BL: Broadcast of Live Surgery  [Broadcast of Live Laparoscopic Surgery— from Korea to Japan—]

Introduction

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On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is my great pleasure to introduce the highlight event, “Live surgery from Korea”, to all of you.
Recently, the East Asian Society of Endourology (EASE) was established, and the correlation of endourologists between Korea and Japan has been getting closer than before. In addition, the year 2002 was a historical year for both Korea and Japan because the World Cup Soccer Tournament was successfully co-hosted by two countries for the first time in history. This was when the broadband Internet via the Korea-Japan submarine optical cable was also established. Using the big broadband network, our medical team (Chief: Dr. Shuji Shimizu, Department of Endoscopic Diagnosis and Therapeutics, Kyushu University, Japan) started the Korea-Japan Telemedical Network Project (included in Hyeonhae/Genkai Project) in 2003. In contrast to conventional telecommunications using the narrow band, high quality motion images do not deteriorate during transmission and exactly the same quality of pictures can be seen at the receiving end of the network. Up to now, several live surgeries and teleconferences have been successfully performed in the field of general surgery between the two countries.

At this annual meeting, we have specifically planned to have live surgery performed using the big broadband network from Korea for the first time in the urological field. Hangyang University in Seoul is also a member of the Korea-Japan Telemedical Network Project, and Prof. Tchun Young Lee (Department of Urology, Hangyang University, Korea) kindly approved our request to perform live surgery. In addition, this live surgery will also be broadcasted to the auditorium hall in Hangyang University, where active members of the Korean Endourological Society will also participate as a joint meeting. Excitingly, it is our good fortune that Prof. Inderbir S. Gill (Cleveland Clinic Foundation, USA), one of the most active laparoscopic urologic surgeons in the world, has kindly accepted our request to be the operator in the live surgery. We are planning a laparoscopic partial nephrectomy, one of the most technically challenging laparoscopic operations, for this live surgery demonstration. I believe that this exciting event will promote our professional relationship and good friendship with the urologists of Korea and USA. We hope that all participants will be satisfied with this live surgery demonstration and that this event will foster many fruitful discussions between Korea and Japan.