



PATIENT INFORMATION

Use of Olympus Laparoscopy equipment in Theatres



Important information about Olympus Equipment

A company called Olympus has produced equipment to assist with operations for many years. We use many Olympus products in our theatres and have not had any problems in the past.

Recent Information

Recently Olympus became aware that a particular instrument called an “insufflator” may have malfunctioned in a few cases around the world. Olympus has alerted hospitals to this, while it conducts an investigation.

What is Worcestershire Royal Hospital Trust doing about it?

While this investigation is underway our operating theatres have employed several measures to keep you safe. These include:

- Being extra vigilant whilst using the “insufflator” device.
- Using alternative “insufflators” when available (i.e. those made by other companies).
- Considering whether the surgery could be delayed until the “insufflator” queries are resolved.

What kind of issues have been reported?

The Olympus insufflator device is likely to have been used millions of times, without any issues. In a few cases it is possible that the device caused excess pressure in patients abdomens, leading to quite serious problems, which made the patients unwell. In some rare cases there were reports of the patient dying, although at this stage it is not known if this was related to the insufflator.

Why does this matter to me?

In your operation the surgeon is likely to need to use an Olympus insufflator to help complete ‘keyhole surgery’. It is important to note the team are extra-vigilant to issues with this device. We feel the risks are quite low. We acknowledge the global risk identified and as such, the need we keep you ‘our patient’ informed. Any decision to have surgery should be an informed one, and we encourage you to ask any questions you may have surrounding the information in this leaflet. Please ask your surgeon for their advice and information if you have further questions on this.

If your symptoms or condition worsens, or if you are concerned about anything, please speak with the nurse on the ward and once home call your GP, 111, or 999.

Patient Experience

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

Feedback

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available for completion and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. Please ask a member of staff for one, or you may see them in patient areas. We value your comments and feedback, and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaint's procedure.

How to contact PALS:

Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Opening times:

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that you may need to leave a voicemail message, but we aim to return your call within one working day.

If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.