# Former Royal Navy Surgeon Suspended for Operative Intervention Without Consent



Surgeon Commander Anthony Lambert, a former Royal Navy officer with 36 years of service, was suspended for six months by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service. This disciplinary action followed an incident on April 20, 2016, at Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, where Lambert operated on a 12-year-old boy's penis without the knowledge or consent of the patient or his parents. The boy, referred to as Patient A, was initially undergoing an umbilical hernia repair under general anesthesia.

Following the surgery, Lambert admitted to the boy's parents that he had noticed the boy’s penis "didn't look quite normal" and decided to intervene without seeking their permission, acknowledging his actions with the statement that he was “a bit of a nosey t\*\*\*.” This led to a formal complaint by Patient A's mother three days after the procedure.

The tribunal criticized Lambert for not seeking consent, noting that the procedure was neither urgent nor approved by Patient A’s parents, emphasizing the importance of obtaining permission before medical intervention. Moreover, past complaints regarding Lambert's professionalism, including allegations of using inappropriate language, were discussed during the hearing.

Lambert expressed regret, attributing his behavior to the stress of his previous deployments to combat zones, and stated his actions were intended to be in the patient's best interest. Despite his lengthy and respected career, the tribunal deemed his conduct serious misconduct, stating it brought the medical profession into disrepute and violated fundamental trust by operating without consent.