

**EA054**

**SETTING UP A MINIMALLY INVASIVE PAEDIATRIC SURGERY SERVICE  
IN GREECE; DIFFICULTIES AND PITFALLS**

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**Introduction**

Minimally invasive surgery initially introduced at the beginning of the 20th century, has rapidly developed over the past decades. The surprisingly fast recovery of patients undergoing laparoscopy together with the development of the technology set the basis for the growth of minimally invasive surgery while with the advent of small instruments and insufflators feasible for children, laparoscopy has also gained ground in paediatric surgery.

**Purpose**

We report our experience in our newly developed laparoscopic surgical service, from December 2009 until August 2023.

**Material & Method**

Hospital records were retrospectively reviewed, and data extracted from electronic and paper patient records. All patients undergone laparoscopic surgery in our Unit from December 2009 till August 2023 were included in the study.

Difficulties encountered at the beginning included lack of instruments, staff training and support from the hospital’s management.

**Results**

A total of 536 laparoscopic procedures were performed between December 2009 and August 2023. The range of pathologies treated included acute appendicitis (n=446), several adnexal pathologies (n=29), cholelithiasis (n=24), Varricocele (n=17), Omental torsion (n=10), Meckel’s diverticulum (n=3) and diagnostic laparoscopy (undescended testis, SBO, DSD ecc). Conversion to open surgery was performed in 30 cases (5,59%).

**Conclusions**

Laparoscopy has now evolved as the standard of care for many pathologies in the paediatric population. As shown in our study, adopting new technologies and minimally invasive techniques is feasible and safe with adequate training and careful case selection.