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Transoral robotic surgery (TORS): An alternative therapeutic approach in head and neck area

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Robotic surgery has been more recently introduced for the treatment of benign and malignant diseases of head and neck area, known as Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS).

The most common indication for benign pathology is sleep apnea syndrome. TORS has been used for the removal of laryngeal cancers with the objective to improve functional and aesthetic outcomes without worsening survival.

Robotic surgery has several advantages:

- Three-dimensional vision
- Stable vision, as the camera is maintained and mobilized by one of the articulated arms of the robot
- More precise and finer instrument control with greater freedom of motion in all three dimensions
- Suppression of physiological tremor

Due to these advantages, TORS decreases the number of tracheotomies, and allows more rapid swallowing

rehabilitation and a shorter length of hospital stay. However, its disadvantages, mainly high cost amongst others, do not make robotic surgery the current treatment of choice for laryngeal tumours; transoral laser surgery is superior in most cases. TORS is an efficient tool for exposure and resection of early staged tumors, situated in head and neck anatomical sites with difficult endoscopic access. Nevertheless, the following aspects of robotic surgery need to be studied: indications and oncological results in patients treated by TORS. Technical improvements are expected to the new-generation robots, in order to expand the use of robotic surgery in the ENT field.

Speaker Biography

Anatoli Pataridou is an eminent physician. She has contributed with complete success to the intermittent tumor removal from the larynx with the Da Vinci Robotic Surgery System at Hygeia Hospital. Her clinical and research interest focuses on transient robotic surgery in the treatment of benign diseases such as obstructive sleep apnea and malignant mouth-pharyngeal laryngeal conditions in the application of endoscopic laser CO₂ in the treatment of benign and malignant oral pharyngeal disorder.

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