

PAT/08/142

**Friday, 26 June 2009**  
*For immediate use*

## **CONSULTANT HAS HIS FINGER ON THE BUTTON**

A PIONEERING consultant surgeon at Rochdale Infirmary has successfully carried out two gallbladder operations through patients' belly button.

The gallbladder is a small sac that lies under the liver and stores bile to help with the digestion of fat. Gallstones normally occur when the bile inside forms stones.

The new technique of Single Incision Surgery is a revelation compared with the previous operation that required four cuts at various points on the abdomen using keyhole surgery.

Mr Siba Senapati, consultant surgeon at The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, is understood to be the first in the North West to have successfully carried out this operation.



**Mr Siba Senapati (Centre left) using the new Single Incision Surgery technique**

He said: "One in five people will develop gallstones in their lifetime, these tend to be women, people over 40-years-old and people who are overweight. The gallstones are fatty lumps of material that solidify and harden, eventually causing the gall bladder to become diseased. Once stones start to form they line the gallbladder with disease, once it is diseased it will cause more and more stones to form. Gall stones are quite common and have the potential to cause significant illnesses like recurrent pain, jaundice, pancreatitis and many others and even mortality."

Mr Senapati recently studied the technique in Arizona, USA, where the world's leading keyhole surgeons gathered to share their expertise.

He said: "This new technique is practised in a few well established keyhole surgery centres in the world, but only in a handful of centres in the UK. The two patients that have been treated were very happy and were discharged within 24 hours. Not only is this technique less painful, it also means we don't have to do four different cuts which is the normal technique in keyhole surgery, which is excellent for the patient. There is less scarring for the patient and this reduces the anxiety and stress that can occur when a patient is left with considerable

scars. I firmly believe that there is a good chance that a large number of patients will be able to benefit from this treatment.”

Anyone who wishes to find out more information about gallstones should visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

**Notes to editors:**

1. For further information, please contact Andrew Lynn, senior communications manager, Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, on tel: 0161 604 5459 or email [andrew.lynn@pat.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.lynn@pat.nhs.uk)
2. Pennine Acute Trust runs Bury's Fairfield General Hospital, North Manchester General Hospital, The Royal Oldham Hospital, Rochdale Infirmary and also has services at Birch Hill Hospital.
3. All Pennine Acute Trust news releases and other media information is available online at: [www.pat.nhs.uk](http://www.pat.nhs.uk)