

Gynaecological Oncology Dissemination Seminar

on 23rd November 2025

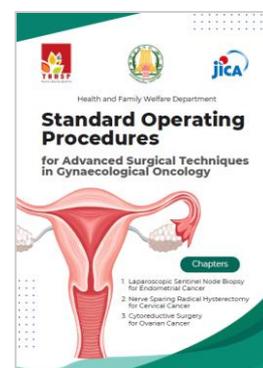
On Sunday, 23 November 2025, leading experts gathered at Radisson Blu, Chennai City Centre for a seminar dedicated to advancing gynaecological cancer care in Tamil Nadu. This event, organized by the Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project (TNHSP) and the JICA TNNCD (Oncology) Project*, aimed to disseminate newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and foster collaboration among specialists involved in surgical treatments of gynecological cancers.

Background to this seminar

Eight surgical oncologists underwent 2-week gynaecological oncology observership program at Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACH&RI) in Hyderabad on Laparoscopic Sentinal Node Biopsy (LSNB) for endometrial cancer and Cytoreductive Surgery (CRS) for ovarian cancer (under the supervision of Prof. T. Subramanyeshwar Rao and Dr. Rajagopalan in summer 2024. Because of the needs in better team building of CRS care, selected anaesthetists and nurses underwent training at BIACH&R as well I in summer 2025. The surgical oncologists also received a mentorship from Prof. Tomoyasu Kato on nerve sparing radical hysterectomy (NSRH) for cervical cancer. This seminar was organised for the trained experts to disperse the learned knowledge and skills to other surgical oncologists and anaesthetists serving at government tertiary care hospitals with the support from the mentors.

LAUNCHING OF SOPs FOR ADVANCED SURGERY TECHNIQUES IN GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY

The day began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by welcome remarks by Dr. S. Vineeth I.A.S., Project Director (PD), TNHSP. The PD stressed the importance of this knowledge and experience sharing initiative for mainstreaming of advanced surgery techniques learned. Then, PD unveiled SOPs for advanced surgical procedures in gynaecological oncology developed by the Observership program participants. Dr. E. Theranirajan, Additional Director, Directorate of Medical Education (DME) gave a speech and emphasizing the great value of documented SOPs as a government initiative in improving patient outcomes. Lastly, Dr T.S Rao shared his experience with a presentation on how to build a strong team to achieve better patient outcomes.



Lamp lighting



SOP launching

MORNING SESSION: NERVE SPARING RADICAL HYSTERECTOMY FOR CERVICAL CANCER & LAPAROSCOPIC SENTINEL NODE BIOSY FOR ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

The clinical session started with the presentation on the development of nerve sparing technique and key surgical procedures of the NSRH techniques demonstrated by Dr Tomoyasu Kato, National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, who joined online. Then, Dr. G. Anitha, a senior assistant professor from Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, presented the step-wise procedures of NSRH utilising the SOP and surgery videos. After the tea break, Dr. Kavitha Sukumar, from Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (IOG), Chennai presented the LSNB in accordance with the SOP, including the indocyanine green (ICG) injection technique and important technical tips.

The sessions generated good technical discussions, benefitting from the presence of the experts who served as mentors during the observership training at BIACH&RI. For example, it was pointed out by a participant regarding LSNB technique that the most common sentinel node for carcinoma endometrium is obturator or internal iliac node, and occasionally para aortic nodes may be involved. As a solution to this, the technique of identification of para aortic sentinel node was put forth by Prof. Rao from BIACH&RI.



Presentation on NSRH



Presentation on LSNB

AFTERNOON SESSION: CYTOREDUCTIVE SURGERY FOR OVARIANCANCER AND TEAM BUILDING

The afternoon session commenced with the presentation of the anaesthetist's SOP explained by Dr. M. Sathya, -----professor form Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH), following by the demonstration of surgical SOP and videos by Dr. N. Selveraj, associate professor from CMCH. At the end of this session, Dr Rajapgopalan from BIACH & RI delivered a presentation on how to set up an Opertaion Theater to perform CRS There was a active discussion among anasthetists and



Discussion on CRS

surgical oncologists. In particular, various opinions were expressed regarding the quality of patient care and multidisciplinary collaboration that can be realistically achieved within limited resources. The seminar was concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Vijayakumar, Deputy Director, TNHSP.



Group photo at the end of the seminar

The training was organised under the TNNCD (Oncology) Project as a part of its “OUTPUT 3” component, which specifically aims to **enhance clinical skills and practices for cancer diagnosis and treatment at government cancer care institutions.*

*Besides gynaecological oncology, observership training in **pathology (molecular diagnostic for cancer), radiation oncology and surgical gastroenterology** are/have been carried out by the Project at renowned institutions in India and Japan.*