

Melomed Private Hospitals proudly celebrates a groundbreaking medical milestone - the successful completion of the first full uniportal endoscopic spine surgery within the Melomed Group.

Led by Dr. Resham Atwaru (Lead Surgeon - Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon) and supported by Dr. Andrew Appiah-Baiden (Co-Surgeon - Neurosurgeon) and Dr. Ferhana Bhorat (Anaesthetist), the procedure marks a significant leap forward in spinal care and surgical innovation at Melomed Bellville. This minimally invasive approach - a single-level endoscopic decompression, represents the future of spinal surgery, offering smaller incisions, reduced tissue trauma, faster recovery and improved outcomes for patients.

## A Triumph of Teamwork and Precision

The success of this procedure was made possible through seamless collaboration and clinical excellence. Special appreciation goes to Sr. Prezence and the Melomed Bellville theatre team, whose skill, adaptability and dedication ensured an operation defined by precision and patient safety. Their coordinated effort reflects the Melomed ethos - where innovation meets compassion. Every movement in the theatre was guided by expertise and care, showcasing what can be achieved when technology and teamwork unite.

## **A Vision Realised**

For Dr. Atwaru and his team, this achievement represents the culmination of years of study, refinement and passion-bringing world-class spinal care into local practice. It also signals a new era for Melomed Hospitals, embracing cutting-edge, minimally invasive techniques as part of its growing orthopaedic and neurosurgical offering.

## In Dr. Atwaru's words:

"To the anaesthetic and surgical colleagues who shared this theatre space with me -thank you for your skill, patience, and belief in the vision of safer, smarter spine surgery. To the theatre nursing staff, especially Sr Prezence, your steady hands and calm coordination made this success possible. To Mr Conradt Van Wyngaardt, Director of Congruent Medical, thank you for your unwavering support and for providing the Joimax endoscope system and the delicate instruments that made this operation possible. And to the Melomed management, thank you for fostering an environment where innovation can flourish."

## **Looking Ahead**

This achievement reaffirms Melomed's commitment to excellence, innovation and patient-centred care. It is a moment of pride for the Melomed family and a step forward for spinal medicine in South Africa.

Congratulations to the entire Melomed Bellville team on this pioneering success, a testament to dedication, vision and the pursuit of better healing for every patient.



Figure 1: Intraoperative and theatre visuals from the first full endoscopic spine surgery at Melomed Bellville.