

**Press Release**

20th July 2012

**A world’s first for major day case op at Torbay Hospital**

Torbay Hospital has become the first place in the world to perform a major urology procedure known as nephroureterectomy in a day case.

The major procedure which involves the removal of a kidney as well as the entire ureter, a tube which leads from the kidney to the bladder, was carried out using the most advanced and innovative technology in the form of the Da Vinci Si Robot.

The advance in day case surgery builds upon the Hospitals current reputation as one of just two units worldwide to perform day case laparoscopic nephrectomy, the removal of the kidney alone.

Dr Mary Stocker, Director of Day Surgery and Consultant Anaesthetist at South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said: “We are already pioneering worldwide in this area but it is fantastic for the Hospital and the whole team involved to carry out the world’s first day case nephroureterectomy.

“Having a dedicated day surgery unit, with highly trained staff and the very latest in robotic technology has all enabled us to carry out this complex procedure, and be the world’s first place to do so.”

Seamus MacDermott, Consultant Urologist at South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said:  “We have been using the Robot for a while now in urology but to be able use it for such a complex procedure and as a day case is a great achievement.

“A patient having this procedure in the more conventional way could expect to stay in hospital for about five days, so being able to carry out this procedure with the use of robotic technology and as a day case means that a patient can go home within just a few hours. Robotically assisted surgery also means less discomfort for the patient, with minimal incisions, something which is very appealing to anyone who requires surgery.”

Paula Vasco- Knight, Chief Executive at South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said: “We are a forward thinking and innovative Hospital but to lead the way forward worldwide is outstanding.

“Being able to come into hospital and go home the very same day is something that I know is extremely important to patients. With the use of advanced technology and the highly skilled expertise we have within our organisation, I hope that can offer patients more day case procedures in the future.”

The £1.5m Robot used to assist the world’s first day case nephroureterectomy was purchased by the Torbay Hospital League of Friends in 2009. The Trust currently carries out robotic surgery for gynaecology, urology and colorectal procedures.

**END**

**Notes to Editors**

* The world first day case nephroureterectomy was carried out in May.
* University Hospital North Staffordshire NHS Trust is the only other Trust worldwide to be carrying out day case laparoscopic nephrectomy. They are yet to carry out the more complex nephroureterectomy.
* Torbay Hospital is using the Da Vinci Si Robot for gynaecological surgery, colorectal surgery and urology.
* Not all patients will be suitable for robotically assisted surgery or day surgery and this is assessed on a case by case basis.