ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY OF THE POTENTIAL ANATOMICAL SPACES

Endoscopic Surgery of the Potential Anatomical Spaces

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“And it ought to be remebered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new.”

N. Machiavelli: The Prince (Chapter VI), 1531

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Foreword

“Anatomical potential spaces” is an attractive and no more abstract concept that offers new perspectives to a surgical world that is rapidly changing and becoming more complex.

Powerful new technologies demand our attention and testify that our clinical work and research are deeply influenced by surgical innovations. These latter dramatically modified approaches to treatment through the introduction of entirely new interventions such as minimally invasive surgical procedures, whose real appeal is represented by less invasiveness.

This constantly evolving research environment has gained large acceptance by surgeons accustomed to prompt adaptation to a new trend and inclined to nimble behaviour in the face of innovations. This behaviour, however, requires a rigorous control in order to lead to more reliable, evidence-based practice and to slow or halt the enthusiasm for some harmful or unhelpful treatments, especially if they are proven to be no better than standard procedures.

This particular area of concern has received our attention: to understand whether innovations should be considered as evolutionary variations on a standard procedure or the first stage of what should become recognized as a formal surgical research project.

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