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The role of robotic-Assisted pancreatic surgery: Lessons learned from our initial experience

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Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) has achieved worldwide acceptance in various fields, however, pancreatic surgery remains one of the most challenging abdominal procedures. Laparoscopic pancreatic surgery has not gained broad acceptance due to the complexity of the procedure, the accuracy required to perform the operation, and the steep learning curve involved. Indeed, the procedure has only achieved widespread consensus for distal pancreatectomy. In the field of major pan-creaticoduodenectomies, the laparoscopic approach is still considered to be an extremely demanding method due to the challenge of reconstruction. The development of the robotic platform has overcome many of the disadvantages of traditional laparoscopy. Robotic surgery (RS) gives the surgeon a three-dimensional stereo-scopic view of the operating field and restores hand-eye coordination that is often lost in traditional laparoscopy when the camera is offset to the plane of dissection. Given the limitations of current laparoscopic technology and the need for meticulous vascular control as well as complex reconstruction in pancreatic surgery, we hypothesized that RS would be particularly a good option for these procedures. We now report our experience with 50 consecutive robotic-assisted pancreatic resections. We evaluate the safety, feasibility and versatility of this platform in the hands of dedicated, high volume hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgeons.

Biography

Emilio Vicente has completed his Residency in General Surgery. He is currently the Director of the General and Digestive Surgery Service at Sanchinarro University Hospital and Clara Campal Oncological Center and; Chairman of the Surgery Section at Faculty of Medicine, San Pablo University. His other professional positions include: Digestive Viscera Transplant Program Director at Ramón y Cajal Hospital (Madrid, Spain); Chief of the General Surgery Section at Ramón y Cajal General Hospital, Spain and; Professor of surgery at Alcalá University, Spain.

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