

First patients in Wales treated with Versius surgical robot as part of national programme

- The first cases have taken place with Versius within the colorectal specialty at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board becomes the second hospital in Wales to start robotic procedures with Versius, with initial cases in gynaecology
- The National Robotic Assisted Surgery Programme is a partnership between CMR Surgical and NHS Wales to improve surgical outcomes and transform the experience of surgery for thousands of patients

Cambridge, United Kingdom. 26 September 2022 00:01 GMT. CMR Surgical (CMR) – the global surgical robotics business – has announced that the first patients in Wales have been treated as part of a new all-Wales National Robotic Assisted Surgery Programme, using the Versius® Surgical Robotic System.

Colorectal patients at the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board have begun to receive successful robotic-assisted surgery with the Versius surgical robot. In north Wales, at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, cases have started in gynaecology.

The National Robotic Assisted Surgery Programme was introduced by the Welsh Government to improve outcomes for cancer patients by increasing the number of patients across Wales who have access to less-invasive, minimal access surgery (MAS). MAS offers well-recognised benefits to the patients, when compared to open surgery, including reduced pain, scarring and recovery time. Versius enables surgeons to perform complex procedures precisely and accurately, with the surgeon operating four robotic arms from an independent, open console.

Jared Torkington, Lead Clinician for the National Robotics Assisted Surgery Programme and Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board: “We are hugely excited about the start of a unique, networked robotic programme in Wales, designed to improve the quality of surgery, attract and retain staff and work with the public in highlighting the importance of early presentation and existing screening programmes in Bowel and other cancers.”

Mr Richard Peevor, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, who is one of the first surgeons to use the robot, said: “We are proud to become the first surgical discipline to use robotics to treat our patients in North Wales. We will be offering this kind of surgery to women needing hysterectomies for gynaecological cancer. Robotic-surgery has many advantages compared to open surgery; benefits include less blood loss, shorter hospital stays and



quicker recovery. Here in Ysbyty Gwynedd we are the Gynaecological Cancer Surgical Centre for North Wales so having the robot available to us will really strengthen the service we already have in place for our patients.”

Later this year, two further health boards will start using Versius for surgical cases. The programme is expected to expand to cover upper GI and urology in addition to colorectal and gynaecology.

The all-Wales programme aims to standardise patient care across the country, and will mean that patients will not have to travel to England for robotic procedures. The programme will also benefit from research generated through CMR's global clinical registry, which consists of real time data on surgical procedures, helping to build a benchmark to support surgical standards within robotic assisted surgery (RAS). Additionally, it is expected that the innovative approach to surgical care will enhance recruitment and retention within the surgical workforce.

CMR has supported the implementation of the programme through extensive onsite support and training, and will continue to support the programme through a collaborative partnership with NHS Wales, Welsh Government, Life Sciences Hub Wales and Moondance Cancer Initiative. CMR was appointed as the industry partner for the programme following a competitive procurement process.

Ana Raduc, General Manager, UK and Ireland at CMR Surgical: “At CMR, we are thrilled to be a part of this pioneering strategy, and welcome the leadership that Wales has shown in adopting an innovative approach that will deliver real benefits for NHS Wales, surgeons and most importantly, patients across the country, by harnessing the power of Versius. We hope this programme will demonstrate the merits of a country-wide surgical robotic public health programme as health systems worldwide face rising pressures and growing backlogs of elective care. Wales has led the way, and we encourage a further discussion and best practice sharing on the merits of a national surgical robotics programme with other UK nations.”

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Notes to editors:

The Versius® Surgical Robotic System

Versius® resets expectations of robotic surgery. Versius fits into virtually any operating room set-up and integrates seamlessly into existing workflows, increasing the likelihood of robotic minimal access surgery (MAS). The small, portable and modular design of Versius® allows the surgeon to use only the number of arms needed for a given procedure.



Biomimicking the human arm, Versius® gives surgeons the choice of optimised port placement alongside the dexterity and accuracy of small fully-wristed instruments. With 3D HD vision, easy-to-adopt instrument control and a choice of ergonomic working positions, the open surgeon console has the potential to reduce stress and fatigue and allows for clear communication with the surgical team. By thinking laparoscopically and operating robotically with Versius®, patients, surgeons and healthcare professionals can all benefit from the value that robotic MAS brings.

But it's more than just a robot. Versius® captures meaningful data with its wider digital ecosystem to support a surgeon's continuous learning. Through the Versius Connect app, Versius Trainer and CMR clinical registry, Versius® unleashes a wealth of insights to ultimately improve surgical care.

About CMR Surgical Limited

CMR Surgical (CMR) is a global medical devices company dedicated to transforming surgery with Versius®, a next-generation surgical robot.

Headquartered in Cambridge, United Kingdom, CMR is committed to working with surgeons, surgical teams and hospital partners, to provide an optimal tool to make robotic minimal access surgery universally accessible and affordable. With Versius®, we are on a mission to redefine the surgical robotics market with practical, innovative technology and data that can improve surgical care.

Founded in 2014, CMR Surgical is private limited company backed by an international shareholder base.

