIS Surgeons Total / > 12 cases/yr	3 / 2	9 / 4	
Advanced MIS Cases Total / Excluding mentor	35 / -	155 / 102	
Mentored MIS Cases	0	53 (52%)	
Conversions	5 (14.3%)	10 (6.4%)	p=0.12
LOS (d)	5	5	
Intra-op Complications	6 (17.1%)	11 (7.1%)	p=0.06
All Colorectal Cases	20	105	p=0.0027
Resections	11 (55%)	92 (88%)	
OR time (min)	172	170	

**Conclusions:** Surgeons and the institutions in which they work have a duty to adopt advanced MIS techniques in a safe and appropriate manner. We believe our data demonstrate that a mentorship program is an effective strategy for safely introducing advanced MIS into practice.