



AMBU® ASCOPE™ 4 CYSTO

EUROPE'S FIRST FULL CONVERSION TO SINGLE-USE CYSTOSCOPE

Wye Valley Trust, Hereford County Hospital

The urology department at Hereford County Hospital moved out of the endoscopy unit and relocated into a dedicated urology building with the help of the aScope 4 Cysto. The department now runs on 100% single-use cystoscopes. This has allowed them to increase their patient throughput in the clinic, which was previously restricted in endoscopy. They are now offering a 'one-stop' clinic that utilises the excellent image quality of the aScope 4 Cysto to perform the diagnostic and therapeutic cystoscopies.

"I think anyone considering switching to a disposable scope system should strongly look at Ambu's range of products. They are cost-effective, easy to store, have a 3-year shelf life, and will give you the flexibility to perform endoscopy on a ward, in an A&E department, or at your standard endoscopy suite. Even if you do not want to take cystoscopy out of the endoscopy suite, you will still have a much faster turnaround using a disposable system, as you are not limited to the rate that your scopes can be disinfected. Indeed, another thing worth mentioning is every department will, at some time, have a mechanical failure or fault in their disinfection system. It is days like that when your list is cancelled. You do not have this kind of problem with a disposable scope."

"It is with great pride we were the first in the UK to use it, which I think is a fantastic achievement for the trust. We are all very happy with it. It is ergonomic, light, and the vision on the screen is very good."





“It was very difficult to get a patient from A&E or the ward into the endoscopy unit because they had dedicated slots. Sometimes we would not have sterile cystoscopes or equipment ready.”



Urology Department at Hereford County Hospital: setting up an off-site, dedicated urology centre

Mr Wasim Mahmalji, a Consultant Urological Surgeon at Hereford County Hospital, explains the challenges the department faced, which led them to adopt a single-use system.

Limited cystoscopy capacity in the endoscopy unit

Most organisations will already have a full endoscopy timetable where they have allocated all the sessions in each room to a speciality on a weekly basis.

“We used to limit our endoscopy to two and a half sessions in our dedicated endoscopy unit. We would struggle to meet capacity and meet target times because those lists were always so busy. Our hospital managers were very keen to try and free up some of the space in endoscopy for things that could only be done in an endoscopy unit, such as colonoscopies.”

Difficulty responding to emergency cystoscopy

Scheduling is a critical part of how an endoscopy unit runs to deliver a reliable, achievable list in a timely manner. However, having a rigid timetable makes it challenging to fit in emergency cystoscopy cases. Mr Mahmalji was also familiar with the scenario:

“It was very difficult to get a patient from A&E or the ward into the endoscopy unit because they had dedicated slots. Sometimes we would not have sterile cystoscopes or equipment ready.”

Traditional endoscopy was not ideal for an off-site one-stop clinic

Urology one-stop facilities are set up to provide a more efficient service, where patients can have a clinical consultation and important diagnostic tests done in one visit. This necessitates having a cystoscope available when required, which might not be possible with traditional reusable cystoscopes as it needs to undergo decontamination between patients. Mr Mahmalji expressed that they realised the challenges of sticking to conventional endoscopy, especially when moving to a new off-site centre.

“Sterilising, storing, transporting, and unpacking, these are all things that are not ideal when you want to run an efficient one-stop-service, especially if you are off-site.”

The ideal solution: Ambu aScope 4 Cysto

The Ambu aScope 4 Cysto is a sterile, single-use flexible endoscope, which provides visualisation via a high-quality, portable full-HD monitor, the aView™ 2 Advance. Mr Mahmalji revealed that the key drivers in his decision to adopt aScope 4 Cysto are that it is not limited to one function and is useful in any scenario.

aScope 4 Cysto is designed to be used for endoscopic access to and examination of the lower urinary tract and thus more versatile than existing single-use solutions.

“I think with this product, the main advantage is that it is not limited to one function, and you can perform a diagnostic or surveillance cystoscopy. You can perform treatments, such as stent removal, you can diathermies small tumours, and you can take small limited biopsies. It is certainly more multifunctional than some of the previous single-use options.”

The multifunctional aScope 4 Cysto is lightweight and portable, which makes accessing an available cystoscope no longer a barrier to increasing procedure volume and productivity.

“It is useful in any scenario you need to do a flexible cystoscopy. For example, in our haematuria clinic, we would normally be limited to twelve patients a day because of scopes re-sterilising; we now simply have no limit, and the capacity is maximised.”



“The capacity issues in the endoscopy department has been fixed, and indeed we helped other specialities because they have taken our slots.”

