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Surgeons Can Now See What to Cut Thanks to Optiscan

Last week, Johns Hopkins', the number 1 hospital in the US, ran its *Eighth Annual Gastroenterology and Hepatology: Viva la Vida* Conference in Puerto Rico, US. The conference draws an audience of world leading Gastroenterologists from around the US, Europe and South America. The purpose of the conference is to demonstrate the most advanced technologies and treatment options available in endoscopy today..

This year, the stand out new technology was an endo-microscope developed by Optiscan in Melbourne.

The Optiscan technology is a miniature confocal microscope that allows surgeons to see cell level detail whilst operating. One of the great benefits of the technology is that it removes the need for a surgeon to biopsy tissue in order to confirm that it is diseased. It also allows the surgeon to remove the diseased tissue with considerably more precision.

During the conference a number of technologies (including Optiscan's nearest competitors' offerings) were demonstrated. However, only the Optiscan technology delivered on the promise to see diagnostic cellular detail. Dr Marcia Canto performed live procedures that were transmitted from the endoscopy room at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, USA. Professor Ralf Kiesslich from Johannes Gutenberg-Universitat (Mainz, Germany) moderated at the conference venue and commented on the Optiscan technology "...now we see the actual cellular detail and there is no doubt that this is dysplastic tissue and Dr Canto can now proceed directly to resect it...".

Recognition by the world's leading Gastroenterologists of the value of the Optiscan endomicroscopy technology is a huge step forward for the small Australian company that manufactures these microdevices and exports them to Pentax in Japan for the global market. Optiscan's CEO, Vicki Tutungi stated

"It is great to see the medical profession embracing this technology. It is also very satisfying to think of the patients worldwide who will benefit from its use".

Break Out piece

What are Endomicroscopes?

Endomicroscopes combine laser, fiber optic and computer technologies to produce miniature confocal microscopes. These microscopes enable microscopic optical sectioning of tissue in vivo, so that layers of cells are clearly imaged. Magnification of up to 1,000x allows cellular and sub-cellular structures to be observed.

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