

Mr Ross Perrow
Urology ST3 Trainee

“I was coming off an on-call shift that had been really busy. I had been up a lot because we had no core trainee cover that night due to a longstanding rota gap. I was phoned down to admissions to consent this patient for Mr Black as he was in clinic. I don't think he normally operates on a Wednesday afternoon. I think it was an extra list for someone about to breach. I haven't seen any laparoscopic renal surgery yet as I'm still quite junior.

I assumed that Mr Black would see the patient before surgery as he usually does. Normally he likes to consent all his patients himself, but he couldn't in this case because he was late in.

The case notes weren't available when I went down, so I had to spend quite a bit of time getting them. Turns out in the end that the notes were wrong, and no-one spotted the error. Even the patient mixed up the sides. I've never seen this happen before.

I wanted to stay to see the operation, but I was tired from the night before and it was my compensatory rest day. I wish I'd stayed now as I might have been able to prevent what happened, or maybe not.”

Notes:

- A **Urology ST3 Trainee** in the NHS is a junior doctor who is in the third year of their specialty training (Specialty Training Year 3) in the field of urology. This position is part of the structured training pathway for doctors who wish to specialise in urology.
- **Consenting** prior to surgery involves patients giving informed consent before a procedure. It includes explaining the procedure, discussing risks, benefits, and alternatives, ensuring patient understanding, and documenting the process.
- In surgery, **case notes** refer to detailed medical records that document the patient's entire surgical journey, from initial consultation to post-operative follow-up. These notes provide a comprehensive account of the patient's medical history, diagnosis, treatment plan, surgical procedure, and recovery process.