



XXIX IFSO World Congress

1-4 September 2026 | Toronto, Canada

Managing the unexpected in the OR

Marie-Cécile Blanchet
Lyon, France



TORONTO2026

The Future of Obesity Management:
From Weight Loss to Health Gain



ifso2026.org

Disclosure Slide

Honoraria from:

Johnson & Johnson

Medtronic

Novo Nordisk



Why this topic ?

- Every bariatric surgeon will face unexpected situations
- Experience reduces panic, not surprises
- The objective is safe decision-making rather than perfect surgery



How common are unexpected events ?

Unexpected intra operative findings occur in 30% of bariatric procedures

True intra operative adverse events occur in 7-10%

The commonest events are :

- bleeding
- anastomotic problems
- organ injury
- unexpected anatomy, equipment failure

Joo P et al. Obesity Surgery. 2019. Unexpected Findings in Bariatric Surgery.



Before the first incision : anticipate

Most crises begin before surgery

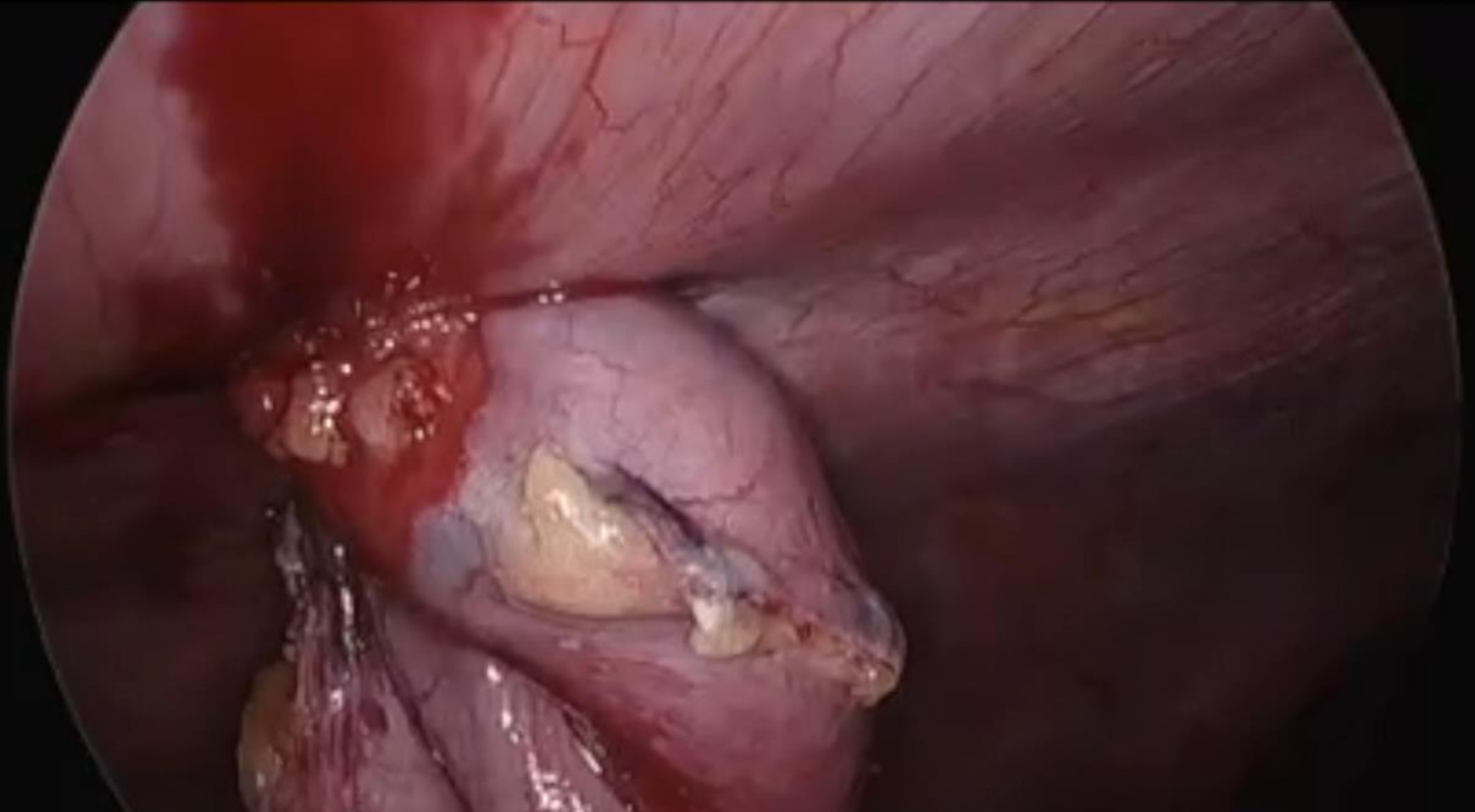
Preparation should include :

