

# Robotics: Merging of Surgical and Endoscopic Technologies

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Professor of Surgery

Washington University in St. Louis

Director, Robotic Surgery Program, BJC HealthCare

Director, WISE Simulation Center

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# Outline

Why Robotics?

Current State

Future Directions

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# Disclosures

## Educational Grants

- Applied Medical, Bard, Baxter, Ethicon, Intuitive, Medtronic, Stryker

## Consultant

- Ethicon, Intuitive, Medtronic

# Minimally Invasive Surgery

Fewer Incisions

Smaller Incisions

No Incisions



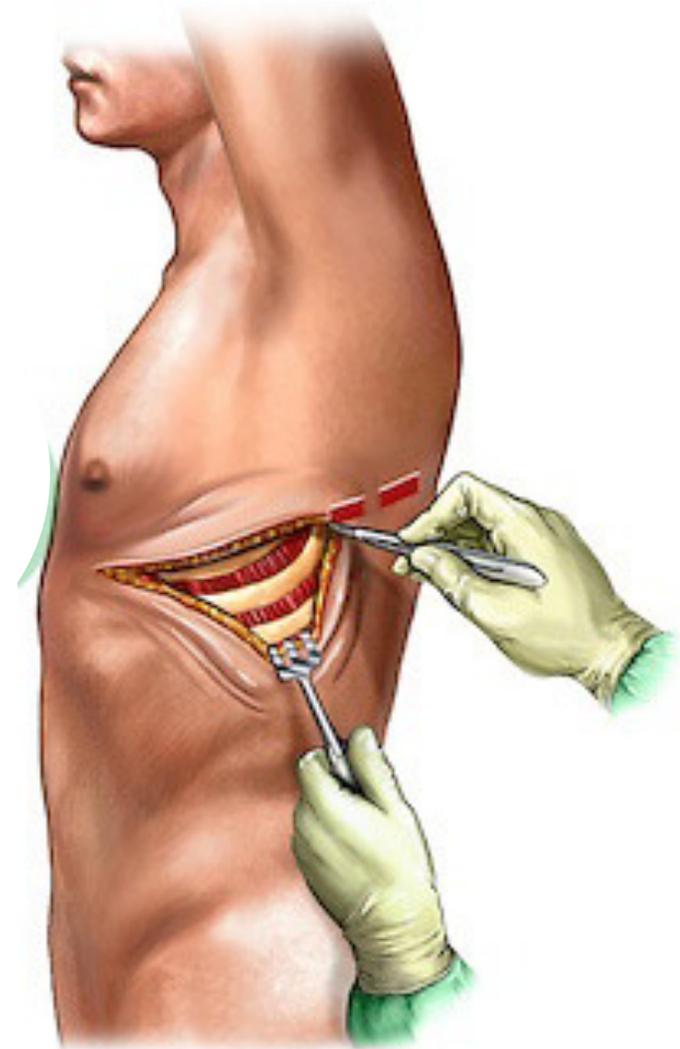
# Minimally Invasive Surgery

## **SURGICAL TREATMENT OF ACHALASIA**

Pre – 1991

Heller Myotomy

Thoracotomy



# Minimally Invasive Surgery

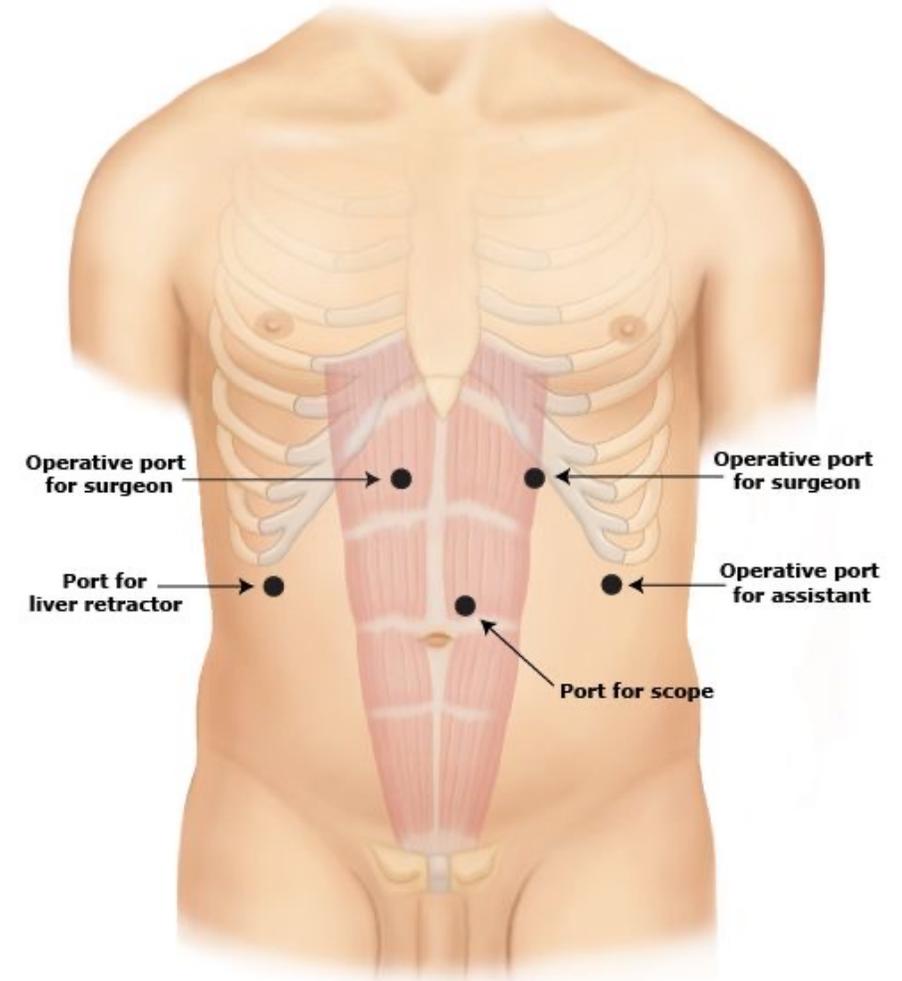
## SURGICAL TREATMENT OF ACHALASIA

↓ **PAIN**

↓ **MORBIDITY**

↑ **RECOVERY**

1991-present  
Laparoscopic  
Heller Myotomy

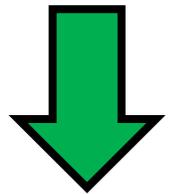


# Minimally Invasive Surgery

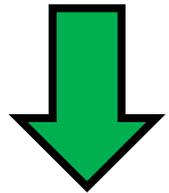
## SURGICAL TREATMENT OF ACHALASIA

## POEM Procedure

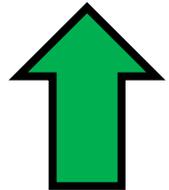
2009-present



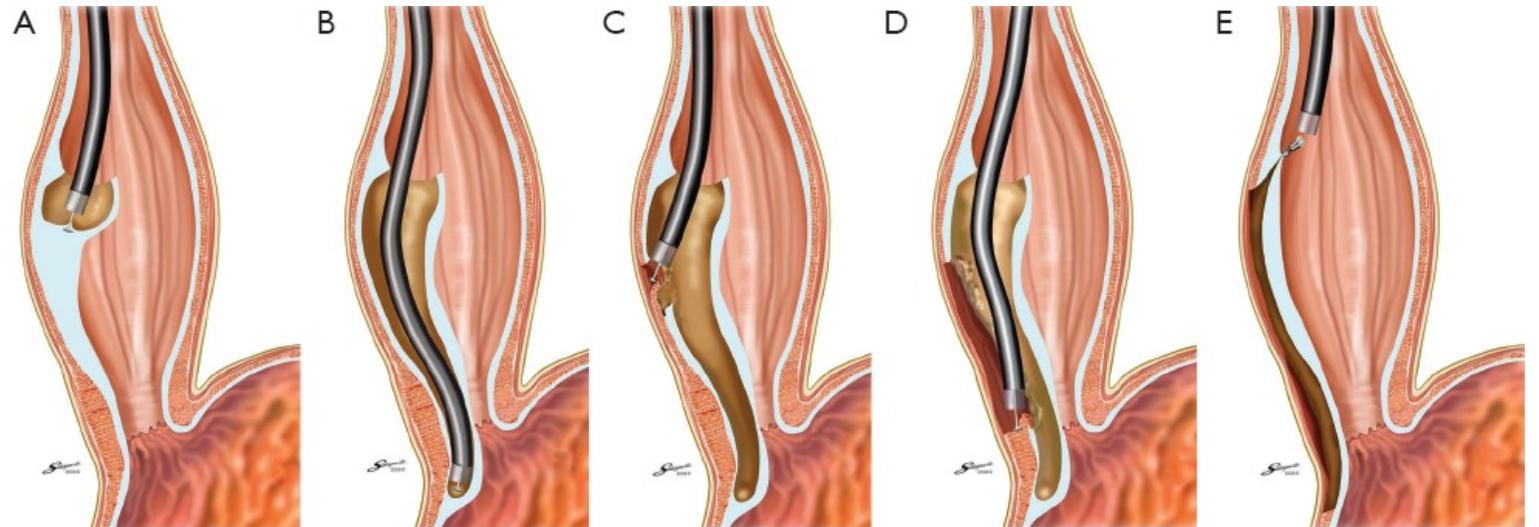
**PAIN**



**MORBIDITY**



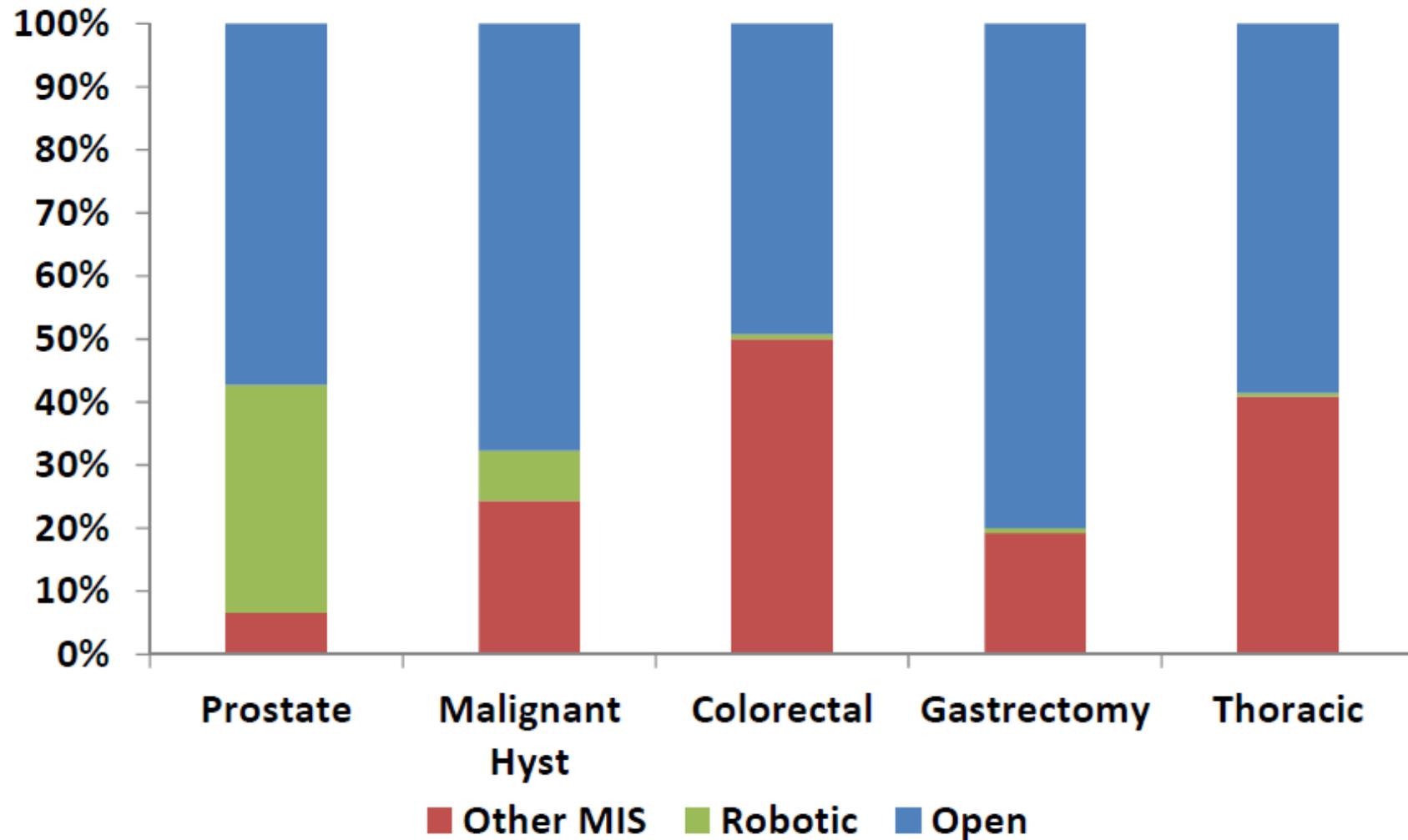
**RECOVERY**



# Minimally Invasive Surgery

**SOUNDS GREAT, BUT...**

# Penetration of Laparoscopy in World (2020)

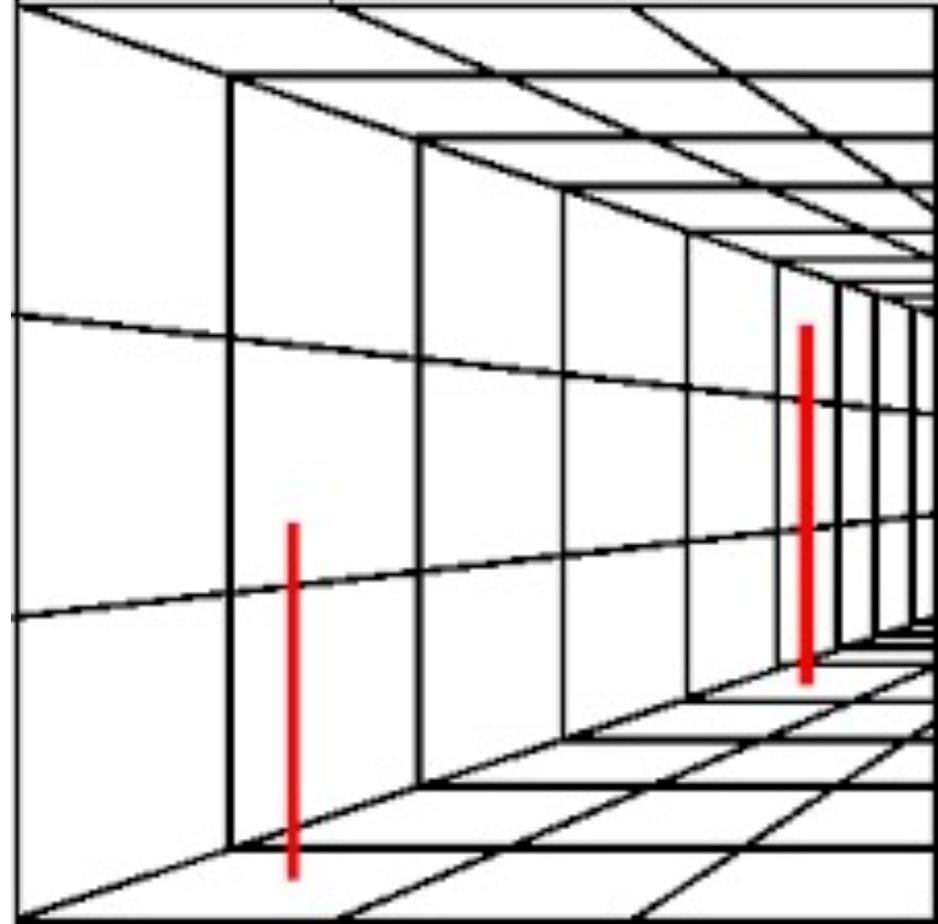


A close-up photograph of a minimally invasive surgical procedure. Several surgeons in blue scrubs and white gloves are using laparoscopic instruments. The instruments are inserted through small incisions in a patient's abdomen. The patient's skin is visible around the incision sites. The background is a sterile operating room environment.

