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Mr Reetan Patel
Technology Appraisals Administrator
National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence
Mid City Place
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Our Ref: MDP/kp/Patel

30th March 2006

Dear Mr Patel,

Re: Appraisal Consultation Document – Laparoscopic Surgery for Colorectal Cancer

Thank you for the above. We are naturally pleased with the overall outcome, which we see as a positive first step to more widespread use of laparoscopic techniques.

It is not unreasonable to suggest that with a wider take-up of the procedure:


- Surgeon experience will develop with a consequent reduction in operating times and in reversion to open surgery.
- Patient-led demand for the laparoscopic approach will increase.
- Laparoscopic operating costs will significantly diminish with the introduction of reusable apparatus.

On this latter point, I very much hope that reusable product costings are being considered by the Costing Unit alongside those of single-use devices. If they require assistance with this, we would be happy to co-operate and provide comparative data.

Alternatively, given the omission of such a fundamental point regarding the cost of the procedure from the ACD are we to assume that equipment cost is now no longer an issue given the weight of evidence in support of the procedure?

Whatever, we welcome the conclusion and are grateful for the opportunity to have been involved in the appraisal.

Yours sincerely



KARL STORZ ENDOSCOPY (UK) LTD
Mike Perks
Managing Director