

# MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGEON IN HEPATOPANCREATOBILIARY SURGERY FELLOWSHIP: ONE ACADEMIC CENTER'S MODEL

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**Background:** Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) for Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) diseases is gaining increasing attention. MIS for complex HPB resections requires laparoscopic skills mastered during MIS fellowships, while complex HPB procedures require a significant amount of knowledge and multidisciplinary management mastered during HPB fellowships.

**Methods:** HPB Surgery fellowship at our academic medical center has established a model to further advance the application of MIS techniques in HPB diseases. Over the last 5 years this HPB surgery fellowship has trained 4 fellows with formal MIS fellowship training. To further assess the model we provided a survey to faculty and fellows with MIS training from this fellowship.

**Results:** Three out of four faculty had previous MIS training through Minifellowships only. Three faculty indicated that the number of MIS-HPB cases done increased to 25-50 cases/year after adopting the model. This increase was due to the availability of MIS trained fellow, increase interest and marketing. All four faculty indicated that the best sequence for the fellowships is MIS followed by HPB. Three fellows choose to do 2 fellowships based on interest in MIS-HBP and one based on advice by a mentor, three fellows had done more MIS-HPB cases during the HPB fellowship compared to the MIS fellowship.

**Conclusion:** Lack of well established training programs for MIS-HPB procedures represents a challenge to the current HPB training paradigm. Performing two fellowships in MIS and HPB is a potential solution to master the technical skills required for MIS surgery and the knowledge and multidisciplinary approach of the HPB surgeon.