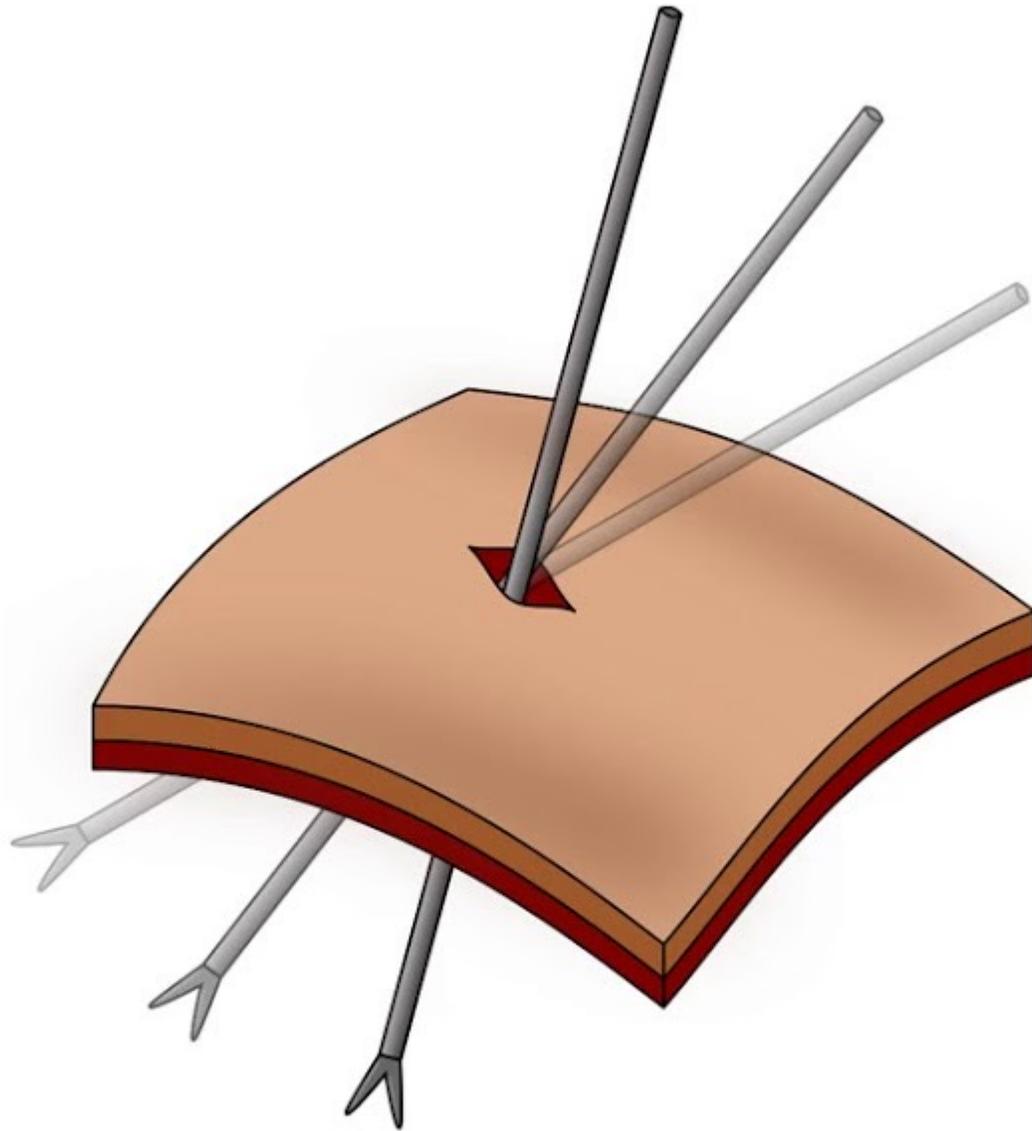
# Minimally Invasive Surgery

What makes it difficult?

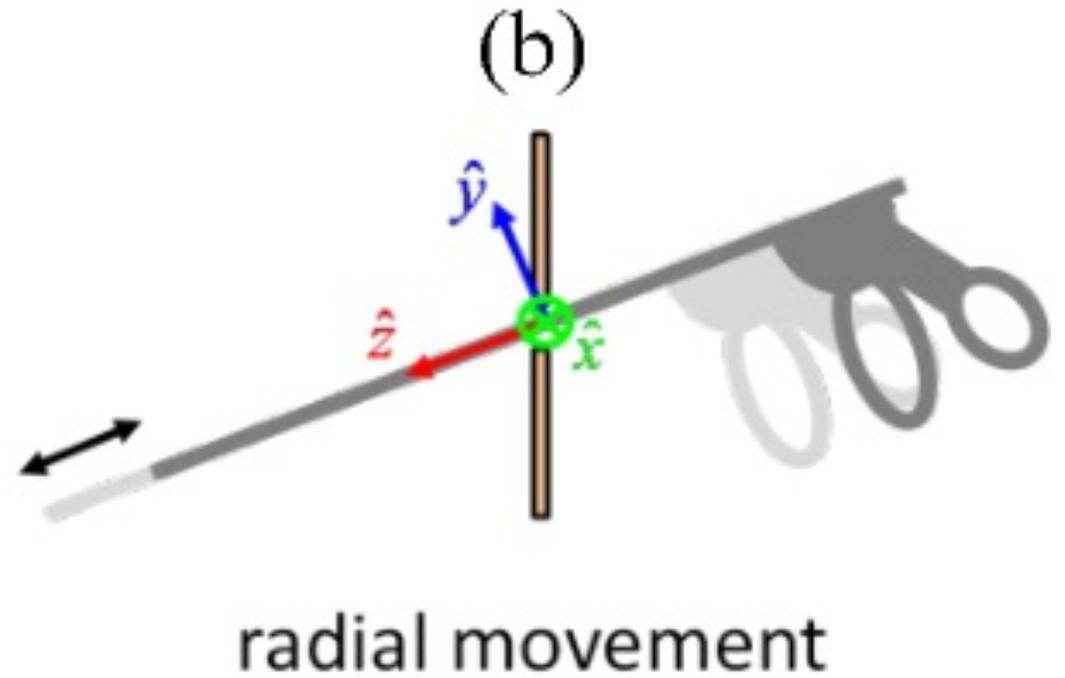
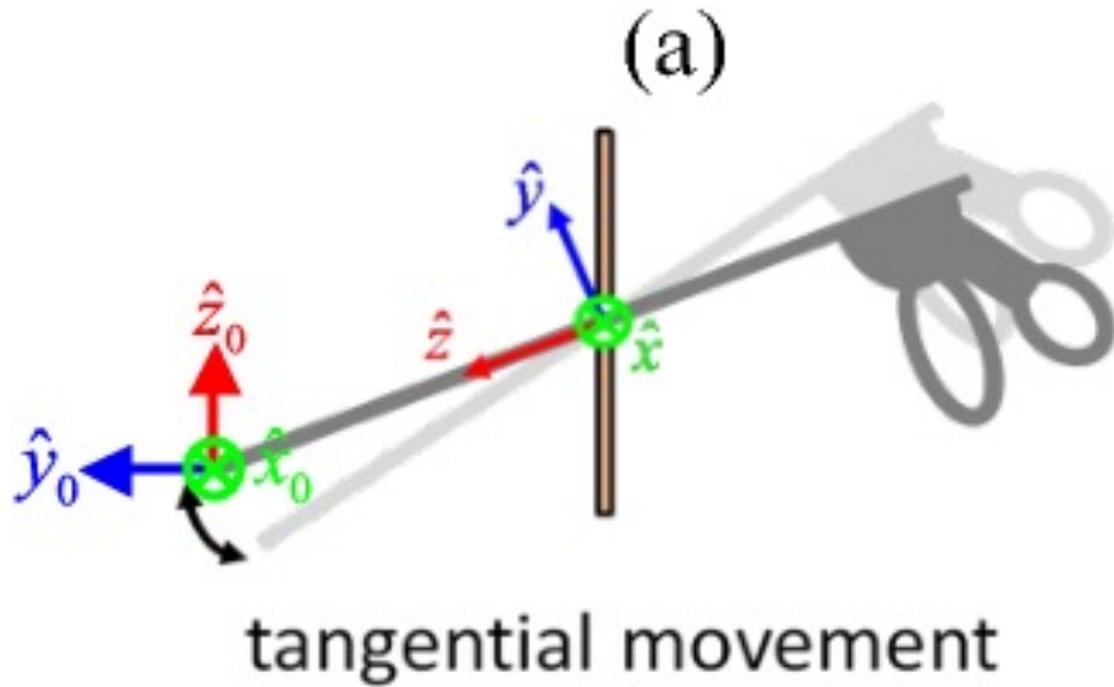
3D  $\rightarrow$  2D; Loss of Depth Perception