The aScope 4 Cysto eliminated the need for reprocessing, increased urology list capacity, improved overall department efficiency, and simplified emergency cystoscopies

Although the urology department at Hereford County Hospital has been using aScope 4 Cysto for just a couple of months, the advantages of having this single-use solution are multifaceted, according to Mr Mahmalji:

Eliminated the need for sterilising, storing, transporting, and unpacking traditional scopes

“With a dedicated urology centre off-site, transporting equipment is no longer an issue. This solved all those greater problems. In addition, we have done a detailed cost analysis comparing the two systems. Certainly, by our studies, the aScope 4 Cysto does work out more cost-effective than continuously re-sterilising, re-storing the traditional scopes.”

Increased the cystoscopy list capacity

“The cystoscopy list capacity is no longer an issue. Now, we are simply limited to actual capacity. Currently, we can do as many cystoscopies as we need to book, as we always have plenty of aScope 4 Cysto in stock. In addition, they have a 3-year shelf life, which is hugely useful.”

Improved efficiency of one-stop urology clinic

“We can also do on the spot cystoscopies. The typical scenario is if a gentleman has come in for something other than haematuria with lower urinary tract symptoms, we can very quickly offer him a cystoscopy there and then. This avoids putting him on the waiting list for later, so again, it frees up capacity and treats the patient much quicker.

We use it in our one-stop clinic, so anyone who comes in with haematuria can be seen, have a consultation, have an ultrasound, and have an endoscopy, all in one visit.”

Provided a robust solution for emergencies

“Only last week, one of my colleagues was asked to see a patient in A&E, as no one was able to pass a catheter. He took one of the Ambu cystoscopes along with the screen to A&E. He was able to perform a cystoscopy and guidewire a catheter, giving rapid patient relief and rapid symptom resolution; whereas traditionally, this gentlemen would either have to wait for a long time until we can get him into the endoscopy suite or go on slightly invasive with the suprapubic catheter.”

Patient and overall organisational satisfaction at Wye Valley NHS Trust

Wye Valley NHS Trust's key principles are to improve the health and well-being of the people they serve. Adopting aScope 4 Cysto and establishing an off-site independent urology centre was closely aligned with this objective, and it contributed to achieving great patient satisfaction and overall organisational improvement. The patients are extremely satisfied as they do not have to pay separate visits to the hospital for consultation and diagnostics tests, where their treatment and diagnosis time are significantly longer. Whereas now, everyone is seen and diagnosed anywhere from half an hour to an hour.

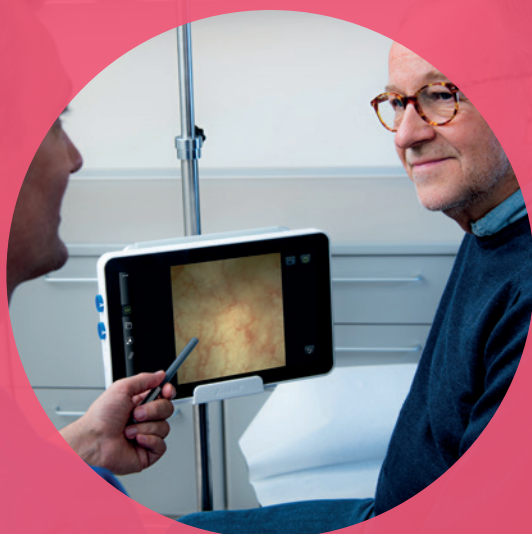
In addition, aScope 4 Cysto is sterile and single-use. Mr Mahmalji said:

“From a patient perspective, the scope is only used on you and thrown away. I know that there has been the news, and there had been papers of cross-contamination and failure of full sterilisation with reusable scopes. This is another reason I would champion a disposable product as it is sterile.”

Moving out of the endoscopy unit has improved efficiency for other specialties, as the slots taken up by the urology department has been allocated to other specialities, such as respiratory and gastroenterology, according to Mr Mahmalji.

“There is overall organisational satisfaction because it is not only improving our treatment times and waiting list times, but it also improved other departments.”

ABOUT HEREFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL, WYE VALLEY NHS TRUST



Wye Valley NHS Trust is the provider of healthcare services at Hereford County Hospital, along with several community services for Herefordshire and its borders, serving a population of 180,000. The trust runs urology specialist clinics at the hospital and community-based clinics at various sites for urinary and genital problems, along with a multidisciplinary cancer service. The urology team at Hereford County Hospital became the first in Europe to fully convert to the new single-use cystoscope-aScope 4 Cysto.

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For more information please visit:
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