

ESSO Hands-on Course on Surgical Colorectal Oncology: Review & Essentials

Birmingham, UK, 26-27 November 2026

Course Chairs

Melissa Cunha, University Hospitals of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

Geerard Beets, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, NL

Faculty members

José Azevedo, Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon, PT

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Assistant Faculty members:

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Mohammed Gulamhussein, University Hospitals of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

Programme

Thursday 26 November

13:20 – 13:30 Welcome and introduction
M. Cunha

13:30 – 14:00 Foundations of Oncologic Colorectal Surgery & Safe Anastomosis
S. Addison

- Mesocolic plane integrity
- Lymph node clearance & high-tie rationale
- ESCP anastomosis framework
- Pre-course *direction* to ESCP modules

14:00 – 16:00 Practical session (practical skills stations)

4 groups, rotation every 30'

- Station 1: Haemostasis & energy fundamentals (Seminar room)
 - Bipolar vs advanced bipolar vs ultrasonic; thermal spread demo on meat models.
- Station 2: Open bowel anastomosis basics (Clinical skills)
 - Hand-sewn end-to-end on porcine or isoperistaltic
- Station 3: Port placements
 - Different types of ports
 - Positioning for right or left resections
- Station 4: Abdominal wall closure and stoma formation
 - Model for stoma and pig tissue for abdominal wall closure

16:00 – 16:20 *Coffee break*

16:20 – 17:30 Case-based “What could leak?” (Right hemicolectomy scenarios, stapled vs hand-sewn, leak tests, “don’t pass the point of no return” tips)

S. Ward & M. Dattani

Friday 27 November

09:00 – 09:30 Mini MDT - Rectal cancer cases

G. Beets, J. Azevedo & S. Pantelimitis

09:30 – 11:00 Practical session (practical skills stations)

4 groups, rotation every 30'

- Stations A & B: Colonic resections and bowel anastomosis
 - Right colon resection synthetic colon
 - Left colon resection synthetic colon
 - Perform stapler anastomosis

- Barcelona technique
- End to end anastomoses
- Trouble-shooting staplers
- Station C: Laparoscopic skills consolidation
 - Laparoscopic suturing
- Station D: TAMIS
 - Port options (e.g., GelPOINT path demo), patient positioning, instrument set)
 - Purse-string practice on synthetic rectal wall panel.
 - Polypectomy on synthetic rectal wall panel.

11:00 – 12:30 Practical session (practical skills stations)
4 groups, rotation every 30'

- Stations A & B: Colonic resections and bowel anastomosis
- Station C: TAMIS
- Station D: Laparoscopic skills consolidation

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Practical session (practical skills stations)
4 groups, rotation every 30'

- Stations C&D: Colonic resections and bowel anastomosis
- A: TAMIS
- B: Laparoscopic skills consolidation

15:00 – 16:30 Practical session (practical skills stations)
4 groups, rotation every 30'

- C&D: Colonic resections and bowel anastomosis
- B: TAMIS
- A: Laparoscopic skills consolidation

16:00 – 16:30 Debriefing