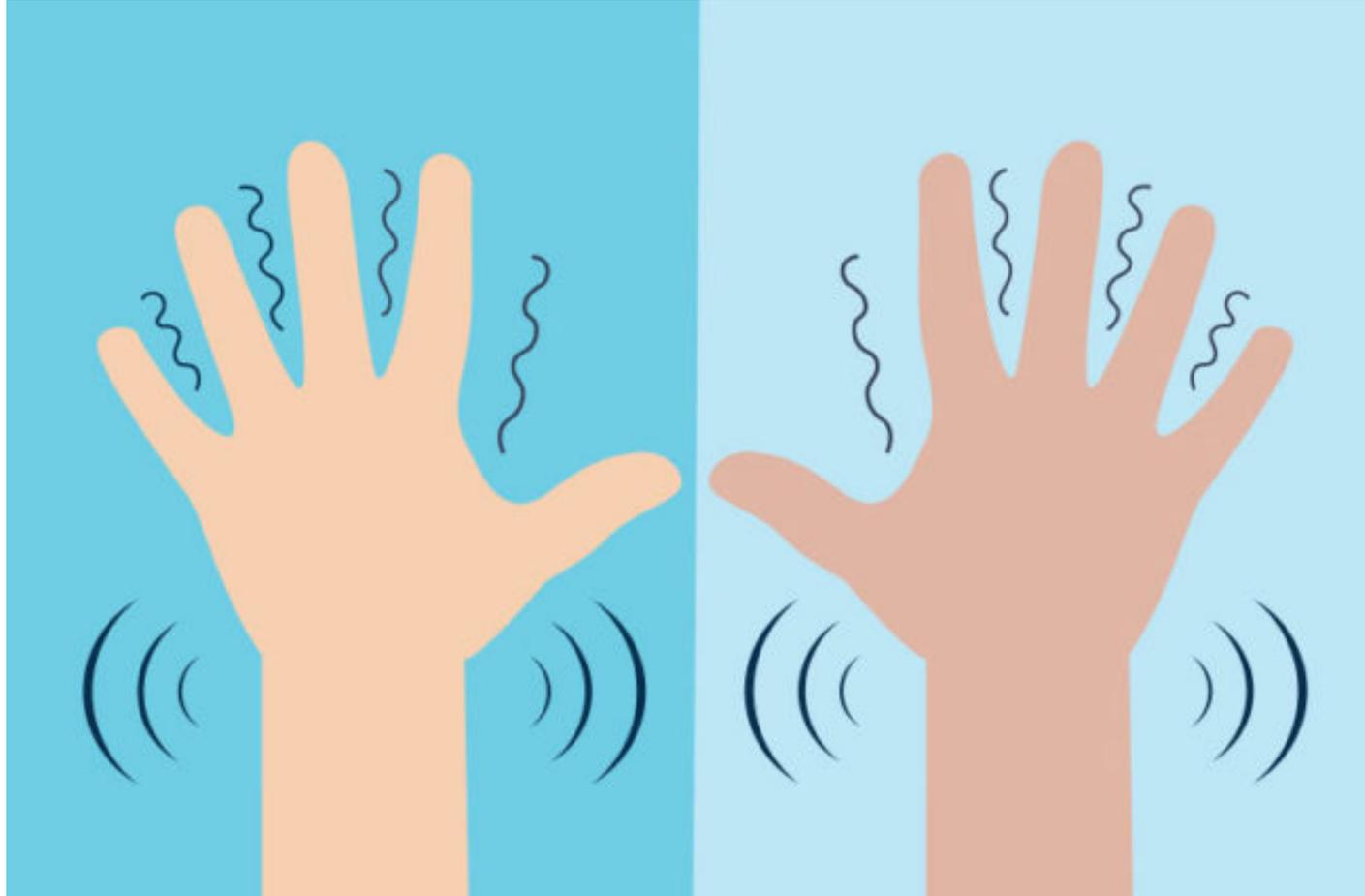
# Fulcrum Effect



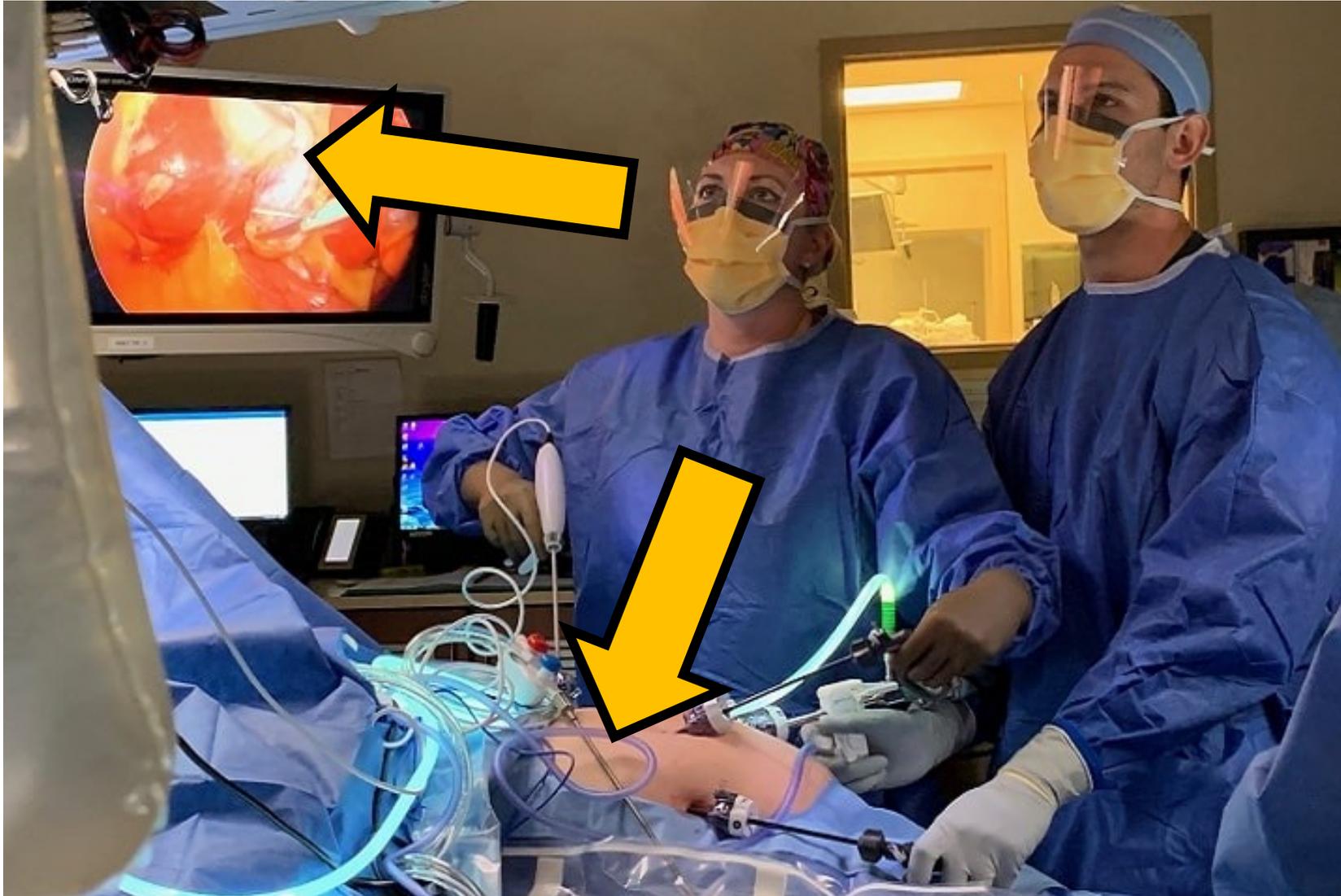
# 4 Degrees of Freedom



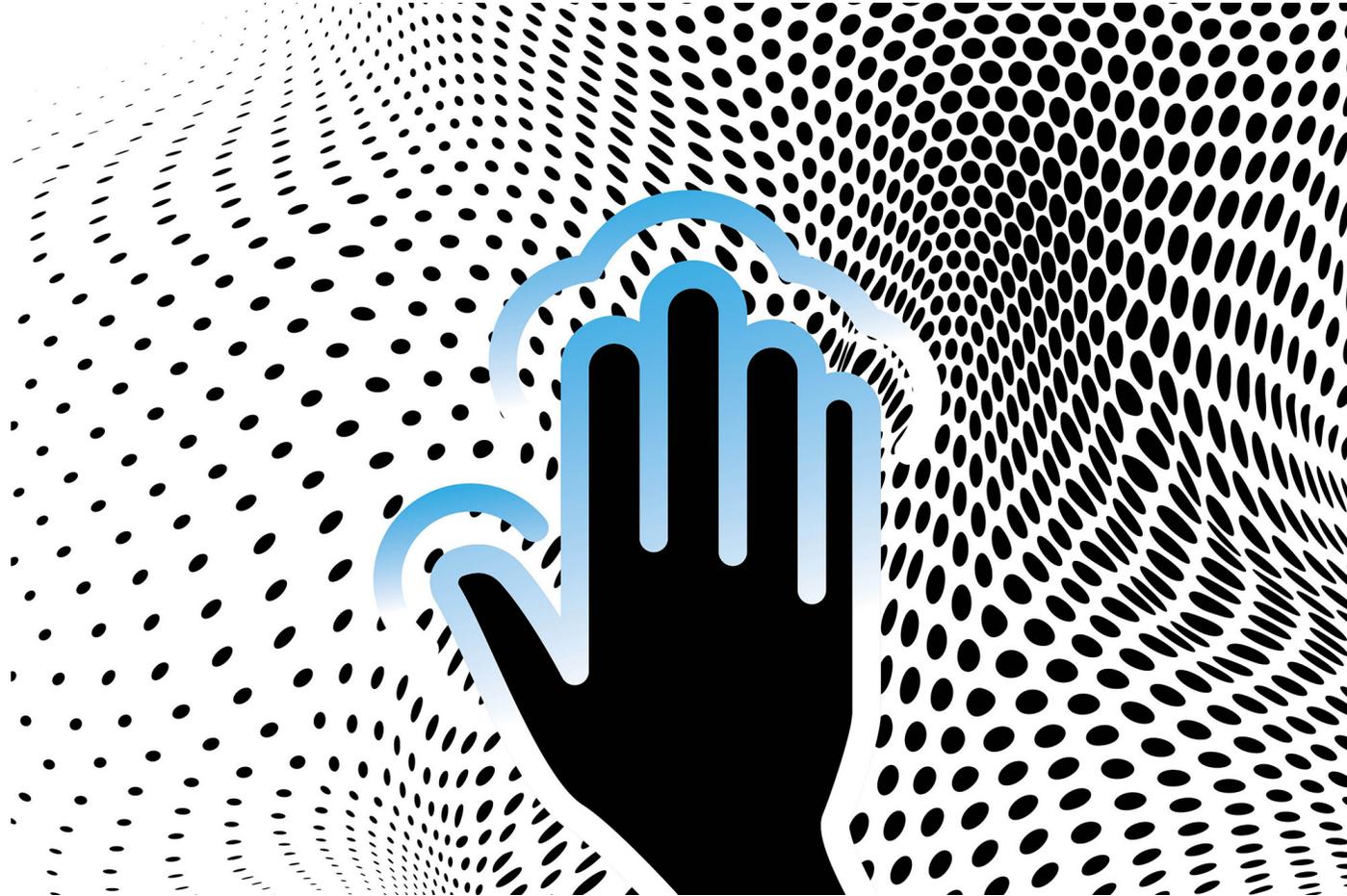
# Tremor Exaggeration



# Decoupling of Motor and Visual Axes



Loss of tactile sensation (“haptics”)



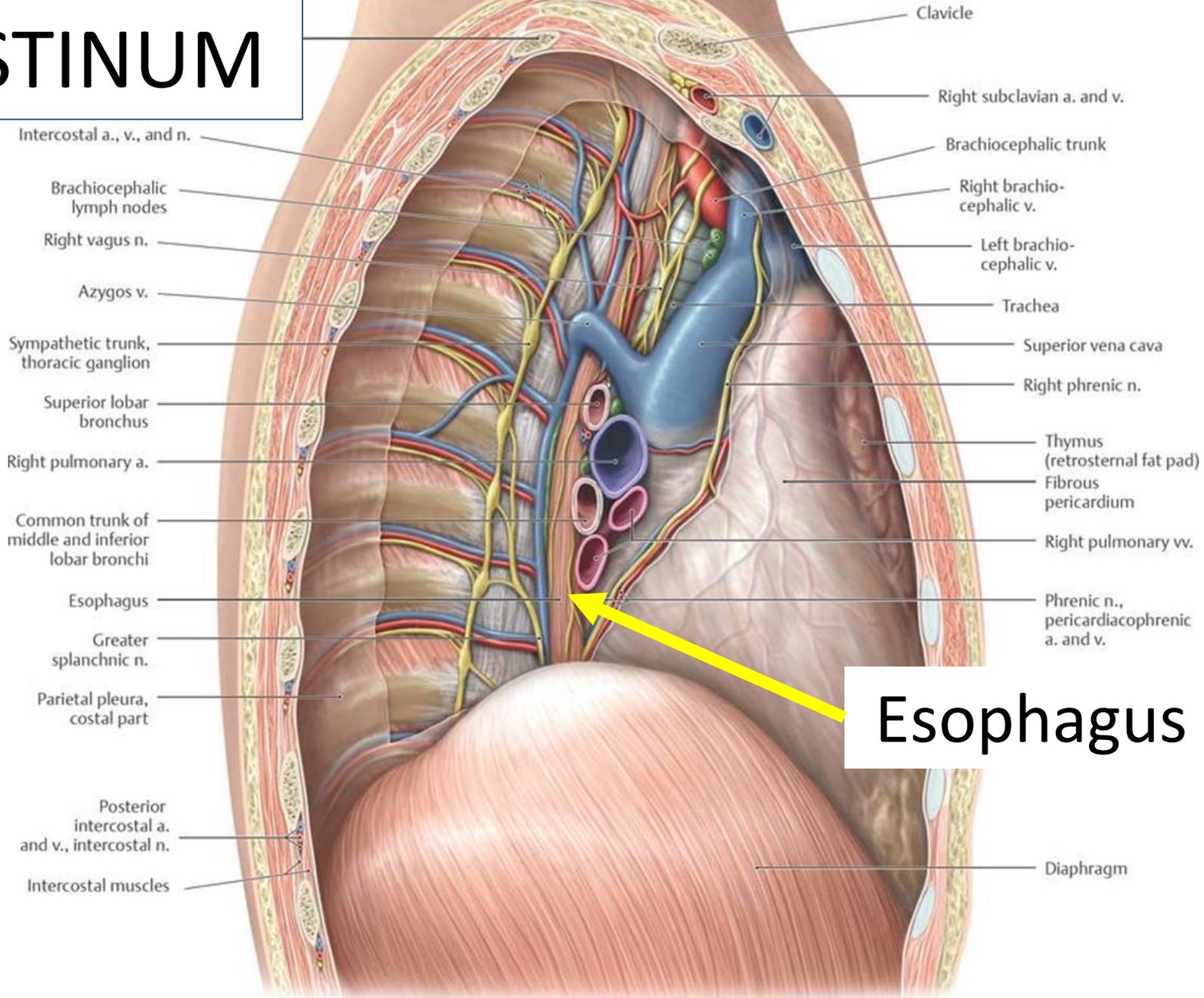


Camera not  
under surgeon's  
control



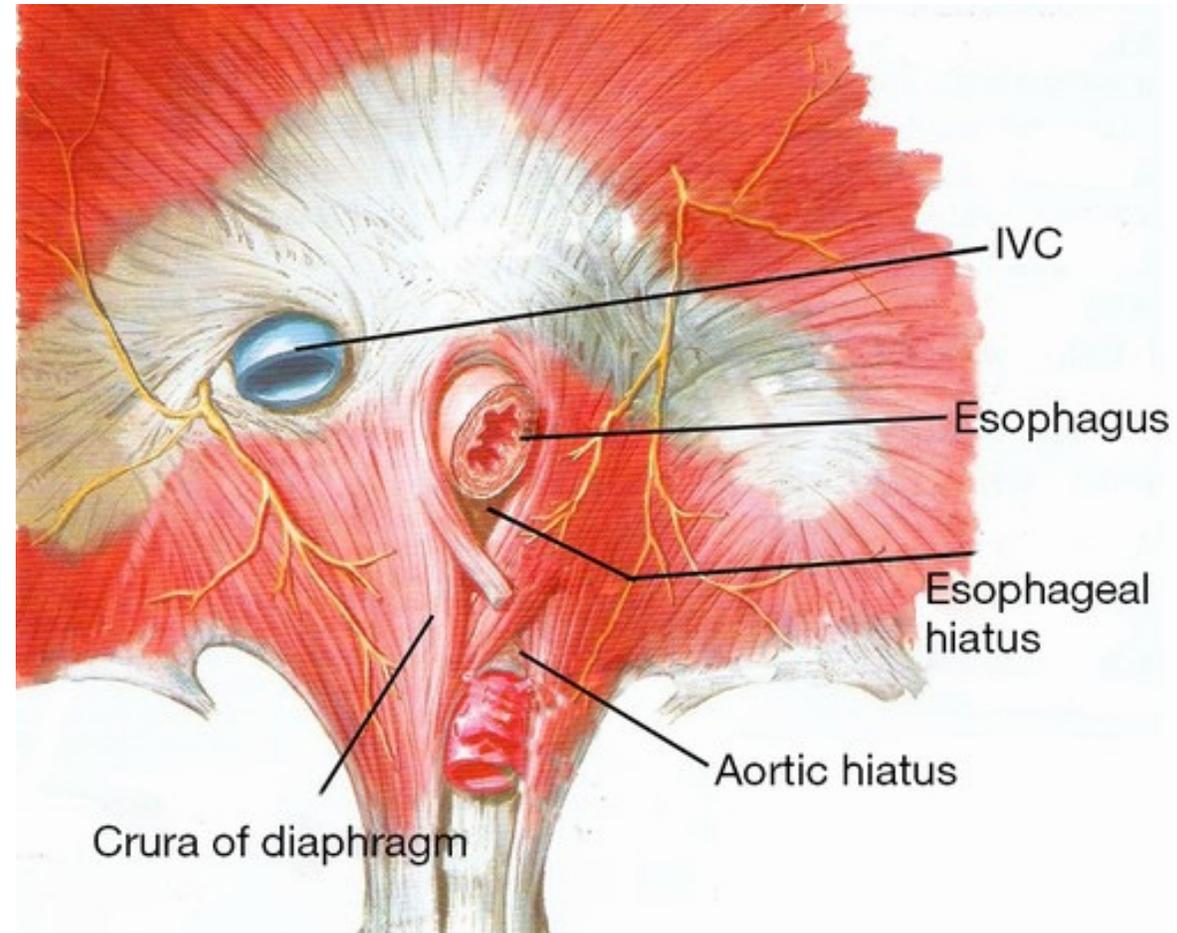
Static posture

# MEDIASTINUM



# Esophageal hiatus

1.5cm-2cm



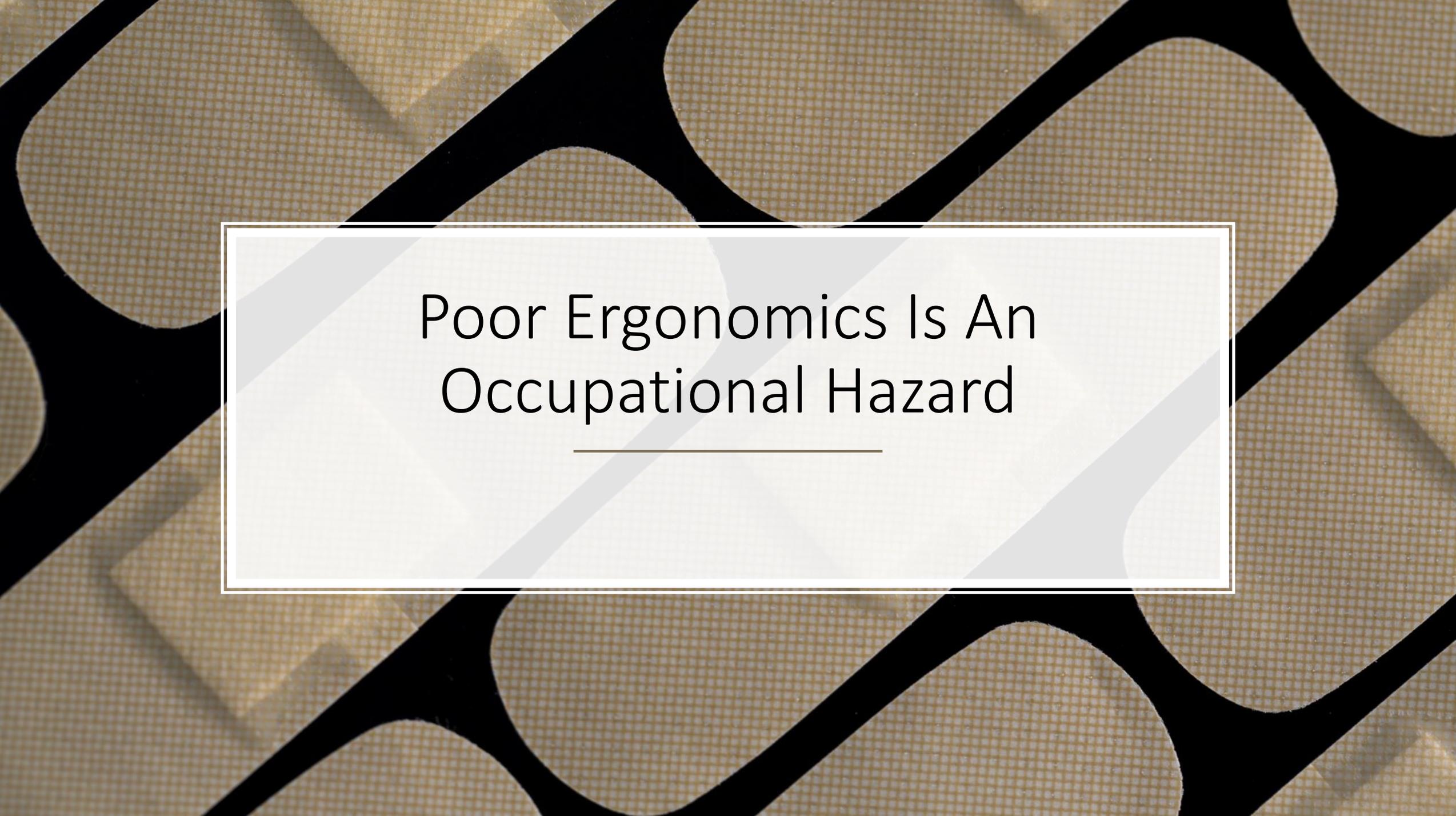






**PAIN**

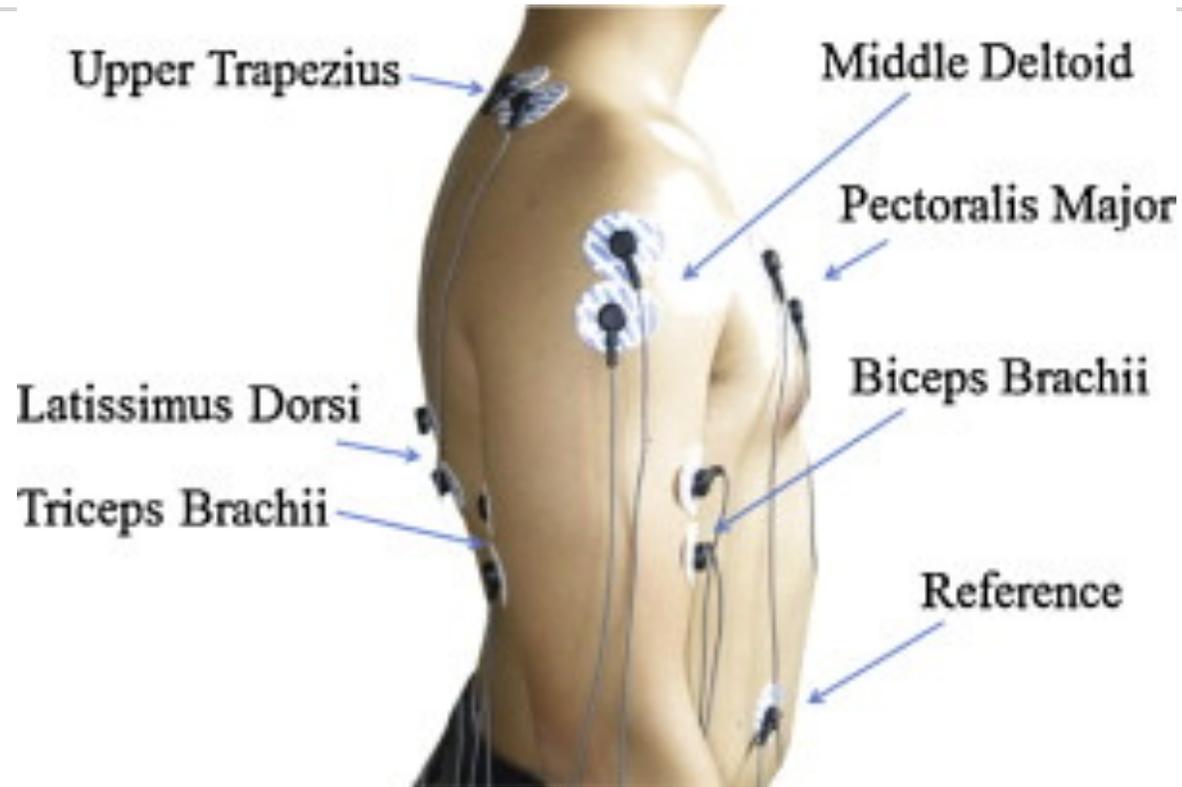




# Poor Ergonomics Is An Occupational Hazard

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# Awad Ergonomics Lab



## Objective

Surface electromyography (sEMG)



