

# Understanding and introducing innovation

Innovation is a key driver in refining procedures and improving clinical outcomes. Many of the new devices available in the healthcare market create enhanced and more precise techniques for treating patients, but to Mediclinic, it is important that there is meaningful scientific data to support these new technologies.

Dr Ronnie van der Merwe, chief clinical officer for Mediclinic International believes strongly that serious consideration must be applied when adopting any new technology.



Dr Ronnie van der Merwe

Understanding the value and risks attached to the new systems allows Mediclinic to understand whether their introduction provides value and the best possible outcome for the patient.

Recent examples include the da Vinci robotic surgery system and the lung volume reduction coil (LVRC), both of which have resulted in remarkable improvements in patients' lives.

## Da Vinci robotic surgery

Da Vinci surgical statistics are proving valuable in redefining patients' cancer treatment plans as the precision surgery allows a better understanding of the progression of the disease. According to Dr Gawie Bruwer, urologist at Mediclinic Durbanville, up to 20% of his patients care plans are being re-evaluated following the surgery as the cancer has progressed beyond initial histology indications. These insights are ensuring early treatment with the best possible clinical outcomes for these patients.

## Lung volume reduction coil

In the two years following the introduction of the LVRC, more than 20 additional patients suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease have undergone this procedure with dramatic improvements in the quality of life and a significant reduction in their risk of death.

A procedure taking only 60 minutes can produce positive results within a day of the operation, with patients able to function far more independently following the LVRC insertion. This technology also highlights the benefits of collaboration between private healthcare and the academic world with the University of Stellenbosch contributing to this ground-breaking

procedure at Mediclinic Panorama.

## **Percutaneous pacemaker**

The minimally invasive nature some of the technology speaks volumes about best possible care with the safest outcomes. Dr Razeen Gopal, who recently performed the first percutaneous insertion of the Micra transcatheter pacing system (TPS) in private healthcare in South Africa, is able to implant the life-supporting device through a catheter in the femoral vein.

This is in contrast to the incisions required for a conventional pacemaker. The size and structure of the system also reduces the complications related to such insertions because of the absence of leads or wires, a key area where complications may arise in traditional pacemakers.

## **Balancing care with science**

As we consider various technologies being adopted to a greater degree within our business, we are certain that we are putting our patients first. By balancing the best possible care with the optimum access to proven clinically advanced equipment, we are able to create the best possible value for our patients, Medclinic says.

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