

Report from course at IRCAD, Strasbourg

I applied for the NFOG Grant to be able to attend a course in advanced gynaecological laparoscopy at IRCAD in Strasbourg.

The course I attended was «Current techniques in endometriosis treatment» from 12th- 14th of September.

At IRCAD's, centre approx. 35 participants from different countries all over the world met. Most participants were senior consultants in gynaecology, but also general surgeons were present. The course covered topics regarding diagnostic approach, different alternative treatment options and hands-on training on mini-pigs to enhance surgical techniques for the treatment of endometriosis.

After each session, there was time for discussion, which underlined important take-home messages.

The first two days of the course were divided in two, with lectures from 0815- 14, and hands-on training from 1430- 18. The third day of the course was purely theoretic.

Monday covered following topics: useful anatomy, anatomy of the ureter, role of ultrasound in the diagnosis and treatment of DIE (deep infiltrating endometriosis), nerve-sparing surgery in DIE.

Tuesday started with lectures on diagnostic strategies, followed by pre-recorded operative demonstrations, surgical strategy in urinary endometriosis and use of immunofluorescence in endometriosis.

Wednesday started with more pre-recorded operative demonstrations before lectures on adenomyosis, bowel endometriosis, ovarian remnant syndrome, impact on fertility and lectures on thoracic and diaphragmatic endometriosis. The last session focused on complications of surgery, and how to treat different complications.

The training on live tissue focused on basic principles of laparoscopy, as well as dissection in retroperitoneal spaces, vascular dissection, experimental injuries and repair. Mentors from IRCADs faculty were available throughout the hands-on training, where participants worked in pairs alternating between being main surgeon and assistant surgeon.

Faculty was assembled from different parts of the world, including several European countries, Dubai, US and Brazil. World class surgeons gave us update on the latest advances for treating endometriosis, in particular DIE with bowel and urinary tract lesions.

The whole course was led by prof. Arnaud Wattiez, and the team at IRCAD had it all perfectly organised for us.

I would like to thank NFOG for the financial support, making my participation at the course possible.