## Subjective

NASA Task Load Index (TLX)

Surg Endosc (2014) 28:2459–2465  
DOI 10.1007/s00464-014-3497-7

## FLS tasks can be used as an ergonomic between laparoscopic and robotic

Ahmed M.  
Jaime A. C.  
Michael M.

Obesity Surgery (2019) 29:1709–1713  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11695-019-03748-0>

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Effect of Patient Body Mass Index on Laparoscopic Surgical Ergonomics

Zhe Liang<sup>1</sup> · William D. Gerull<sup>1</sup> · Robert Wang<sup>2</sup> · Ahmed Zihni<sup>1</sup> · Shuddhadeb Ray<sup>1</sup> · Michael Awad<sup>1</sup>

Surg Endosc (2019) 29:1709–1713  
DOI 10.1007/s00464-019-03748-0  
Published online: 2 February 2019  
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## Ergonomic analysis of robot-assisted and traditional laparoscopic procedures

Ahmed M. Zihni · Ikechukwu Ohu · Jaime A. Cavallo ·  
Sohyung Cho · Michael M. Awad

Surg Endosc (2017) 31:3286–3290  
DOI 10.1007/s00464-016-5360-5

## Which causes more ergonomic stress: Lap surgery?

Robert Wang<sup>1</sup> · Zhe Liang<sup>1</sup> · Ahmed M. Zihni<sup>1</sup> · Shuddhadeb Ray<sup>1</sup> ·  
Michael M. Awad<sup>1</sup>



Surgical Endoscopy (2019) 33:1938–1943  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00464-018-6478-4>

## Ergonomic analysis of laparoscopic and robotic surgical task performance at various experience levels

George G. Zárate Rodríguez<sup>1</sup> · Ahmed M. Zihni<sup>2</sup> · Ikechukwu Ohu<sup>3</sup> · Jaime A. Cavallo<sup>4</sup> · Shuddhadeb Ray<sup>1</sup> ·  
Sohyung Cho<sup>5</sup> · Michael M. Awad<sup>1</sup>

Received: 30 August 2018 / Accepted: 11 October 2018 / Published online: 22 October 2018  
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Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

ScienceDirect

journal homepage: [www.JournalofSurgicalResearch.com](http://www.JournalofSurgicalResearch.com)

## Ergonomic analysis of primary and assistant surgical roles

Ahmed M. Zihni, MD, MPH,<sup>a,\*</sup> Jaime A. Cavallo, MD, MPHS,<sup>a</sup>  
Shuddhadeb Ray, MD, MPHS,<sup>a</sup> Ikechukwu Ohu, MS,<sup>b</sup> Sohyung Cho, PhD,<sup>b</sup>  
and Michael M. Awad, MD, PhD, FACS<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Surgery, Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis,  
Missouri

<sup>b</sup>Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville,  
Illinois



# Comparison Groups

## Procedure

- Open
- Laparoscopic
- Robotic
- Endoscopic

## Provider

- Level of training
- Specialty area
- Hand size

## Patient

- BMI
- Prior Surgery



## Advanced Endoscopic Procedures Can Also Be Difficult

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Endoscope was initially designed as a diagnostic tool

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Limited degrees of freedom

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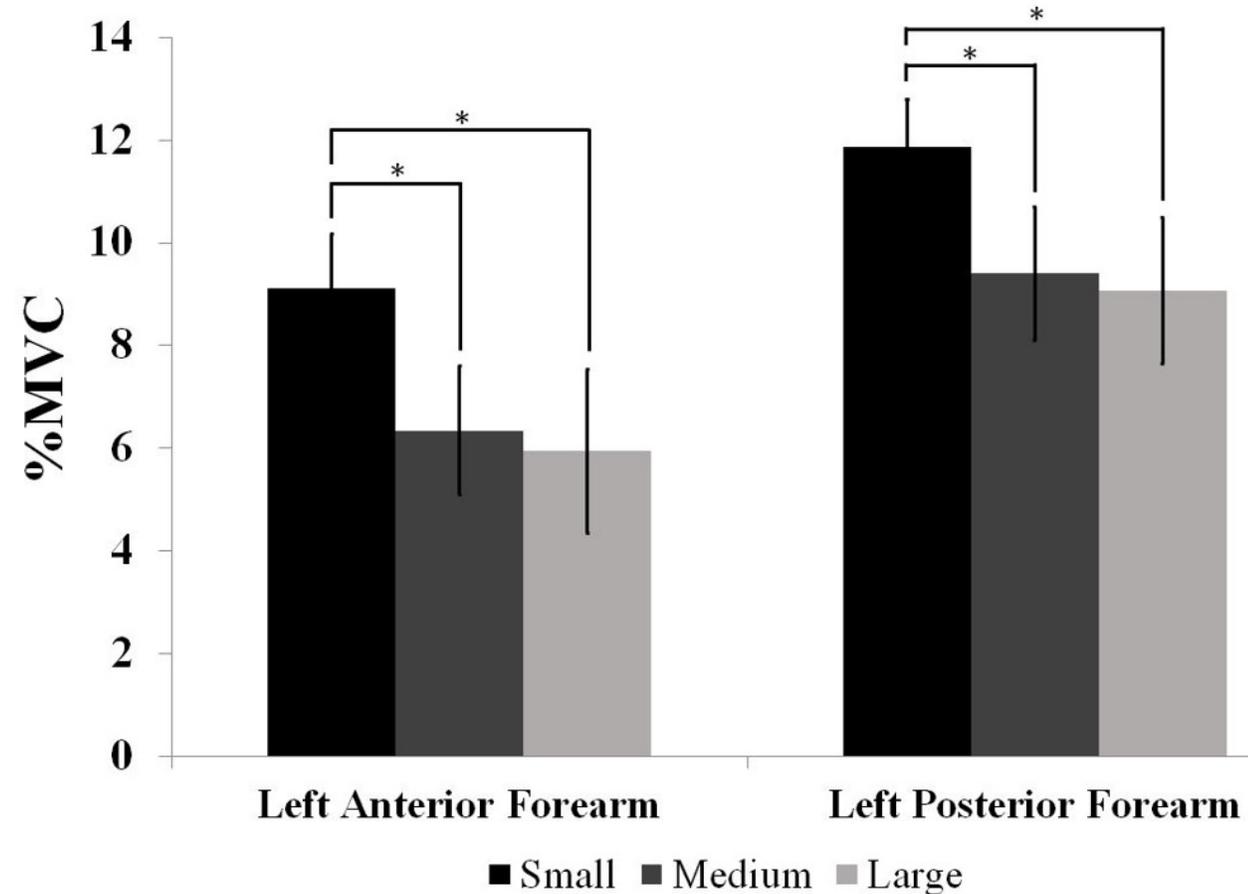
Scope and therapeutic instruments are aligned in the same axis

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Dials present ergonomic challenges

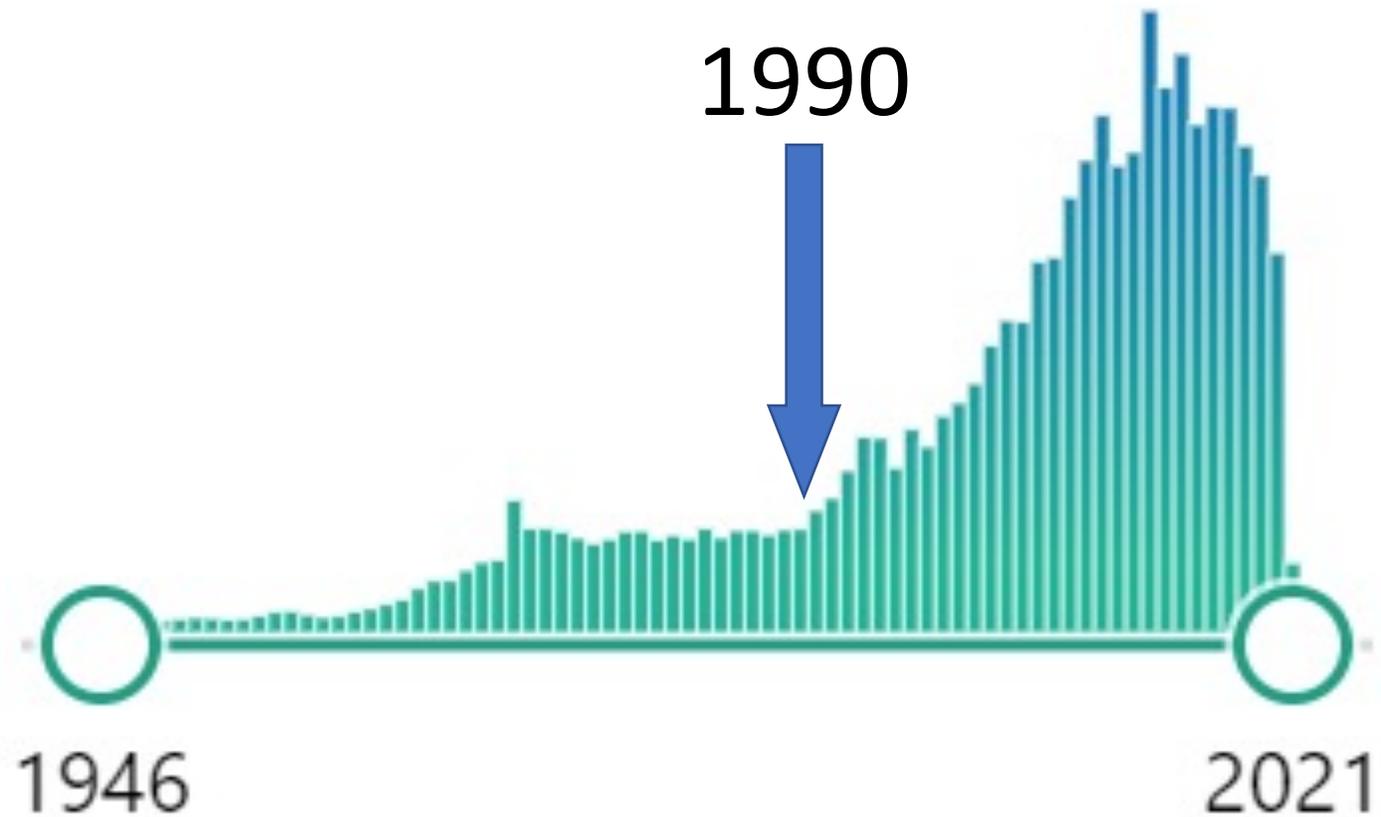
# Ergonomics in Endoscopy – Hand Size

- 165 upper and lower endoscopies
- Hand (glove) size:
  - Small (5-6)
  - Medium (6.5-7.0)
  - Large (7.5-8.0)
- All small hand size were female endoscopists



