

## SUMMARY of IRCAD course: “*Advanced techniques in operative gynecological endoscopy*”.

Curious and excited we showed up for the first of a total of 3 days of training in gynecological laparoscopy. 33 participants from 22 countries gathered at IRCAD training facilities in Strasbourg. The course was led by Prof. Wattiez and his team of former fellows at IRCAD.

The days started with lectures covering different fields of gynecology, with focus on surgical techniques. All presentations were illustrated by videos showing different cases, with possible solutions. There were also three different live surgeries, the first demonstrated a total hysterectomy, the second with deep infiltrating endometriosis, requiring disc-resection of the bowel, and the last was a sacrocolpopexy, where we had the chance to see the normal anatomy demonstrated.

After a three-course lunch, the practical part of the course started. We were put together into groups of two and two depending on our level of experience. We had one mini-pig available, and were helped by an OR nurse. The OR had 15 different mini-OR's fully equipped with all instruments needed. A veterinarian anesthesiologist made sure the pigs were ok during the training.

There was one instructor per two tables, so we had some time alone, and some time under supervision, a good time distribution so we also had time alone. The first exercise was suturing, and after some instruction we all felt that we had “seen the light”. We followed with a hysterectomy and lymphadenectomy. In the end we practiced vascular injuries. The second day followed the first, but with other exercises. We learned the importance of avoiding the ureter when we had to repair it ourselves; challenging!

After three days of intense lectures and training we returned to our hospital, inspired for new challenges, and motivated to improve our laparoscopic skills.

Thanks to NFOG for making this trip possible!

*Regards from drs.*

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