

## Laparoscopic Surgeon and Basics of Technology- Is There a Need to Revisit the Classrooms?

Laparoscopic surgery has seduced the patients and surgical fraternity alike. The march of laparoscopic surgery has been attributed to its appeal on account of limited invasion, better cosmesis and minimum disturbance to the activities of the patients. Technology the ever young seductress has put additional responsibility on all of us. It had to be absorbed and assimilated in existing armamentarium of medical scientist but with utmost respect to ethics of surgical practice. It forced a process of unlearning - relearning and retraining amongst us. The hurry to catch up and stay abreast led to expertise built upon anecdotal experience. But the advances in laparoscopic surgery continued even in absence of scientific randomized control led trials. This is a testimony of not only the popularity but the efficacy of technology as well. The laparoscopic surgeon has to strive to reproduce the gold standards defined in the era of conventional surgery. Despite this endeavor laparoscopic surgeons have had to compromise on some basic tenets of surgery. The pressure of ever evolving technology is to partially blame for it. One such example is the propensity of the Laparoscopic Surgeon to use Energy Sources routinely. Despite knowing well the potentially fatal side effects of such use, no attempt has been made to explore the avascular plains in Surgery. Lack of adherence to some basic principles of science is due to their unawareness. Technology has preceded the advance of Laparoscopic Surgery but the basis of technology has not been incorporated in medical curriculum. In this era of bio-technological convergence it is imperative to understand the basis of technology i.e. Physics. Technology should be used judiciously. Its use should be avoided even if there is an iota of concern about safety especially in situations where its use seems to be driven by our lack of understanding and skills. Human body is sacred. Our endeavor should be guided by the oath 'Primum Non Nocere'. Absence of even a potential harm has to be the prerequisite to any surgical procedure. Technology cannot be an excuse for its blind application. It has to be applied only if needed and absolutely validated by basic scientific wisdom. The challenge of training the untrained / self professed experts, adherence to ethics in face of biotechnological convergence and replication of the gold standards of conventional surgery are daunting tasks. I am sure we all agree to face the challenges constructively. Whatever we intend to do is of no use unless we communicate it well. Rising awareness levels and access to information have led to a well-informed patient seeking quality medical care. This has made ethics and soft skills or people skills a mandatory requirement in medical practice. This issue is a step towards addressing some of these concerns. Many stalwarts and pioneers of laparoscopic surgery have contributed to this issue. I am grateful for the same. I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the support of my colleagues. This issue would not have been possible without the support from Ms. Pooja and two school children namely Krishna Adit Agarwal & Nayan Agarwal. I have been privileged being taught by greats like Prof. Dr. P.D.Gulati, Prof. Dr.K.C.Mahajan & Prof. Dr.(Late) N. Singh. Their continued blessings only have made this publication possible.

**Correspondence: Dr. Brij B. Agarwal**

Consultant Laparoscopic Surgeon

Department of General Surgery, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi – 110060, India

*e-mail:* endosurgeon@gmail.com

*Website:* endosurgeon.googlepages.com