

Supplementary material

1. Training arrangements for participating surgeons

Participating surgeons were required to complete the first two cases with an experienced surgeon assisting for training purposes. The first two cases were supervised by a leading expert in IPVR surgery, Dr Marianeschi, who was based overseas. Dr Marianeschi completed training for two surgeons in Bristol and one in Southampton.

It took longer than expected for participating surgeons in Bristol and Southampton to complete the required training. During this time, patients whose operations were scheduled at short notice could not be approached due to logistical issues. In Bristol, there were initially two participating surgeons. To help improve recruitment rates, we invited an additional surgeon to participate in the trial. For the additional surgeon it was agreed that participating surgeons could supervise the first two IPVR cases if needed.