



CIONET

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL AND ROBOTICS IN THE FUTURE OF SURGERY

Johnson & Johnson

Johnson & Johnson sponsored CIONET Healthcare Circle The Role of Digital and Robotics in the Future of Surgery

A discussion dinner was held to explore the integration of digital and robotic technologies in surgery, focusing on their impact on the NHS and how these innovations can address high waiting list challenges. Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, the event brought together senior executives from NHS trusts, clinical experts, and digital technology specialists to share experiences and insights on digital technology implementations in current NHS and private hospital providers, as well as planning for future hospitals.

Roger Camrass, Research Director of CIONET International, moderated the session, which highlighted several key takeaways shaping the future of digital and robotic surgery:

Key Highlights from the Discussion

Outcomes-Focused Decision Making

- Demonstrating Productivity Gains: Use cases illustrating how robotics improve surgeons' productivity and increase patient throughput are critical. Addressing workforce challenges and reducing waiting lists are paramount.
- Improved Patient Outcomes: Studies have shown that robotic-assisted knee replacements may offer reduced hospital stay and fewer hospital readmissions than traditional surgery.

Strategic Infrastructure Planning

- Modern Network Infrastructure: Adoption of robotic surgery hinges on robust network infrastructures capable of high-speed data flows essential for live surgical procedures.
- Future-Proofing Hospital Designs: Hospitals must consider long-term technology replacement strategies to ensure new systems remain interoperable with existing infrastructure.
- Digital Maturity Assessment: Conducting assessments to evaluate readiness for advanced technology integration is essential.

Innovative Financing Models

- Overcoming Capital Constraints: Lease agreements and managed service arrangements can alleviate financial barriers for NHS hospitals.
- Public-Private Partnerships: These collaborations can ease capital investment burdens and enable hospitals to access cutting-edge technology without substantial upfront costs.

Cross-Functional Collaboration

- Collaboration among procurement, IT, finance, and clinical teams is critical to seamless integration and long-term sustainability.
- Knowledge-sharing among clinical experts and early engagement of hospital leadership can drive innovation and adoption.

Addressing Regulatory and Infrastructure Challenges

- Interoperability: Ensuring robotic systems are compatible with existing hospital IT infrastructures.
- Data Compliance: Addressing GDPR and other data privacy regulations to gain stakeholder trust.
- Cybersecurity Investments: Strengthening protection measures for patient data and systems.

Overcoming Financial Constraints

To strengthen the UK market position for robotic-assisted surgery, delegates recommended :

- Define Business Challenges: Focus on solutions that address specific clinical and operational problems.
- Showcase Measurable Benefits: Highlight improvements in patient outcomes and operational efficiencies.

- Enhance Data Connectivity: Ensure seamless data exchange between robotic devices and hospital IT systems for real-time insights and performance optimisation.
- Promote Interoperability: Facilitate integration with existing infrastructures.

Next Steps

Roger Camrass concluded the discussion by emphasising the need for:

1. Expanding the focus from robotic devices to holistic solutions that address clinical and operational challenges.
2. Developing clear strategies and guiding models for robotic technology integration.
3. Strengthening collaboration across departments to drive adoption.
4. Advocating for innovative funding models to ease financial burdens on hospitals.

As digital and robotic surgery continues to evolve, companies like Johnson & Johnson must partner with healthcare providers to deliver bespoke solutions aligned with clinical and operational needs. Strategic collaboration and forward-thinking investments will shape a promising future for surgical robotics in the NHS.



About CIONET

CIONET is the leading community of more than 10,000 digital leaders in 20+ countries across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Through this global presence CIONET orchestrates peer-to-peer interactions focused on the most important business and technology issues of the day. CIONET members join over a thousand international and regional live and virtual events annually, ranging from roundtables, programs for peer-to-peer exchange of expertise, community networking events, to large international gatherings. Its members testify that CIONET is an impartial and value adding platform that helps them use the wisdom of the (IT) crowd, to acquire expertise, advance their professional development, analyse and solve IT issues, and accelerate beneficial outcomes within their organisation.

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