Dr. Kyu Eun Lee: Special need makes robotic thyroid surgery more and more popular

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The 2017 Annual Congress of International Society of Oncoplastic Endocrine Surgeons (ISOPES) was successfully held during April 20–23 in Hangzhou, China. Many renowned surgeons, abroad and at home attended this congress, presenting their personal clinical experience and sharing the state of art in endocrine surgery field.

With a pleasure and honor, the editorial office of *Annals of Thyroid* (*AOT*) got the chance to interview Dr. Kyu Eun Lee, from Seoul National University Hospital, Korea (*Figure 1*). Dr. Lee is an outstanding endocrine surgeon and has rich experience in robotic thyroid/parathyroid surgery. What do you think is the challenge for Dr. Lee when he did the first robotic surgery? To talk about bilateral axillo-breast approach (BABA) robotic thyroid surgery, are you curious about what inspired his team to develop this approach? Here we have Dr. Lee's answers (*Figure 2*).

Figure 1 Interview with Dr. Lee.

Figure 2 Dr. Kyu Eun Lee: Special need makes robotic thyroid surgery more and more popular (1).
Available online: http://www.asvide.com/articles/1539

Interview questions

- Robotic thyroid surgery is more and more popular. How about it in Korea? In which case you may choose robotic surgery?
- When did you start the first robotic thyroid surgery? At that time, what was the challenge for you?
- You and your colleagues have developed BABA robotic thyroid surgery. What inspired you to try this approach? Is there any story that can be shared with us?
- What's the limitation of BABA?
- How to develop a new surgical approach? Do you have any experience to share with us?

Expert introduction

Kyu Eun Lee, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Kyu Eun Lee is an academic endocrine surgeon and an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at the Seoul National University College of Medicine. His main clinical interests are thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands. Dr. Lee's expertise extends further into minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and various laparoscopic surgical techniques in adrenal surgery. He and his colleagues have developed the unique robotic approach for thyroid and parathyroid surgeries known as the BABA, which is well appreciated for its cosmetic outcomes

resulting in a scarless neck. Dr. Lee continues his research interests in basic science projects focused on the molecular genetics of thyroid cancer and its role in tumorigenesis, diagnosis and prognosis, through a proactive collaboration with other experts in the field. He is also an active member in numerous national and international medical societies, including the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES), the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES) and the ISOPES.

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Footnote

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