



The Need for Structured Assessment

Recent reports on safety and quality of surgical performance, as for example by the World Health Organisation, stress the urgent need for improvement of training, assessment, and accreditation for technology dependent surgical procedures such as laparoscopy.

Laparoscopic Surgical Skills (LSS) is the answer to satisfy the needs of both the surgeons and the healthcare authorities. LSS is an initiative by the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) to provide a standard to (re)credential surgeons to perform laparoscopic surgery effectively and safely.

The LSS Assessment

LSS is a versatile programme that offers a standard for comprehensive performance assessment for training and education in laparoscopic surgery within a multi-level curriculum. LSS focuses on safeguarding the quality of performance in laparoscopic procedures and goes beyond the basic skills. LSS is the first standard that combines preclinical criterion-based assessment with clinical assessment of performance on index procedures.

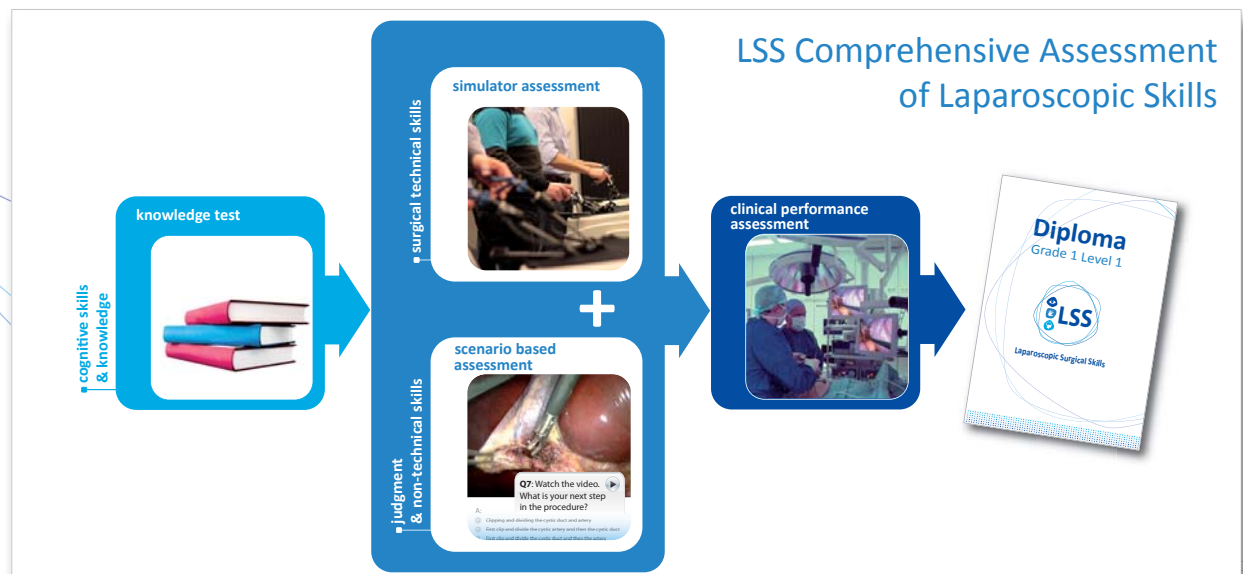
Distinctive Features of LSS

- Standardised assessment
- Focus on procedures, beyond basic skills
- Multi-level programme
- Close link to clinical practise
- Comprehensive approach: knowledge + technical skills + judgment
- Assessments in skillslab and clinical setting
- Examination: separate or within LSS accredited course
- Diploma providing recognition by EAES

Setting the Standard for Laparoscopic Skills



Within each level, the LSS assessment comprises a sequence of tests to evaluate a surgeon's proficiency in cognitive skills, surgical technical skills, and judgment. To this end, web-based study material and examinations are combined with various hands-on simulation modalities, scenario-based assessment, and clinical performance assessment. All LSS assessments are criterion-based and very practise-oriented.





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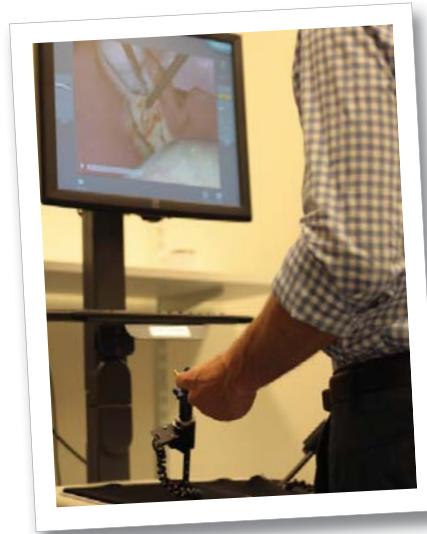
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Become a LSS Accredited Training Centre

LSS assessments and accredited courses are offered in an increasing number of training centres throughout Europe. Your training centre can become an LSS accredited training centre too! All training centres who run courses for laparoscopic surgery are invited to apply. There are specific accreditation requirements that need to be fulfilled to warrant the contents and quality of LSS accredited courses and LSS assessments. Still, training centres have freedom in the selection of (validated) simulation tools for the training. The LSS office issues the LSS diploma.

For more information on the accreditation process for training centres, please contact the LSS office.



The Multi-Level Programme

The LSS programme is divided into two grades. Grade I is divided into 2 consecutive levels and includes all basic laparoscopic skills and fundamental laparoscopic procedures. Grade II consists of several separate assessments each focusing on a specific advanced laparoscopic procedure, such as laparoscopic colon surgery or laparoscopic bariatric surgery.

Each level within the LSS curriculum addresses specific index procedures. LSS Grade I Level 1 is aimed at cholecystectomy, appendectomy, and diagnostic laparoscopy. Grade I Level 2 concentrates on laparoscopic suturing for procedures, and deals with the following procedures: the difficult cholecystectomy, anti-reflux procedures (Nissen fundoplication), repair of perforated duodenal ulcer, hernia repair (incisional and inguinal), and common bile duct (CBD) exploration.

Tailored to Your Level of Experience

LSS is developed for surgeons in training, surgical fellows, certified practising surgeons and other physicians who perform laparoscopic surgery or would like to do so.

LSS provides surgeons with a solid foundation of the cognitive, technical, and judgment/clinical skills they need throughout the different phases of their career in laparoscopic surgery. Eligible candidates can enrol either for the LSS assessment or for an LSS accredited course, of which the LSS assessment is an integral part. This provides surgeons of all expertise levels the opportunity to efficiently obtain LSS accreditation.

LSS Accredited Courses

All LSS accredited courses follow a goal-oriented and criterion-based approach that takes the training needs of each individual participant into account. The LSS assessment is an integral part of the course. LSS accredited courses are constructed around a vast amount of deliberate practice on a combination of simulation tools and interactive expert discussions; offering a well-balanced mix of hands-on training and application of theory.

