

PRESS CUTTINGS

PUBLICATION: INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER TODAY – P. 3

DATE: JULY / AUGUST 2011

NEWS

Surgical robot is voice-controlled

Consultant gynaecologist Mr Malcolm Padwick operates with a new assistant robot called ViKY – created to follow a surgeon's commands.

The voice-activated camera system is directed by the surgeon using a headset similar to that of a mobile phone.

'She' holds camera equipment, normally held by a surgical assistant, and enables greater vision, control and accuracy during surgery and less time to be spent in theatre.

Mr Padwick used EndoControl's ViKY Endoscope Positioner at Spire Bushey Hospital during a laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy, bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy and posterior repair.

Now he aims to use the robotic



arm for all his intermediate and major cases. He said: 'When required to move, it is a simple process of voice control via a computer and software package. A simple instruction produces an immediate accurate smooth and predictable response.'

'I am able to ensure that the operating field is always perfectly in view, with the laparoscope following my instructions as voice commands. I feel the operation is completed with less stress, more accuracy and more quickly compared to using an assistant to operate the laparoscope.'

Distributor Mantis Surgical's Mark West said: 'This is the first sale to the independent sector in the UK and only the second of its kind in the country.'