# Surgical Ergonomics Research

PubMed Results – February 2021



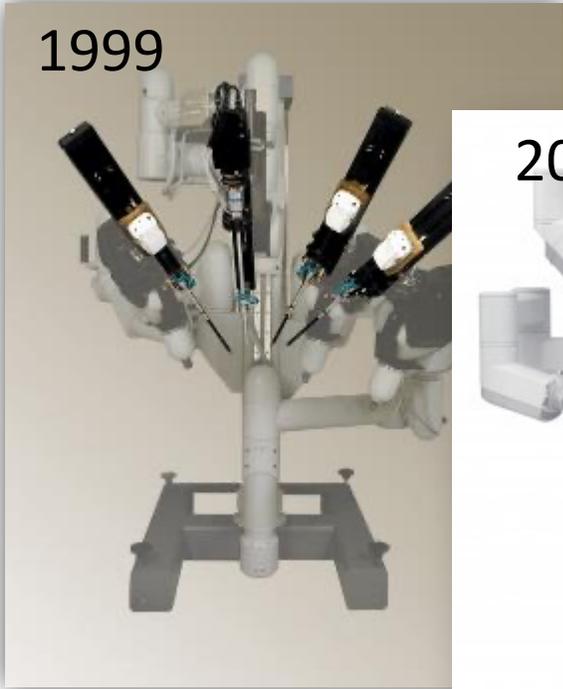
# Surgical Robotics History

First introduced in early 1990s

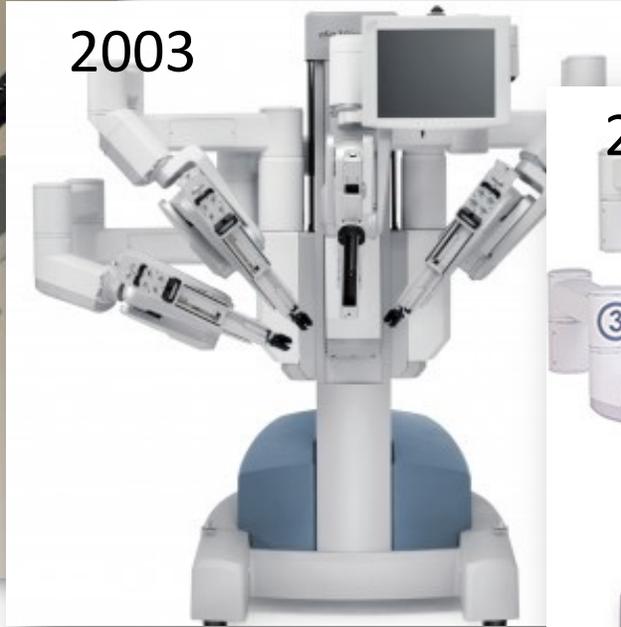


# Surgical Robotics History

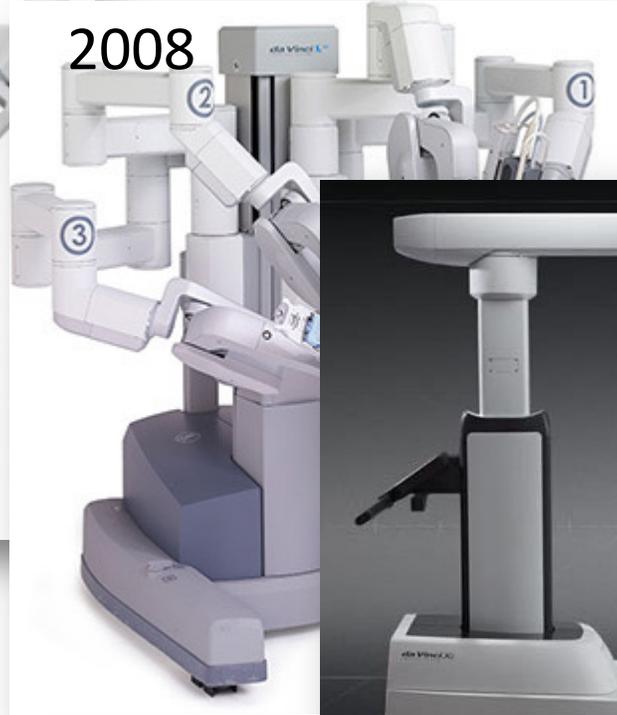
1999



2003



2008



2014

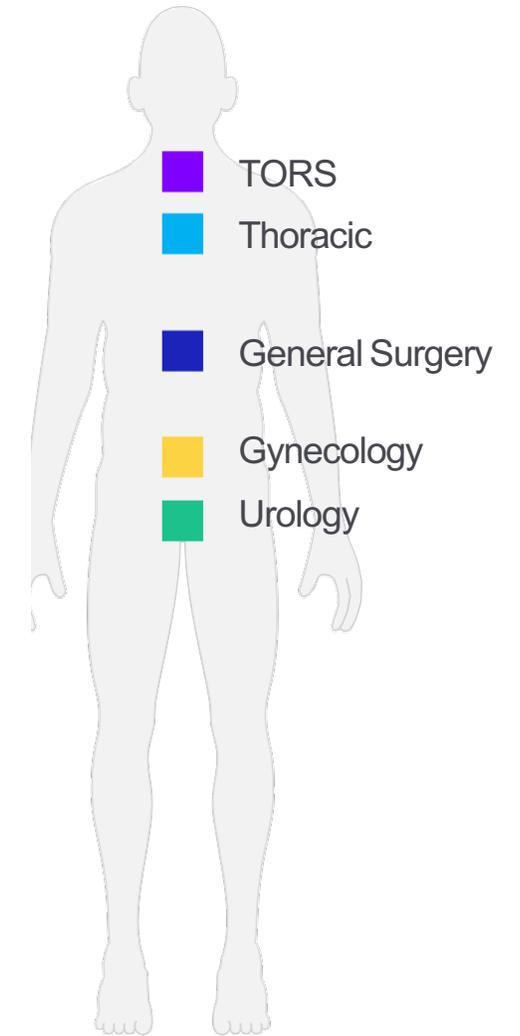
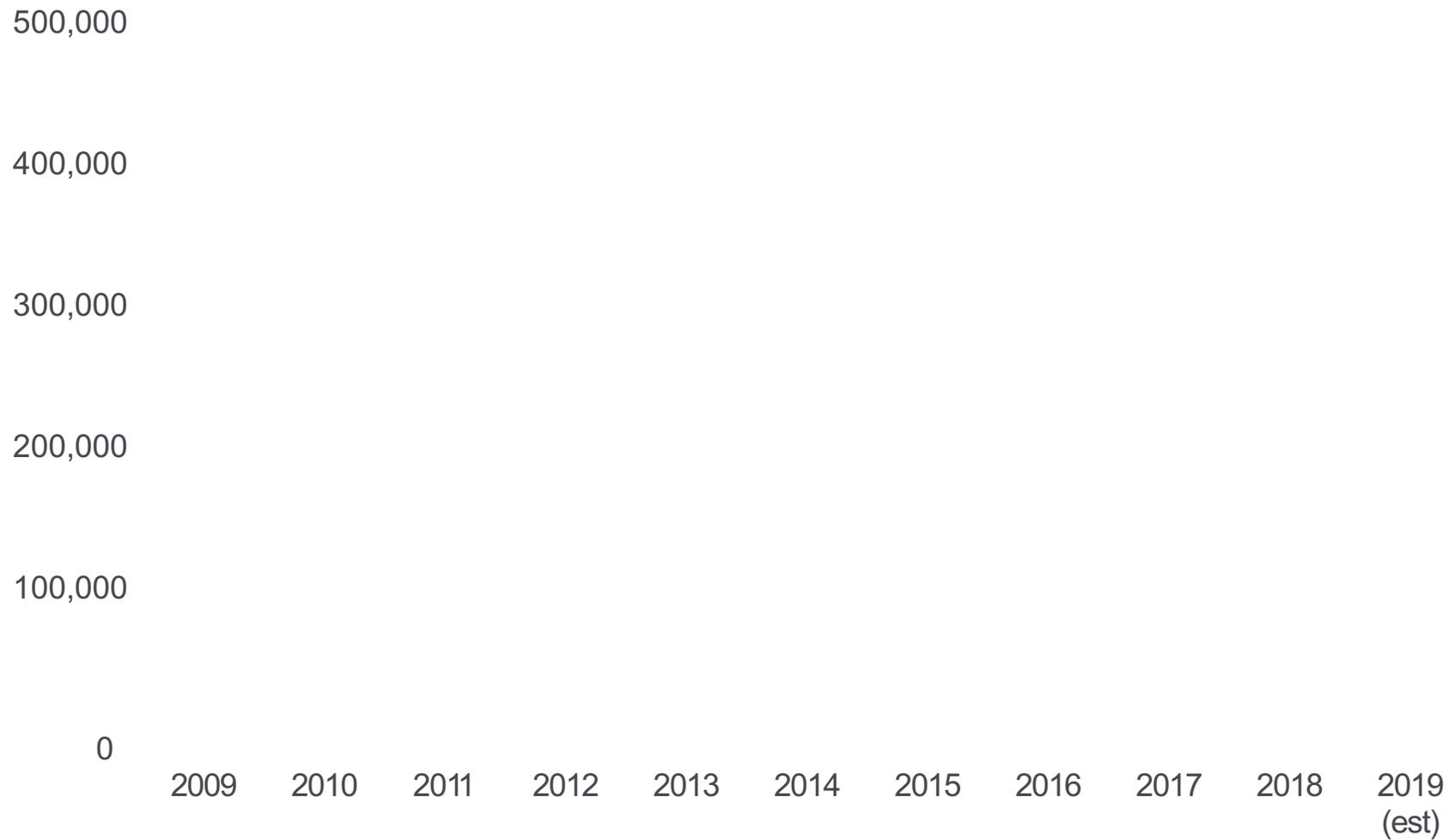


# Robotics to Overcome Challenges of Laparoscopy

- ✓ • 2D
- ✓ • Limited degrees of freedom
- ✓ • Fulcrum effect
- ✓ • Tremor exaggeration
- ✓ • Decoupling of Motor and Visual Axes
- ✗ • Loss of haptics
- ✓ • Camera not under surgeon's control
- ✓ • Static standing posture

# Growth in procedure categories

Global over past 10 years

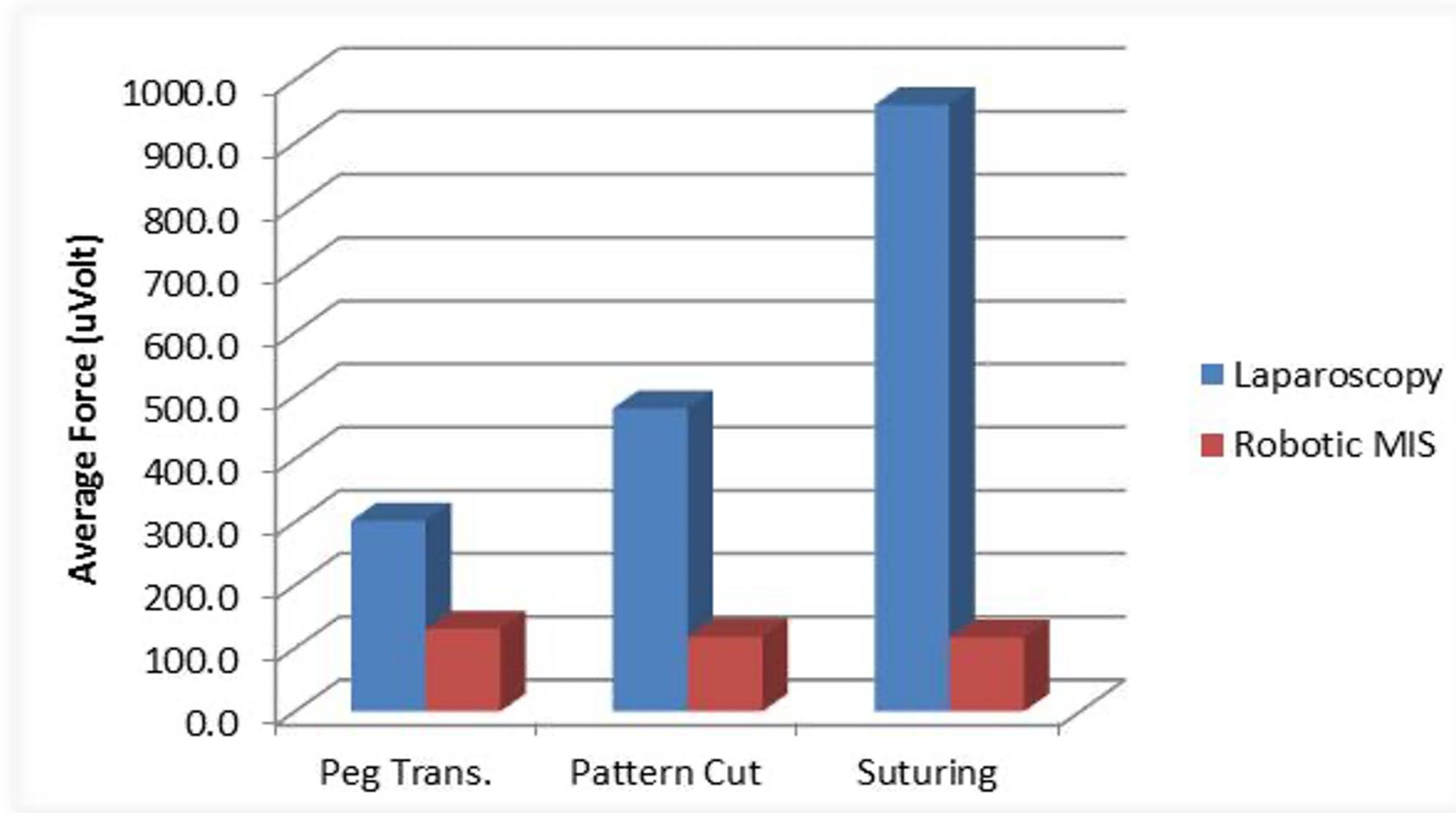


# Procedure Factors – Lap vs Robot

Can robotic surgery help ameliorate laparoscopic ergonomic challenges?

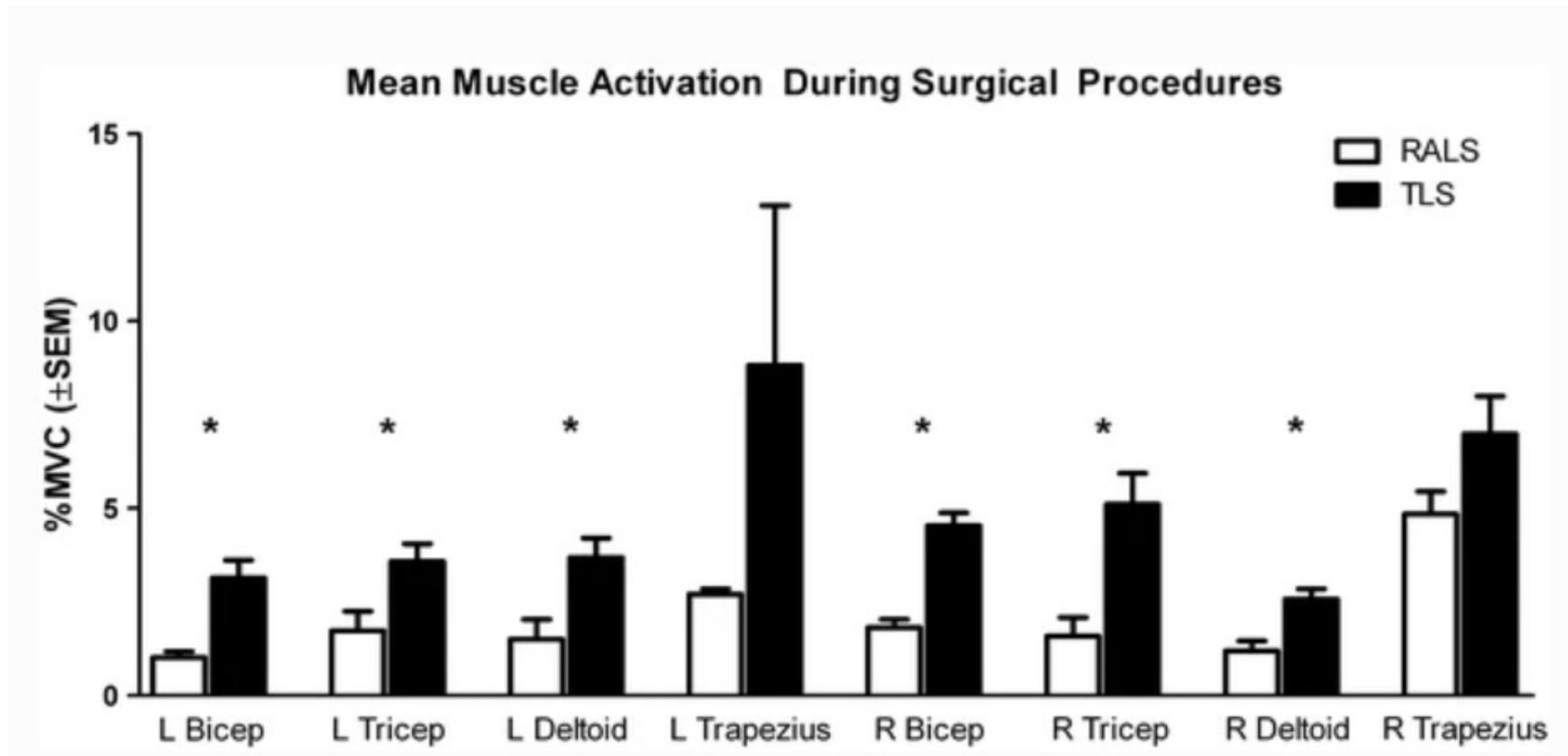


# Procedure Factors – Lap vs Robot (Sim)



# Procedure Factors – Lap vs Robot (Clinical)

- Comparable lap and robot procedures (e.g., inguinal hernia)



# SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES DATA

Surgical Endoscopy

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00464-020-07700-7>



2020 SAGES ORAL



## Favorable peri-operative outcomes observed in paraesophageal hernia repair with robotic approach

William D. Gerull<sup>1</sup>  · Daniel Cho<sup>2</sup> · Saeed Arefanian<sup>3</sup> · Bradley S. Kushner<sup>1</sup> · Michael M. Awad<sup>1</sup>

Received: 4 April 2020 / Accepted: 9 June 2020

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- Prospective, IRB-approved database
- PEH Repairs (Sliding Type 1 hiatal hernias excluded)
- 2009-2019
- Single center
- All expert surgeons with over 1000 lifetime foregut cases

# Robotic Paraesophageal Hernia Repair

## Short-term Outcomes

Peri-operative outcomes	Robotic <i>N</i> = 830	Laparoscopic <i>N</i> = 1024	<i>P</i> -value
✓ Operative time (min)	174.1 (±63.8)	187.3 (±65.3)	<0.001
✓ Esophageal lengthening procedure performed (Collis gastroplasty/wedge fundectomy)	1 (0.1%)	113 (11.0%)	<0.001
✓ Conversion to open (abdominal or thoracotomy)	0 (0.0%)	72 (7.0%)	<0.001
▬ Intra-operative equipment costs (USD)	2147 (±312.5)	2058 (±345.5)	0.012
✓ EBL (mL)	27.3 (±5.9)	89.3 (±27.8)	<0.001
✓ Intra-operative injury	5 (0.6%)	28 (2.7%)	<0.001
Thromboembolic complications	4 (0.5%)	6 (0.6%)	0.761
✓ Length of stay (days)	1.8 (±0.6)	2.9 (±1.4)	<0.001
Re-operation within 30 days	2 (0.2%)	8 (0.8%)	0.114
30 day in-hospital mortality	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.5%)	0.104

