



FOX CHASE CANCER CENTER- TEMPLE HEALTH

CASE STUDY: Minimally Invasive Surgical Systems





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Transforming MIS: Less Pain, Shorter Recoveries, Lower Costs, and Reduced Manpower

Choosing the right tools—the kind that can dramatically change lives for the better—was no easy task at Fox Chase Cancer Center. In minimally invasive surgeries (MIS), for example, the right technology can literally mean the difference between more or less pain, shorter or longer recovery times, and even life or death.

“The minimally invasive surgical market is filled with many different companies. There are a lot of people out there developing new products,” said Paul Curcillo, MD, Chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery at Fox Chase Cancer Center. “Fujifilm brings something truly new and innovative. They take chances and developed something breakthrough.”

Fox Chase—part of the Temple University Health System—treats every kind of cancer imaginable. The group recently set a goal to perform as many possible laparoscopic surgeries—or, surgeries with minimal invasion. But the surgical team knew they could not reach that goal alone. While there is no shortage of clinical expertise at Fox Chase, the team recognized that utilizing the right technology was just as important if it wanted to achieve successful MIS results.

“The industry needs to help us in terms of getting better visualization and better tools with which to operate,” said Stephanie King, MD, Gynecologic Oncologist at Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Enter Fujifilm’s Ultra-Slim Video Laparoscope System. The system and the needle scope are truly changing lives for both patients and physicians at Fox Chase. In fact, it has been used in over 100 procedures so far.

“The Fujifilm needle scope is a unique device and we’ve been able to apply it to just about every procedure we do,” said Curcillo. “It’s a great scope because of so many ideal features—the distal end is just 3 millimeters, there’s only one cord coming out the back, and because it is so compact, the surgeon’s hand does not get tired.”

Today, approximately 60% of surgeries performed by the Fox Chase gynecological oncology clinical team are done as minimally invasive surgeries—and Fujifilm technology is designed to make those procedures faster, easier and more satisfying for doctors and patients.

For example, the Fujifilm system with the ultra-slim needle scope is being used to accomplish a variety of benign procedures. Even more importantly, the group performs cancer surgeries such as hysterectomies for endometrial cancer, lymph node dissections, oophorectomies, and more.

Technology Designed to Change Lives for Patients and Surgeons

Fujifilm’s system provides an excellent camera and a detailed picture as the Fox Chase surgeons perform critical operations. Using a proprietary Super-Honeycomb CCD technology, the Fujifilm system delivers exceptional image resolution, excellent color fidelity, and sharp display quality.

“The clarity of the picture is much, much better than anything I have ever seen or used,” said King. “The 120 degree fish eye lens is just incredible. It gives you the widest angle—you can see everything.”

King notes that the technology makes her job easier because there is no need to switch out scopes with various lenses. “Anything that decreases instrument exchange or scope exchange decreases your operative time,” said King.

In addition, the Fox Chase surgical team is pleased with the fact that there is no fogging and the scope is self-cleaning.

One surgeon points out how the Fujifilm scope is changing her work and her patients’ lives. The ergonomic design means there is less stress and fatigue for her while performing critical procedures, and ultimately, the technology improves patient safety as well.

“The Fujifilm needle scope is lightweight, easy to manipulate, and it allows me to operate with or without an assistant,” said Jennifer Brown, MD, Gynecologic Oncologist at Fox Chase Cancer Center. “It makes laparoscopic surgery safer because the laparoscopic sites are smaller. It also allows me to have a better visualization of the operative field without a very large, bulky instrument.”

Reduced costs are another benefit. As the group has performed more laparoscopic surgeries, patients have required less post-operative stays, and in turn, there have been less hospital costs overall.

“The benefits of the Fujifilm system and needle scope are numerous,” said Curcillo. “There is reduced pain, smaller incisions, and shorter stay for patients. For us, there is reduced manpower in the OR and reduced costs overall. Together, we are creating a platform that is going to be the next step in surgery.”