New Database Tracks Natural Orifice Surgeries Worldwide

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OAK BROOK, Ill. — The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) recently announced a joint project that tracks outcomes of the transdisciplinary therapy known as Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery™ (NOTES™).

Physicians worldwide can use the registry to log human research cases. The registry is sponsored by a group called the Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research™ (NOSCAR™), which includes members of SAGES and ASGE.

The NOTES/NOSCAR Outcomes Registry started tracking procedures in July during the 3rd International Conference on NOTES, which was held in San Francisco.

The NOTES/ NOSCAR Outcomes Registry is the most comprehensive database in the world that solely tracks natural orifice surgical procedures, said Robert Hawes, MD, a NOSCAR co-chair.

“NOSCAR encourages physicians around the world who are performing these surgeries to log their cases in the registry to further understanding and development of this revolutionary technique,” Hawes said.

The goal of the NOTES Outcomes Registry is to identify trends in the technique that will lead to the next phases of research, development of criteria for the procedure, training requirements, and to address quality and safety issues.

The registry allows real-time benchmarking wherein physicians can instantly compare their results to the study group. The registry is a Web-based application that can be accessed from home, office, laptop, etc. It is free to all members of ASGE and SAGES.

The registry logs information such as infection rates and length of stay and all physician and patient identifiers are stripped from the data prior to submission.

The growing capabilities of therapeutic flexible endoscopy have introduced new treatment of gastrointestinal conditions. Refinements in laparoscopic surgery have progressed to the point that complex surgical procedures, such as gastric bypass, can now be performed in a minimally invasive fashion.

These trends have set the stage for the development of even less invasive methods to treat conditions in the gut lumen and the peritoneal cavity. Natural orifices may provide the entry point for surgical interventions in the peritoneal cavity thereby avoiding abdominal wall incisions.

For more information, visit www.noscar.org.