# LONG-TERM OUTCOMES DATA

ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

## **Robotic Approach to Paraesophageal Hernia Repair Results in Low Long-Term Recurrence Rate and Beneficial Patient-Centered Outcomes**

William D Gerull, MD, Daniel Cho, BA, Iris Kuo, BA, Saeed Arefanian, MD, Bradley S Kushner, MD,  
Michael M Awad, MD, PhD, FACS

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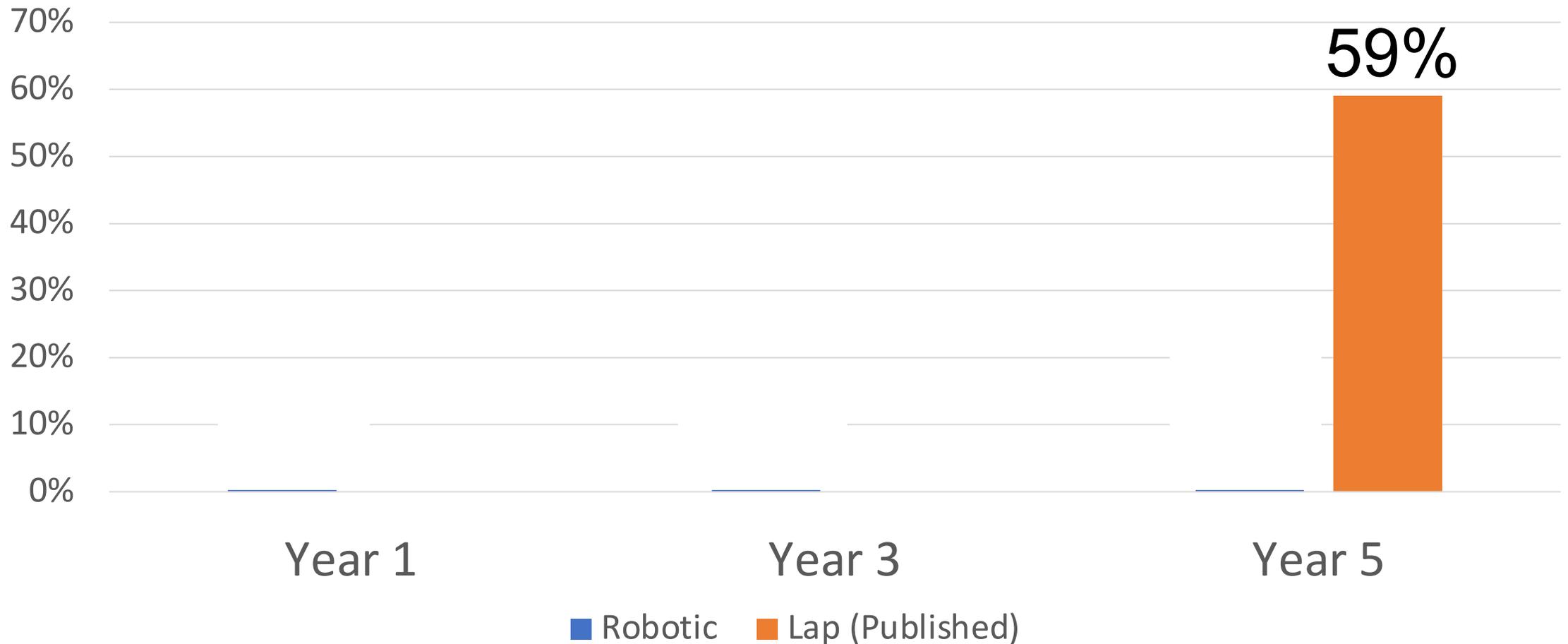
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2020.07.754>

ISSN 1072-7515/20

- Prospective, IRB-approved database
- PEH Repairs (Sliding Type 1 hiatal hernias excluded)
- Patients with at least 5 year follow-up
- 2010-2014

# RAL Paraesophageal Hernia Repair

## Long-term Recurrence Rates



\* Recurrence defined as >2cm on esophagram

## 77 Companies

### Hair

- Restoration Robotics

### Spine

- Medtronic/Mazor
- Globus
- Zimmer Biomet
- Nuvasive
- Dupuy

### Transanal

- EDAP TMS
- Medrobotics
- NISI

### General

- Kuka
- Microsure
- Medical Micro Inst
- Microbot Medical
- Histosonics



### Neuro

- Medtronic
- Elekta
- Varian
- ColubrisMX
- Synaptive
- Renishaw
- IMRIS
- XCath
- Zimmer
- AiM Medical
- Remebot
- Monteris
- BrainLab
- Insightec

### Dental

- Neocis

### Thyroid

- Theraclion

### Skin

- Avra

### Heart

- Stereotaxis
- Heartlander

### Blood

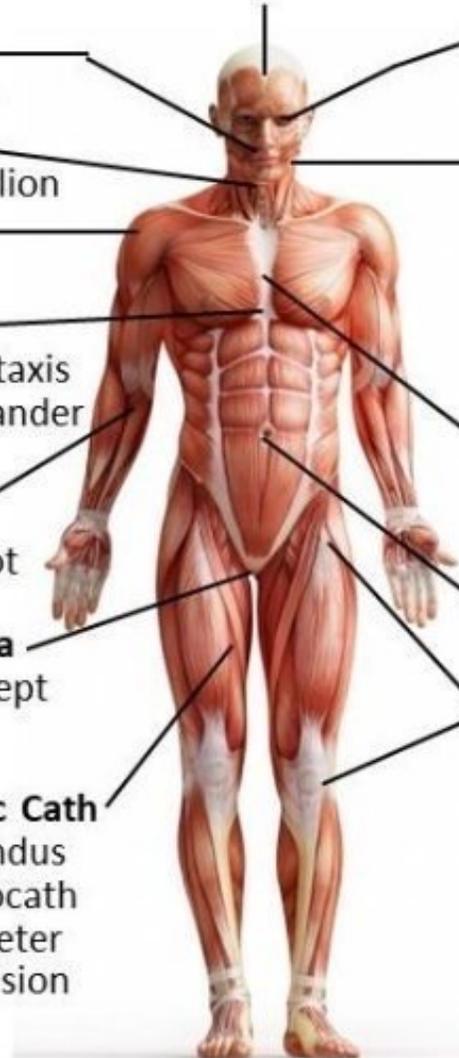
- Veebot

### Urethra

- Procept

### Cardiac Cath

- Corindus
- Robocath
- Catheter Precision



### Eyes

- Cambridge Consult
- Preceyes

### ENT

- Medrobotics
- Intuitive
- Medineering
- Galen Robotics
- iotaMotion

### Lungs

- J&J/Auris
- Intuitive

### Knee/Hip

- Stryker/Mako
- THINK Surgical
- Smith & Nephew
- Zimmer Biomet
- Tinavi
- OmniLife
- J&J/Orthotaxy
- AOT

### Abdomen

- Intuitive
- Transenterix
- Accuray
- CMR Surgical
- Titan Medical
- Meere Co.
- Micro Hand S
- Verb Surgical
- Medtronic
- Medicroid
- Virtual Incision
- Vicarious Surgical
- Memic Med
- Distal Motion
- Kongduo
- Avatera
- Lapara Surgical
- EndoControl
- USMI
- MST
- AKTORmed
- Riverfield
- Human Xtensions
- ACTIV Surgical
- XACT
- Perfint
- Freehand
- Endomaster
- Dexterite Surgical

# FDA-approved Platforms

Intuitive Surgical  
da Vinci® Surgical  
System

Transenterix  
Senhance®

Medrobotics Flex®  
Robotic System

Auris Monarch  
Robotic Endoscopy  
System (ARES)

Intuitive ION  
system (510k)

Sensei X Robotic  
Catheter System

FreeHand v1.2

In endoscopy E200  
System

NeoGuide  
Endoscopy System

# Flexible Robotic Systems

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## Robotics in flexible endoscopy: current status and future prospects

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*Barbara Seeliger<sup>a,b</sup> and Lee L. Swanström<sup>a</sup>*

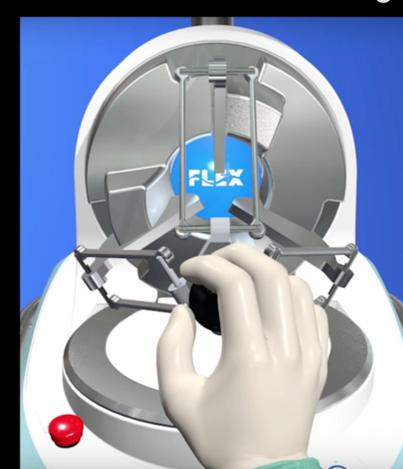
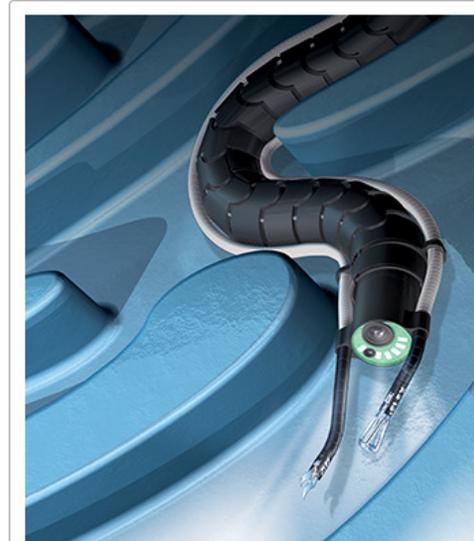
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**Curr Opin Gastroenterol** 2020, 36:370–378

DOI:10.1097/MOG.0000000000000670

# Flex Robot

- Medrobotics Corp
- Oropharynx/hypopharynx/larynx
- Used by ENT / colorectal
- Approved for abdominal procedures
- Use mechanical instruments

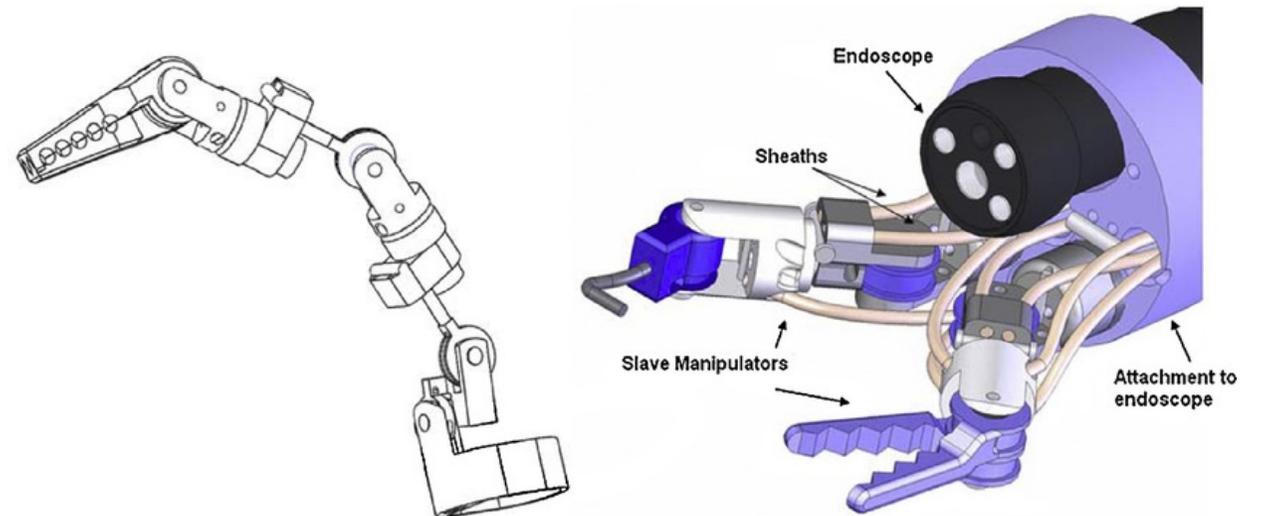
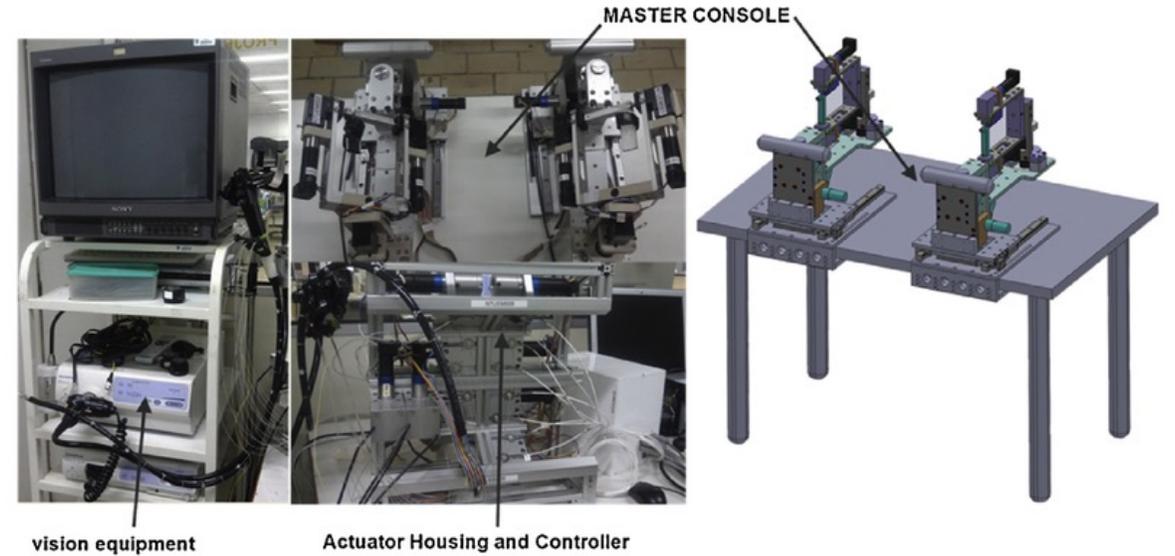


Ion Robot  
Intuitive

The logo for Ion Robot, featuring the word "ION" in a stylized, white, sans-serif font. The letters are bold and modern, with a slight shadow effect. The logo is positioned on a dark, curved surface, likely part of a robot's body, which is illuminated from the right, creating a gradient from dark to light.

