

Change and challenges: My 42 years of experience in endoscopy

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Presentation

Nurses

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A senior gastroenterology nurse with 42 years of experience shares career lessons on the evolution of endoscopy nursing from a purely assistive role to an integral partnership position within the endoscopy team.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker traced the evolution of endoscopy nursing from 1941 when gastroenterology nursing was first recognised as essential, through early fibre optic days when nurses cleaned scopes and reprocessed accessories themselves, to the present integrated team role.
- The speaker emphasised that communication between endoscopist and nurse is fundamental, and the art of anticipation distinguishes excellent endoscopy nurses.
- The speaker taught that nurses should be proud of their role as it is fundamental to procedures, should teach and mentor students, always be prepared for complications, and never fear change or failure.
- The speaker recommended that gastroenterology units separate from bronchoscopy and urology to focus on GI pathologies as centres of excellence, with subspecialisation within GI nursing and mandatory IT and AI training for future nurses.
- In discussion, the speaker identified professional jealousy among colleagues and loss of patient contact time due to technology as negative aspects experienced during the career.

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