



Fellowship robotic surgical training: can the general gynaecology registrar become an independent robotic surgeon within one year?



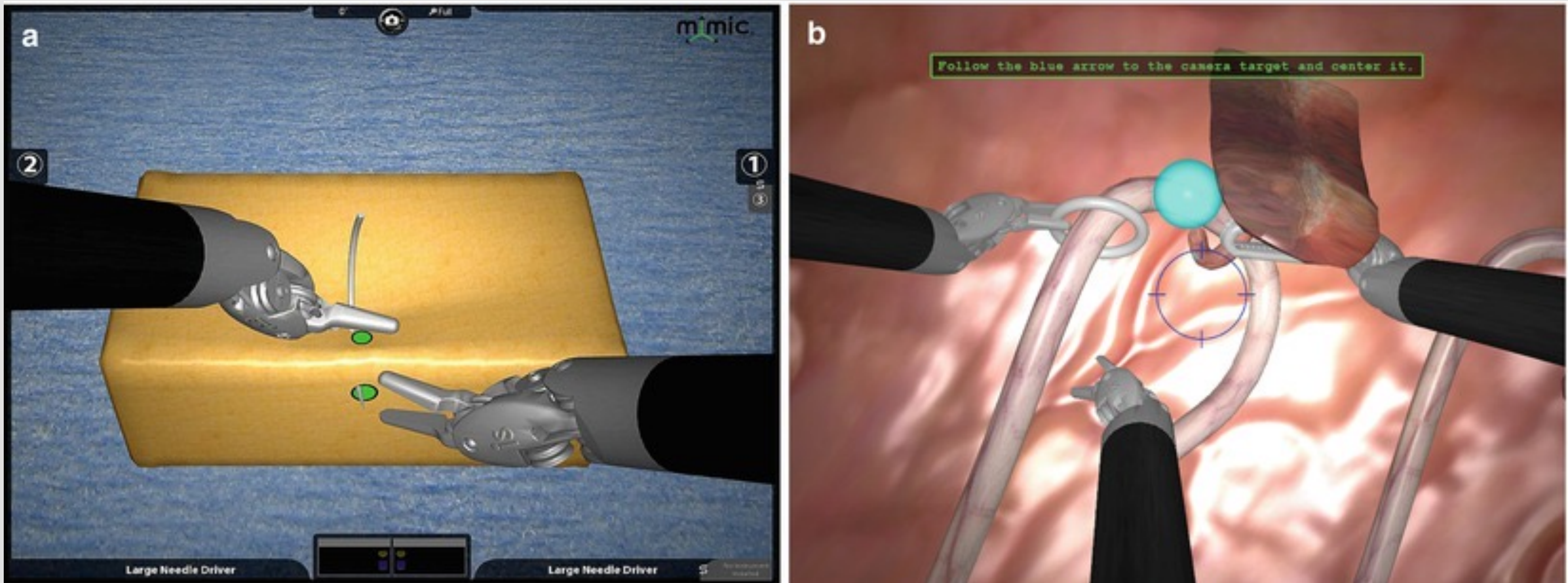
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Introduction

Robotic surgical training within the UK for residents remains in its infancy. Resident exposure remains scanty. Dedicated robotic programmes for residents have been described by expert societies such as BIARGS¹, but in practice the ability of residents to complete robotic training remains poorly evaluated.

Aims

We describe our experience in a large-volume academic surgical centre of training general obstetrics & gynaecology residents in robotic surgery within a pilot training study. The senior authors have extensive experience in training residents in laparoscopic surgery, including advanced gynaecological procedures such as resectional surgery for advanced endometriosis and multi-speciality exenterative procedures.



Da Vinci surgical skills simulator programme

Methods

We evaluated the experience of three residents within the final year of UK general obstetrics & gynaecology training in a single centre. All residents underwent a structured introductory training programme for the Da Vinci Surgical System (Intuitive Surgical, Sunnyvale USA) delivered by the company and the senior authors.

Residents subsequently undertook observational, bedside and simulation based training under the supervision of a robotic surgeon. Within six months, all three residents were successfully assessed by structured methods as competent to undertake operative robotic gynaecological procedures including hysterectomy under direct senior supervision.

Training protocol

Observation of robot and robotic procedure

Online first assistant Da Vinci training modules

First assistant training – Bedside teaching by rep

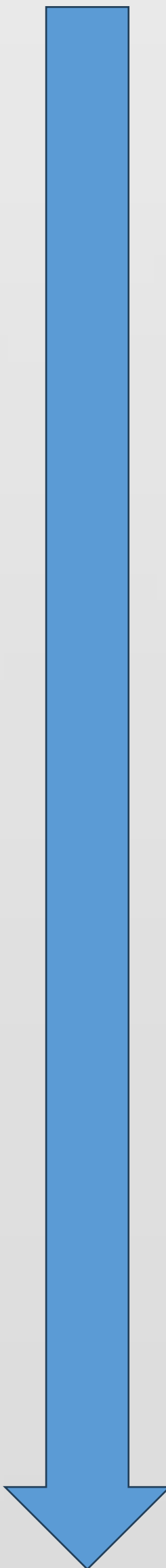
Da Vinci surgical skills simulator

First assistant

Participation as first assistant in wet lab

Minor robotic procedure
e.g. excision peritoneal endometriosis

Robotic TLH BSO under supervision



Time spent

8 hours

3 hours

60 minutes

40 hours

4 months

8 hours

30 minutes

Completion
6 months



Da Vinci surgical skills simulator programme

Observations

Registrars already had an appreciation of straight stick laparoscopy and were competent in laparoscopic hysterectomy

Conclusion

A dedicated in-house robotic programme for senior O&G residents enables successful training to the level of independent robotic surgical practice within one year in this pilot study.

We welcome the proposed training curriculum by BIARGS in advanced training in robotic Gynaecology

References

<https://www.davincisurgerycommunity.com/>
1. <https://biargs.org.uk/biargs-training-curriculum/>



Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust