



## Swasthya Surgery

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Surgery will always involve learning, evolution, and refinement to improve outcomes for patients. The current issue of Swasthya highlights some of these developments.

Many of my more senior colleagues will remember the days of large incisions, corrugated rubber drains, exploratory laparotomy, as well as relying solely on clinical diagnosis for urgent surgery. Radiological investigations were a luxury, if they were available at all, and big bags of X-ray scan films can even still be seen these days in some centres where PACS facilities are not available. However, imaging technology is constantly evolving.

This issue of Swasthya features reflections and discussions from professionals on developments in the field.

Prof Ramamurthy reflects on his surgical career, discussing the evolution of surgical techniques including laparoscopy and day case surgery, which is becoming the standard of care for many surgical procedures. Dr Lakshmi Seshadri also discusses recent developments in Gynaecology including reproductive medicine and fertility sparing therapies.

Imaging has transformed surgery, helping with precise planning, and differentiating the normal from the abnormal. The X-ray, invented by Wilhelm Röntgen, has been a useful tool for surgeons from the dawn of twentieth century. Imaging capabilities were further advanced by Sir Godfrey Hounsfield of Sutton-on-Trent. Originally an electrical engineer by profession, he transformed imaging capability with the introduction of Computerised Tomography scans, also known as CT scans, in 1971.

The invention of the CT scan has refined many medical and surgical interventions over the past five decades, aiding millions of human beings in potentially life-threatening situations across the globe. The latest refinement in CT scans is the introduction of Photon Counting CT, which is set to be a gamechanger as it reduces the duration of imaging, improves resolution, and has the potential to reduce interventions like coronary angiography. The news review section of the current issue raises awareness of this new development, which has the potential to become the most widely used radiological investigation in this decade, helping surgeons and ultimately improving patient care.

Surgery requires careful planning and surgeons need to be aware of cutting-edge technology and recent advances, which I hope the current issue of Swasthya can provide, through the insights it offers into the current possibilities of innovations becoming a reality.

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