

How the role of an endoscopy nurse within the Clinical Research Facility is helping to provide innovative endoscopy research in Wales

Introduction

The role of the endoscopy nurse has been essential to the development of a dedicated endoscopy and decontamination area within the Clinical Research Facility at the University Hospital of Wales. The endoscopy nurse provides the knowledge to check the efficiency of equipment in the Clinical Research Facility including endoscopes and their accessories and has the expertise to take appropriate action should equipment be inefficient or ineffective. The endoscopy nurse has also brought knowledge of the decontamination process and the rational and importance behind correctly reprocessing endoscopes on site. The endoscopy nurses' other responsibilities include providing technical assistance to the endoscopist during colonoscopy procedures and offering essential knowledge of endoscopy policies and procedures in order to adhere to strict BSG guidelines (British Society of Gastroenterology).

Method

Due to the employment of an endoscopy nurse within the Clinical Research Facility, the £70,000 investment to provide state of the art technology for the detection and treatment of bowel cancer by Cardiff & Vale Health Board, Cardiff University and Cancer Research UK has been utilised in order to carry out the study. This study is the first of its kind anywhere in the UK. The study involves robotic technology that uses a disposable motor driven but colonoscopist controlled camera for colonoscopy. This technology is being used to help detect cancers sooner and introduce cutting edge technology in the area of endoscopy.

Conclusion

Through combining different types of technology in the new type of colonoscopy, laboratory markers of bowel cancer and how our patients tolerate the procedure we would hope that this test might be brought 'closer to the patient'. Rather than the patient having to travel and wait for the test the goal is to deliver this procedure in the primary care setting for future practice.

