



## TRAINING IN UNIPORTAL VATS

Alan D. L. Sihoe

*MBBChir, MA(Cantab), FRCSEd, FCSHK, FHKAM, FCCP, FACS*

*Honorary Consultant in Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Gleneagles Hong Kong Hospital*

Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS) performed via a single port has emerged as a distinct 'next generation' minimally invasive approach for operations in the chest. As clinical evidence demonstrating its potential advantages has rapidly accumulated in recent years, it is not surprising that increasing numbers of surgeons around the world are looking to acquire skills in Uniportal VATS.

The good news for those aspiring to learn the Uniportal approach is that training opportunities are widely available. These range from hundreds of surgical videos online (though the educational quality may be questionable), through to multiple Uniportal meetings and workshops held across the globe every month, to modern simulator technologies. Clinical attachments and proctorships are also not difficult to find. The emergence of ultra-high volume thoracic surgery units that perform a large number of Uniportal cases also provides a new model for training: a high-intensity training course. At such units, it has been demonstrated that an attendee can potentially receive significant improvements to surgical skills in a very short period of time.

Ultimately, the objective of any training should be to ensure good outcomes in terms of patient safety and treatment efficacy. However, as is the case with most surgical approaches today, specific evaluation of Uniportal VATS proficiency has not yet been developed. It is necessary to now define the expected standards for Uniportal VATS in order to offer professional assessment and credentialing of those training in its use.

This presentation will outline some of the key opportunities and challenges facing those who wish to train in Uniportal VATS, and those who undertake to train them.