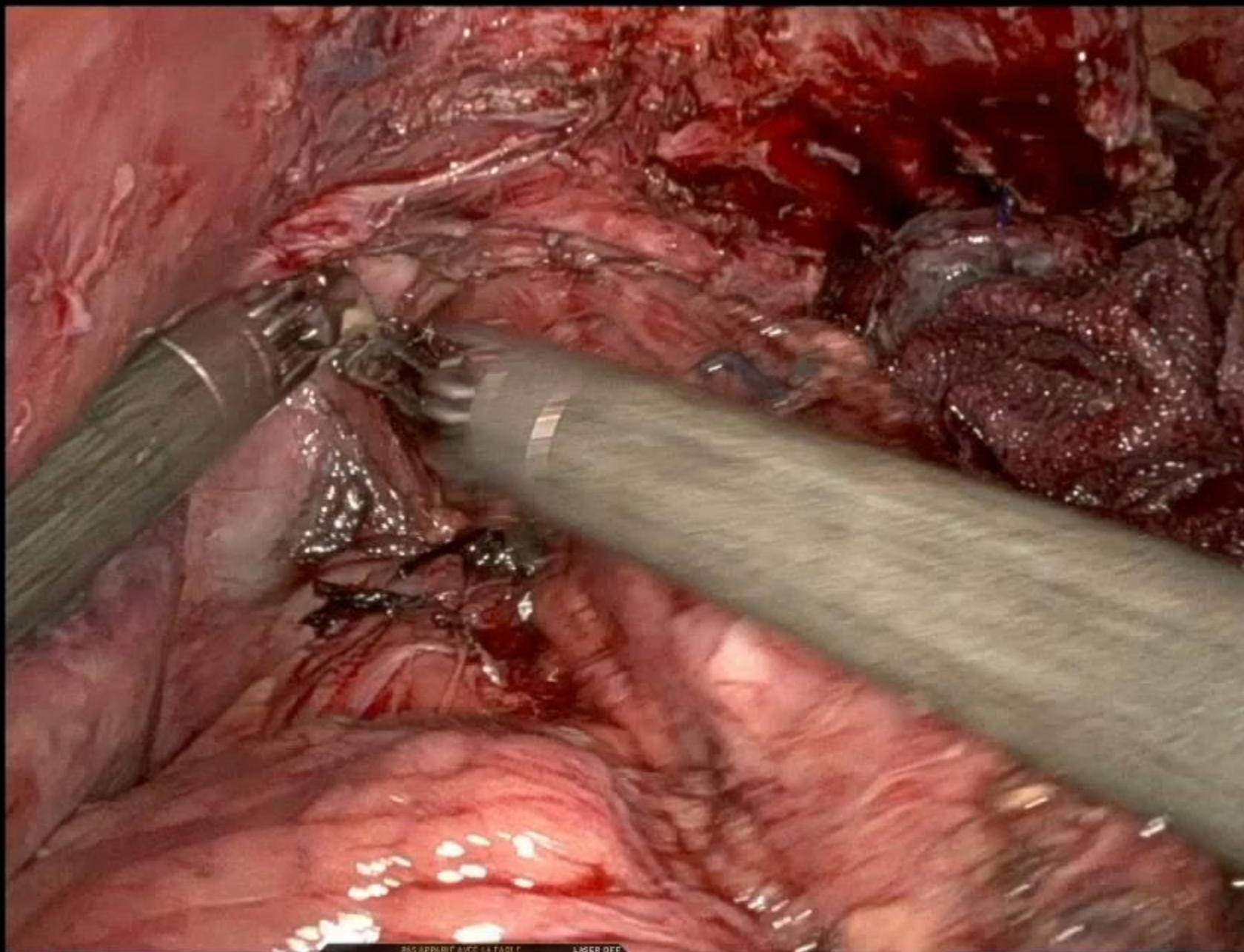
- review imaging carefully
- identify previous operations
- discuss difficult cases with the team
- verify instruments
- have rescue devices immediately available
- agree on the conversion strategy

ASMBS Intraoperative Care Pathway. SOARD. 2024.







