MEDIA RELEASE

Transoral Robotic Surgery lowering morbidity rates in Queensland

Friday 18 August, 2017

The utilisation of transoral robotic surgery minimises operative morbidity and allows access to the pharynx and larynx, which has previously not been possible, according to Dr Samuel Dowthwaite, an ENT Head and Neck Surgeon from the Gold Coast University Hospital.

Dr Dowthwaite, who will be presenting at the RACS Queensland Annual State Meeting on Sunday 20 August, says that the transoral robotic surgery (TORS) program within Queensland began in July 2013.

“This surgical technique was initially developed in the mid-2000s in the USA by adapting early models of the da Vinci robotic system to operations within subsites of the upper aerodigestive tract,” he said.

A specialist in head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstructive surgery, Dr Dowthwaite says that the robotic system has numerous advantages over other traditional transoral approaches.

“Other advantages include improved 3D-optics, tremor filtration, scaled movements, and the ability to overcome previously restrictive line-of-sight issues with the use of angled scopes.

“The most widespread application of TORS has been to the treatment of oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC), in particular, human papilloma virus (HPV), which has demonstrated a particular sensitivity to deintensified treatment regimens. Minimally invasive surgical techniques have been widely adopted to try to decrease treatment-related morbidity,” he said.

Dr Dowthwaite’s presentation aims to discuss the development of TORS throughout Queensland, and to reflect on the challenges that have been overcome, and consider those that still remain.

Up to 100 surgical Fellows, Trainees and Associates will meet at the Pullman Palm Cove Sea Temple Resort and Spa this weekend for a series of presentations and discussions across a broad range of surgical issues.

For more information about the 2017 RACS Combined Queensland Annual State Meeting & Surgical Directors Section Leadership Forum please visit: https://www.surgeons.org/about/regions/queensland/#Meetings

About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

www.surgeons.org

Media inquiries: Gabrielle Forman | Communications and Policy Officer

t: +61 3 9276 7430 | m: +61 498 218 008