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# Medic undergoes op without general anaesthetic

## Video

Watch David have his operation



David Stott watched on a monitor as consultant surgeon Mike Woodruff performed an operation on his wrist



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Health Reporter

A medic made history by undergoing an operation and staying awake to watch the procedure.

David Stott, 31, operating department practitioner at Royal Preston Hospital, was awake the whole time as colleagues operated on his wrist.

The father-of-two, who lives in Preston, said: "It was great to experience it as a patient, and I feel I have learned a lot.

"It is great to feel absolutely fine after an operation, instead of groggy and tired after an anaesthetic.

"I injured my wrist playing football about four years ago and had an operation to remove a cyst from it, but I still experienced pain.

"This operation is an exploratory and diagnostic procedure and if the surgeon spots what is wrong, he will sort it there and then."

Patients are now frequently remaining awake during complex operations and going home quicker because of pioneering work at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

RPH is believed to be the first hospital in the region to routinely undertake nerve blocking using real time ultrasound imaging.

This allows patients to remain awake during operations instead of being knocked out with traditional general anaesthesia.

The ultrasound machine is used to "see" the nerves and needle, ensuring a local anaesthetic can be accurately injected to block feeling in the nerves.

The procedure is being used in scores of shoulder, hand and wrist operations and around 300 patients have already benefited from the technique since its introduction.

Dr Tony Adams, consultant anaesthetist at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Having the surgery performed under a block avoids the risks of a general anaesthetic, plus patients don't experience post-operative nausea and vomiting and their faster recovery times mean they are discharged earlier.

"Although patients remain awake during the procedure, they are behind screens and don't see the operation being performed."

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