# Nanyang Technological University

- MASTER
- Natural orifice procedures
- Endoscopy based
- Controllers, image mapping and guidance systems



# CARPE

## Compliant Actuation Robotic Platform for Endoscopy

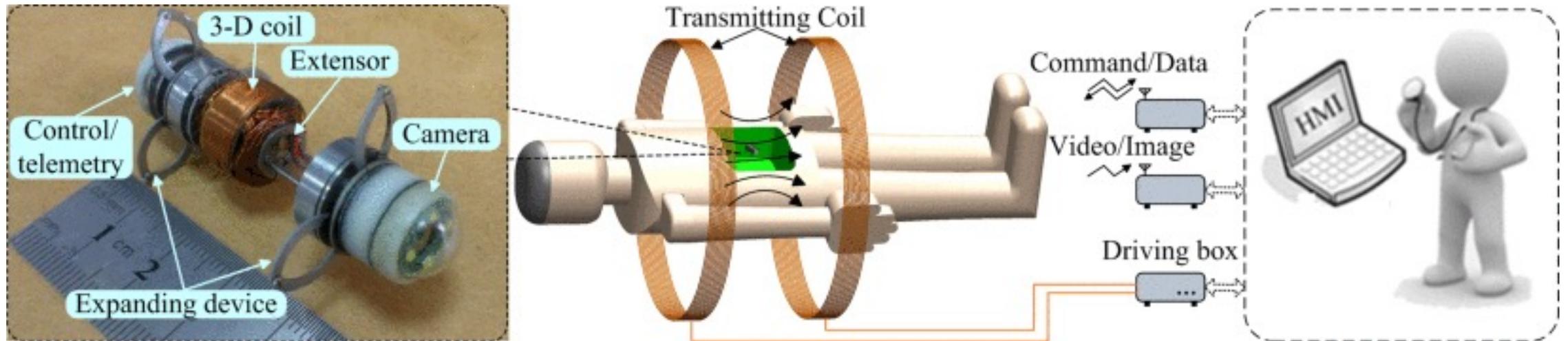


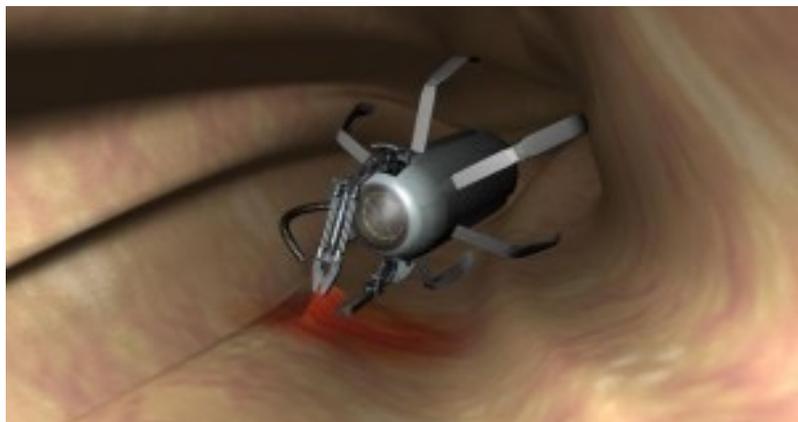
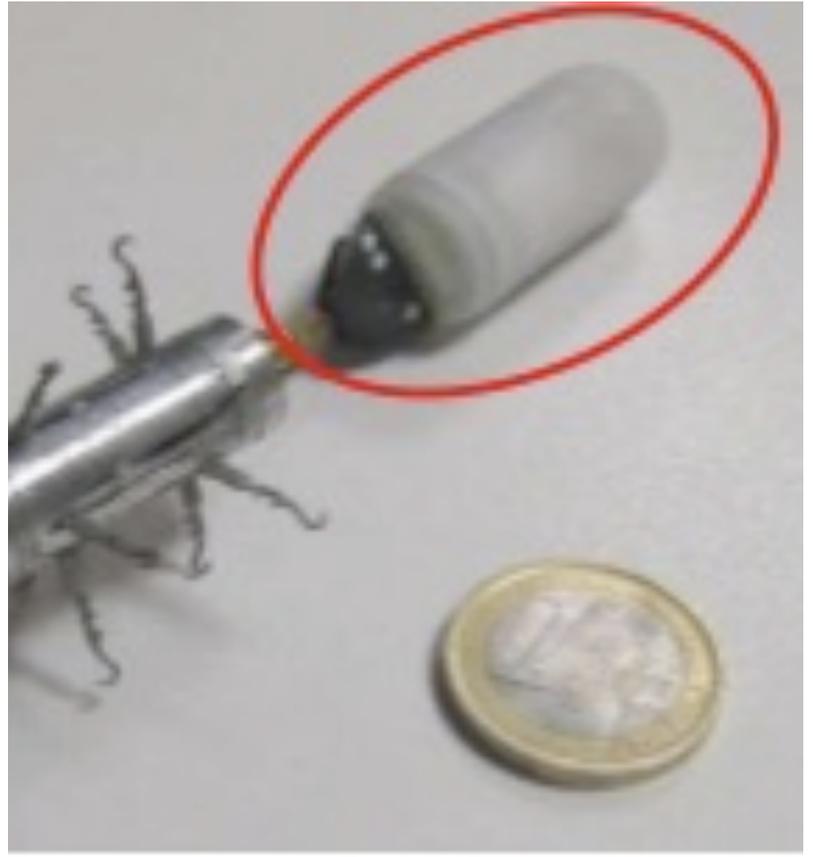
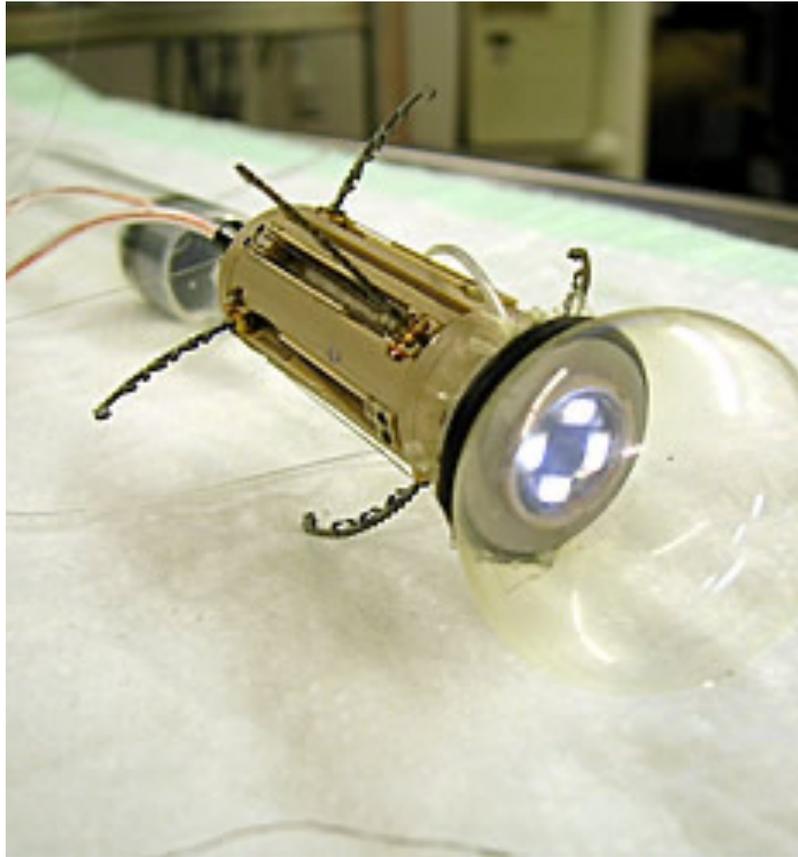
# NaviCam – ANX Robotica

- Controlled via external magnet robotically
- 160 degrees vision
- 27 mm x 11.8 mm
- Resolution 640x480
- Battery: 12 hrs
- Frame rate: 0.5-12 fps

# Motor-based Capsule

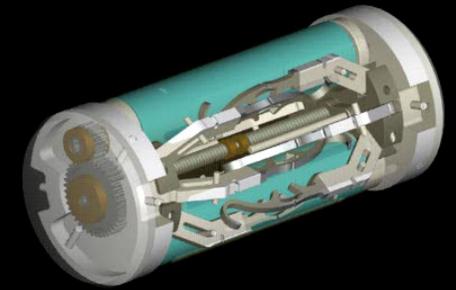
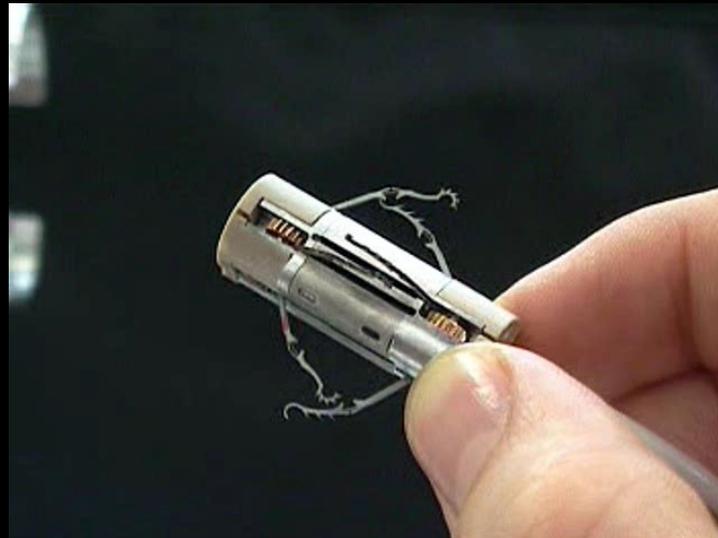
- Capsule endoscope with active locomotion to traverse the intestine
- Movement powered by wireless power transmission consisting of a one-dimensional transmission coil and three-dimensional receiving coil
- Robot was able to travel through a collapsed porcine intestine in ex vivo testing
- Potential to reduce pain and discomfort in endoscopy and allow more control over the endoscope
- Future work could incorporate other modules for drug delivery, grasping, and biopsy





# ARAKNES-Vector

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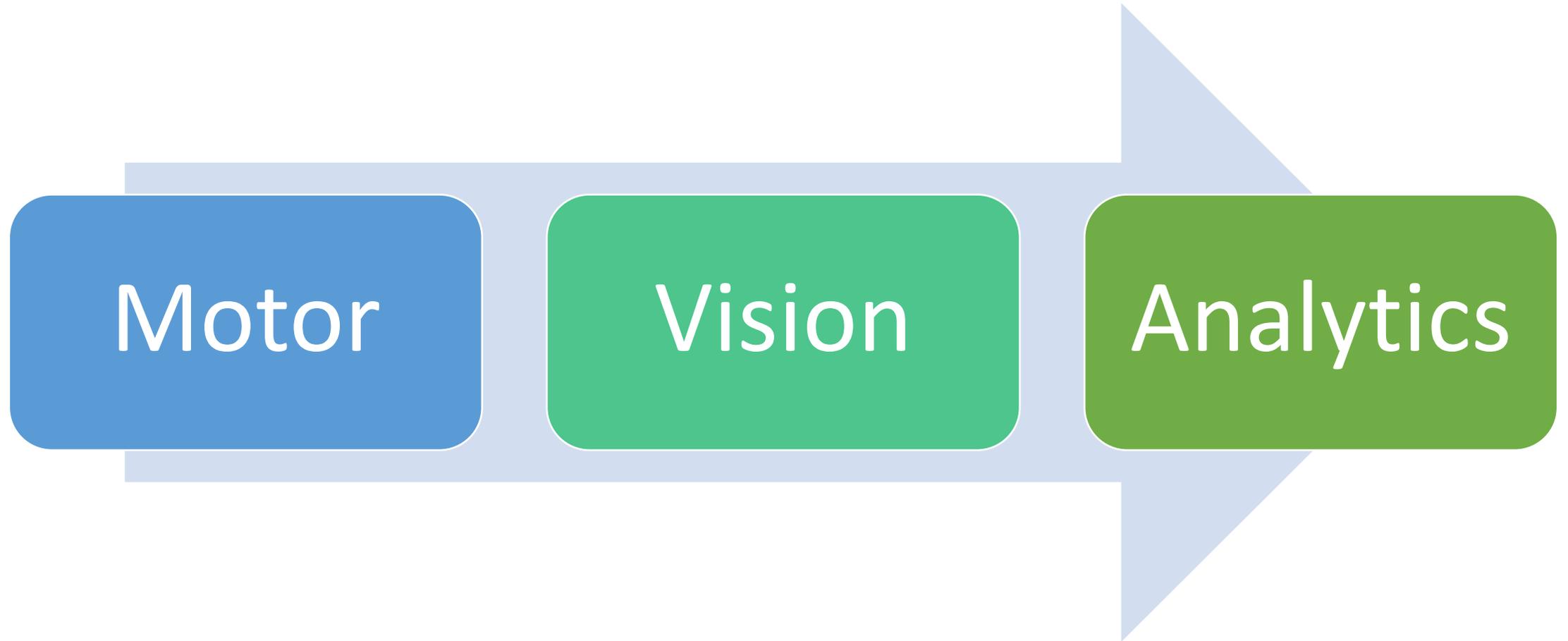


# ARAKNES-Vector

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# Future Directions

Evolution of Robotics

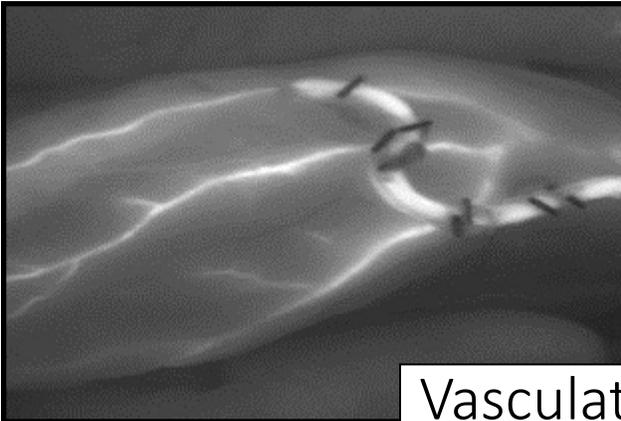


Robotics → Computer-Assisted Procedures

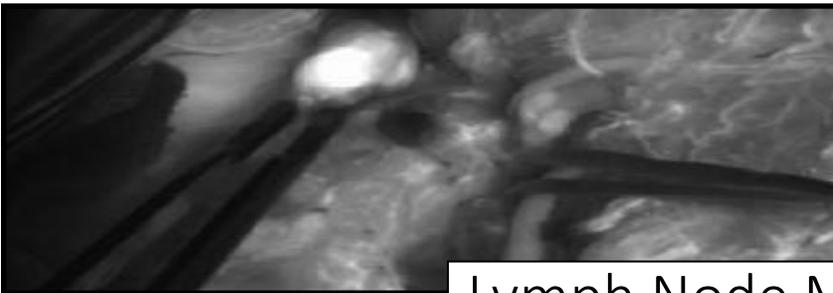
# Image Guidance - Fluorescence

## ICG

- Central venous
- Interstitial

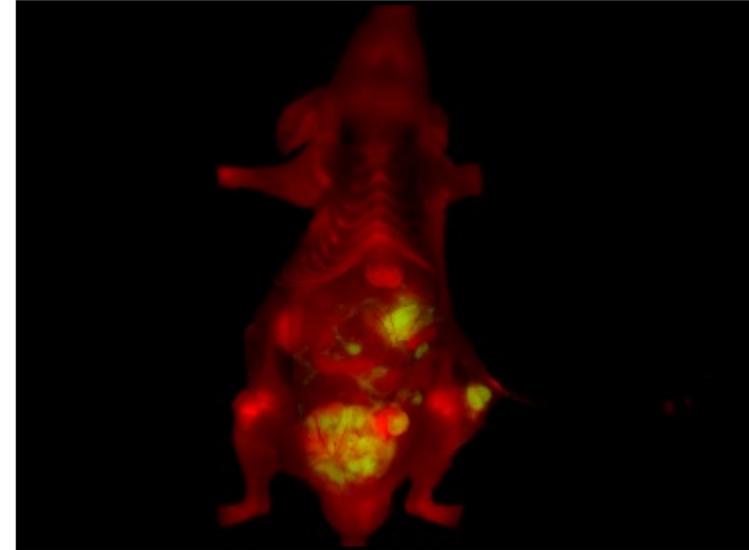


Vasculature



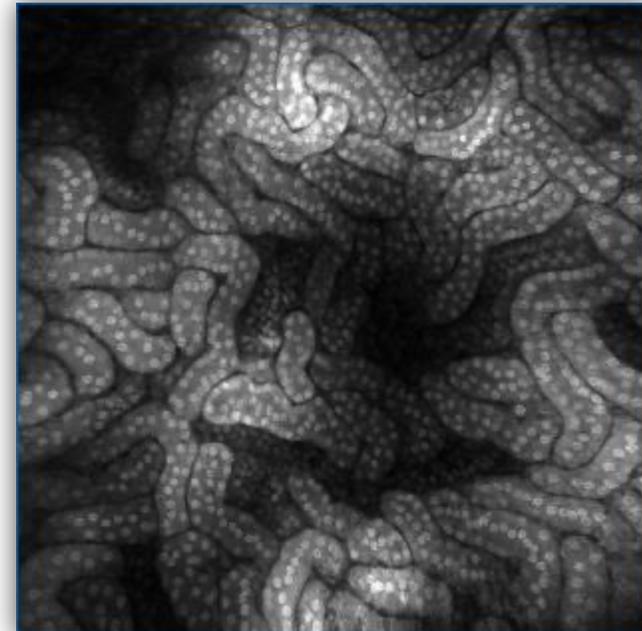
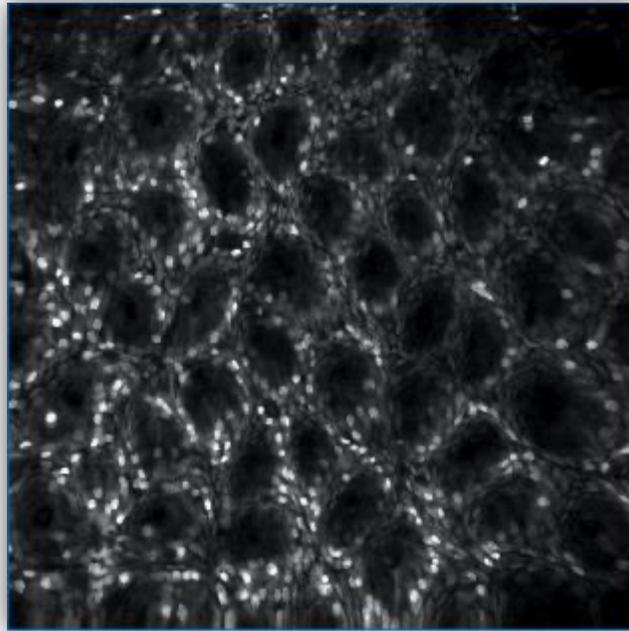
Lymph Node Mapping