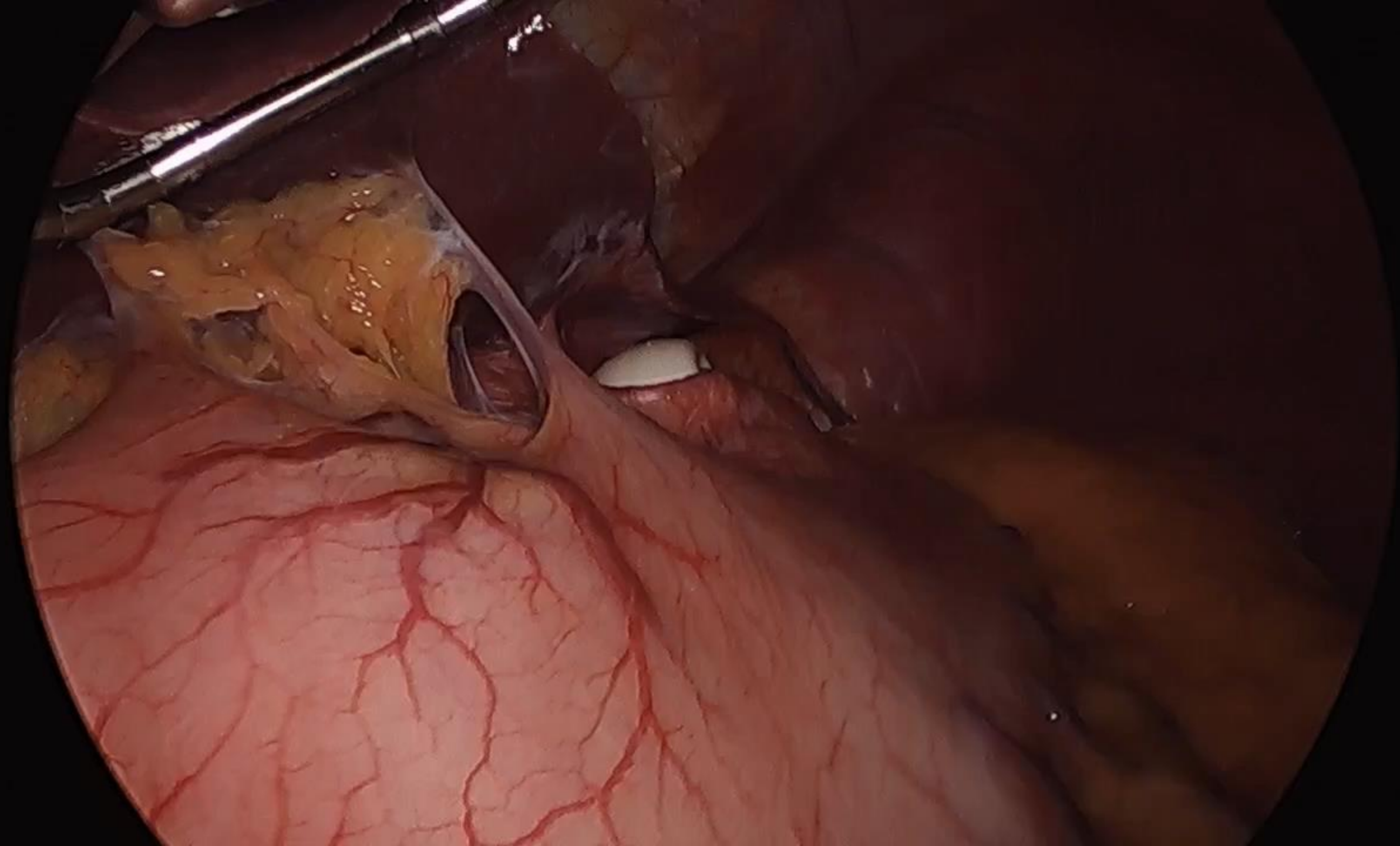


A simple algorithm when the unexpected happens

The PPP framework: Patient - Procedure - People

Hardie JA et al. Ann R Coll Surg Engl. 2022.





Communication saves lives

- speak slowly
- speak clearly
- assign tasks individually
- « anesthesia, update me on blood pressure » « suction please »
« i need another clip applier » « call Dr X »
- use closed-loop communication
- avoid shouting / blaming / silent operating



Five Golden Rules

1/ Anticipate **+++**

2/ Stay calm, control

3/ Improve exposure first

4/ Adapt

5/ Debrief & Learn



Final Message

Surgical Mastery Is:

- recognize early
- stay calm
- communicate effectively
- adapt safely
- learn from every case



XXX IFSO WORLD CONGRESS

"Advancing Multimodal Obesity Care"

24-27 August 2027

ifso2027.org



IFSO
PARIS 2027

See you in
PARIS

