

Meeting Protocol

Natural Orifice Surgery / Scarless Operations Working Group (NOS / SLO)

1st Meeting, Berlin, June 23, 2006

Date: 23 June 2006, 15:00 – 19:00

Venue: Hotel Savoy, Fasanenstr. 9–10, 10623 Berlin

Participants

- Tahar Benhidjeb (Berlin)
- Peter Biro (Zurich)
- Clémence Delmas (Berlin)
- Parwis Fotuhi (Fulda)
- Philippe Hall (Olympus)
- Andreas Koch (Intuitive Surgical)
- Joachim Linke (Berlin)
- Ciro Luise (Napoli)
- Dov Maor (InSightec)
- Frédéric Mouret (Protomed)
- Manfred Ottow (Blankenburg)
- Moshe Zvi Papa (Ramat-Gan)
- Irmgard Posch (Loerrach)
- Goran Ribaric (Ethicon)
- Albert Schaeffer, Alexandra Schaeffer (PolyDimensions)
- Achim Schneider (Berlin)
- Kristin Schreiber (Huenfeld)
- Michael Stark (Berlin)
- Peter Wiest, Ingo Wiest, Tana Wiest (W.O.M.)
- Kai Witzel (Huenfeld)
- Sabine Wolf (Berlin)

- Oliver Bradley (journalist)

Excused absence:

Francesco De Meo (Fulda), Liselotte Mettler (Kiel), Farr Nezhat (New York), Marc Possover (Cologne), Peter Reeh (Erlangen), Petra Thuermann (Wuppertal).

Presentations

Parwis Fotuhi greeted the participants on behalf of the New European Surgical Academy.

Michael Stark presented the history of abdominal surgery, the development of different surgical methods, the idea behind endoscopy as well as the possibilities and prospects for natural orifice surgery and scarless operations. He also presented the available literature at that stage concerning NOS/SLO and discussed the problems involved in its development such as stomach acidity and specific anatomical questions.

Albert Schaeffer gave an overview about the simulation possibilities for NOS/SLO and gave the technical scientific background for future developments. The early use of simulators will provide the necessary experience before starting operating. Simulation will be integrated in the NOS/SLO concept from the very beginning.

Kai Witzel explained the theoretical background of scarless operations as well as practical solutions for existing problems such as the access to distant organs through non-conventional pathways. He presented his experience in experimental surgery as well as operations which were already performed, as well as first experimental results with the transbuccal approach for thyroid surgery.

Tahar Benhidjeb gave an overview about the scarless operation concept. He explained the technical challenges and cosmetic benefits as well as the future prospects of these techniques and presented the trans-nipple and trans-axillar thyroid surgery.

A short film produced by Gerhard Buess about the TEM technique was shown. This film demonstrated the possibilities of the transanal removal of certain rectal tumours.

Dov Maor explained the concept of the MRI-guided focused ultrasound. His lecture included theoretical, physical, and practical aspects.

Frédéric Mouret introduced his ideas concerning the use of an intra-abdominal net to facilitate the visualisation of the operated organ. This net has been originally developed for vascular operations but can be also used for NOS with some modifications.

Peter Biro presented his SensaScope, the new generation of the intubation device which combines the laryngoscope and the tubus with a flexible tip which makes the extension of the head during the procedure unnecessary and enables intubation also in difficult cases.

In the **panel discussion**, moderated by Peter Biro and Michael Stark, certain aspects concerning the development of new instruments as well as physiological and pharmacological questions were discussed. The representatives of the industry explained their visions concerning the further development of the NOS / SLO concept.

Organisation of the working group

Michael Stark suggested the following working groups:

Basic Science Group; Gynaecological Group, Interdisciplinary Group, Scarless Operation Group, Instruments, Simulation, Scientific Counsellors

It was decided that the members will be as follows:

- *Basic Science Group (responsibles: **both** group members)*

Peter Reeh

Petra Thürmann

- *Gynaecological Group (responsible: **Achim Schneider**)*

Liselotte Mettler

Marc Possover

Achim Schneider

Michael Stark

- *Interdisciplinary Group (responsible: **Moshe Zvi Papa**)*

Farr Nezhat

Moshe Zvi Papa

Irmgard Posch

Svend Schulze

Michael Stark

- *Scarless Operation Group (responsible: **Tahar Benhidjeb, Kai Witzel**)*

Tahar Benhidjeb

Dov Maor

Kai Witzel

- *Instruments (responsible: **NESA**)*

NESA

Peter Biro

Ethicon

Intuitive Surgical

Olympus

Protomed

W.O.M.

- *Simulation (responsible: **Albert Schaeffer**)*

PolyDimensions

- *Scientific Counsellors (responsible: **Manfred Ottow**)*

Ciro Luise

Joachim Linke

Manfred Ottow

Decisions

- Each working group will submit first working proposals to the NESA until September 30, 2006.
- The whole working group will meet twice a year.