- Specific antibodies plus fluorescing markers



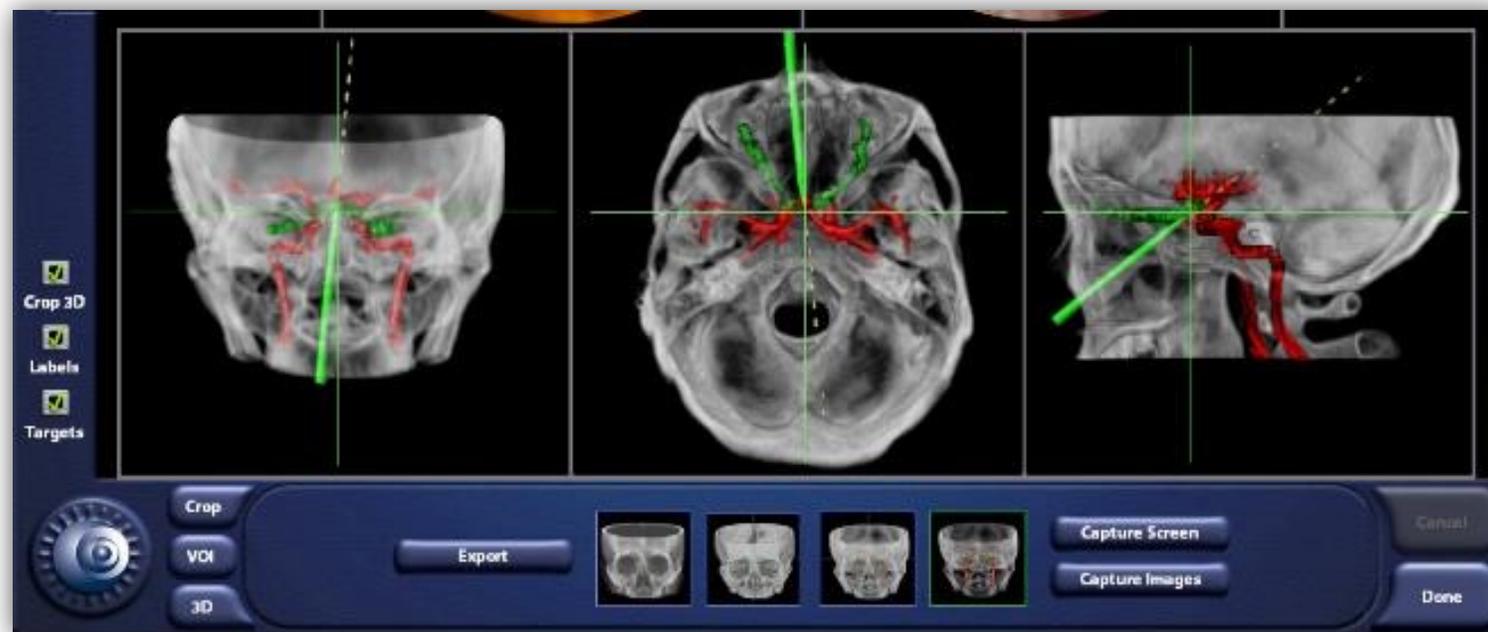
# In-Vivo Microscopy

- Sub-micron in-vivo histology
- Real-time functional and molecular imaging and diagnosis
- Tissue information (cancer, endometriosis, etc)

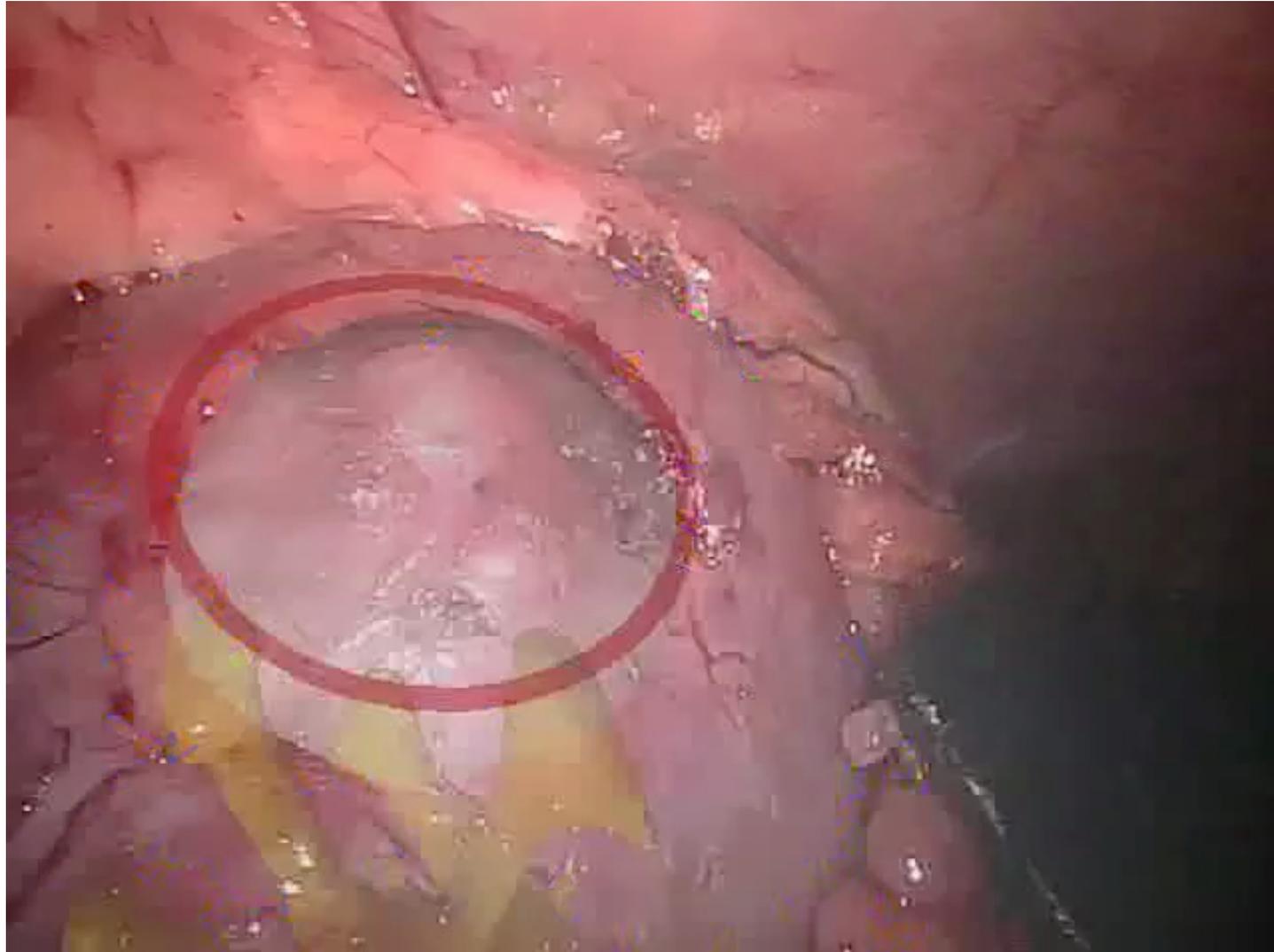


# Image Guidance

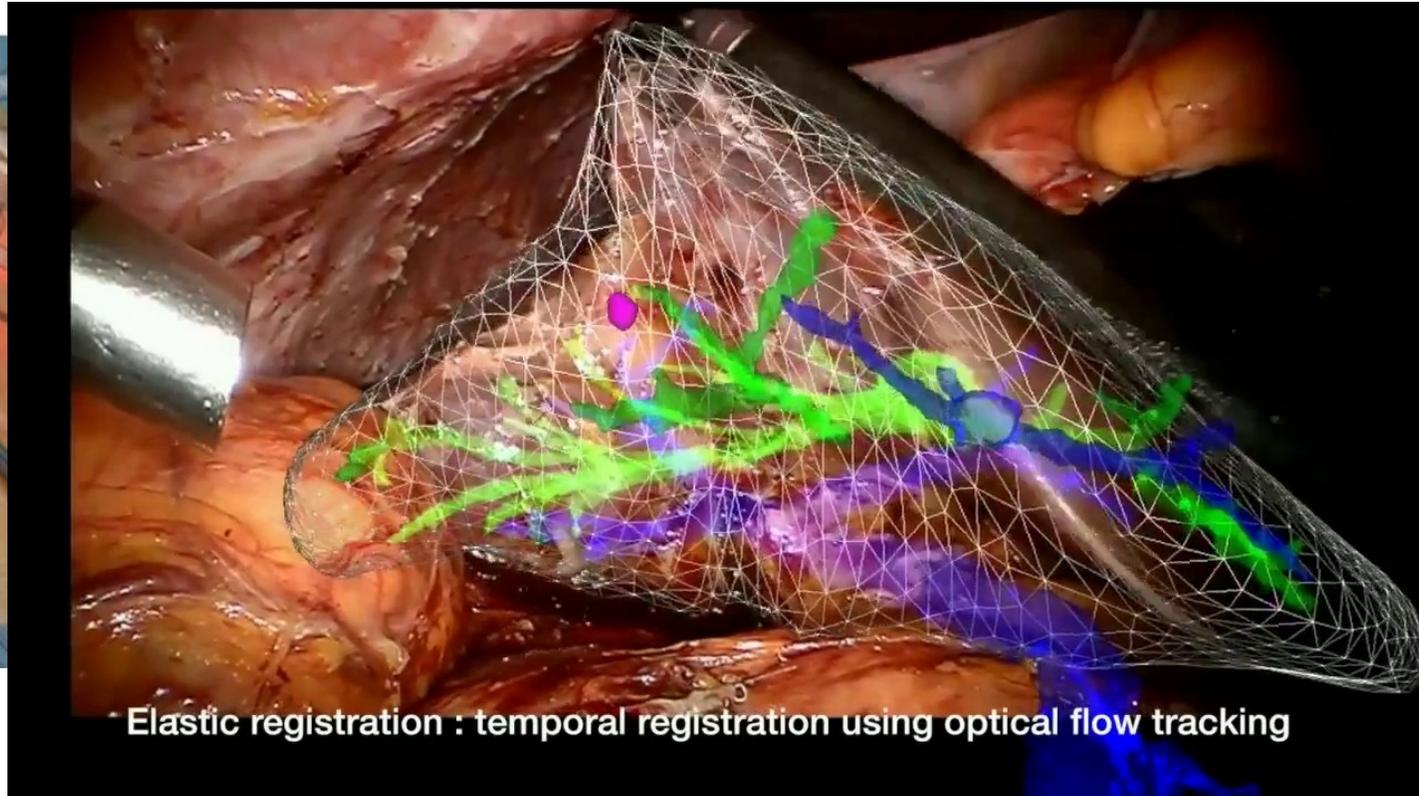
- Pre-operative images + tracking hardware/software
- Rigid anatomy from pre-op to OR
- “No-Fly” surgical zones



# Augmented Reality



# Cybernetic Surgery

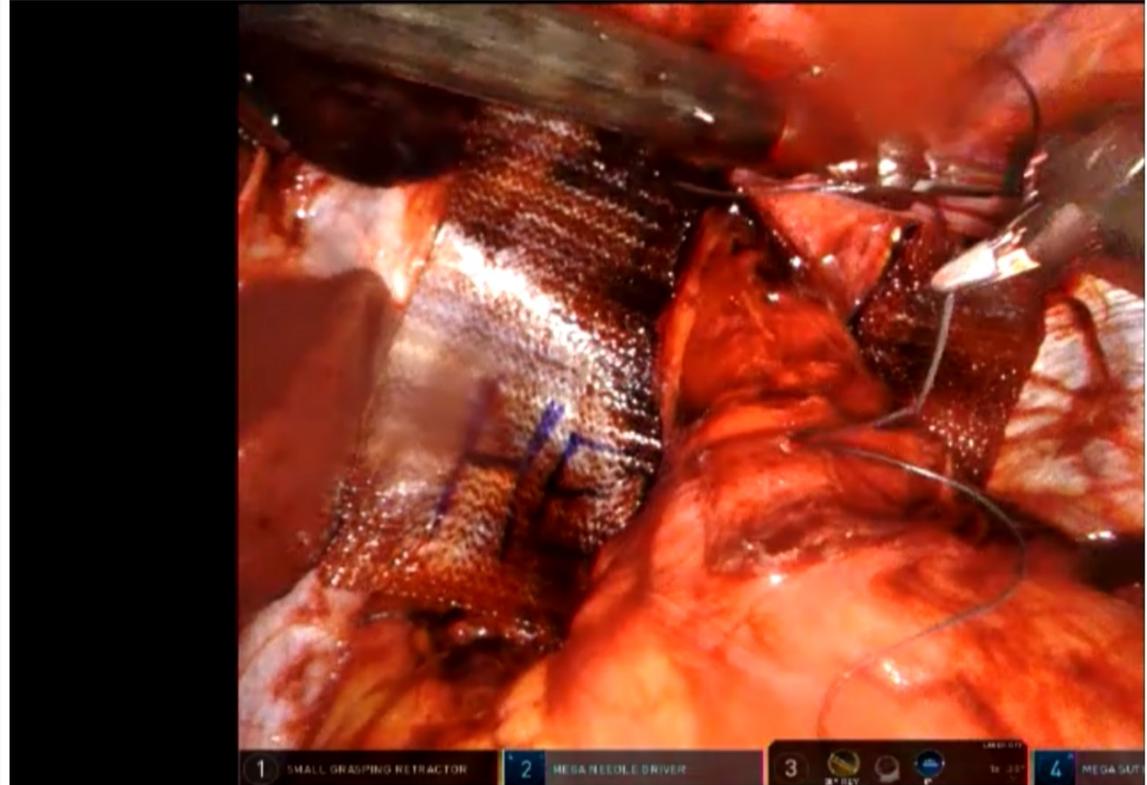


# Education - Telementoring



INTUITIVE

POWERED BY Intouch Health



1 SMALL GRASPING RETRACTOR 2 MEGA NEEDLE DRIVER 3 4 MEGA SUP

Intuitive: Jupiter Medical Center 100%

LIVE

+

A

REC

PIP

Media

Download Delete

Local Controls

+

M

+

REC

Microphone icons



Advanced Controls

Single View Dual View

DVI Input View None

# Remote Foregut Case Observation





## 2021 American Foregut Society Robotic Mentorship Program

- For surgeons with moderate experience in foregut and some experience with the DaVinci robotics. **Must have commitment to developing expertise in both.**
- A unique opportunity to participate in a **mentored pathway** to master foregut procedures utilizing da Vinci robotic technology.
- All participants will follow a **six month curriculum under the guidance of a dedicated AFS mentor** designed to help surgeons meet their goals while learning a new modality.
- The mentees will have the opportunity to work with the **same mentor surgeon throughout** their learning curve/experience.
- Participants will work together to **share learnings** and build professional relationships throughout the curriculum and beyond.

INTUITIVE

**APPLY NOW**



**THANK YOU**  
awadm@wustl.edu

2021 AFS Robotic Mentors;  
Dr. Reginald Bell, Dr. Caitlin Houghton, Dr. Tanuja Damani, and Dr. Michael Awad