

Ground-breaking “no-cut” brain tumour surgery now being done at Melomed Bellville - through the nose.

Melomed Bellville Hospital is celebrating an exciting surgical milestone: complex pituitary tumours (pituitary masses) and related complications, including loss of vision, are now being treated using a minimally invasive endoscopic approach - performed through the nose, with no external cuts.

Dr Zubair Doolarkhan, ENT Surgeon at Melomed Bellville, working closely with Neurosurgeon Dr Andrew Appiah-Baiden, has helped establish a modern, team-based technique known as endoscopic transsphenoidal pituitary surgery.

What makes this approach so remarkable is the pathway: using high-definition endoscopic equipment, the surgical team can access the pituitary gland at the base of the brain through the natural nasal passage - often reducing the need for open surgery, avoiding visible scarring and supporting a smoother recovery for many patients.

“We are managing pituitary masses and their complications like loss of vision endoscopically through the nose without any cuts on the outside - with great success,” says Dr Doolarkhan. Beyond pituitary tumours, the same endoscopic “through-the-nose” method can also open doors to treating other anterior skull base and select brain

tumours, where clinically appropriate - highlighting how Melomed Bellville continues to expand access to advanced, specialist-led care closer to home.

This collaboration between ENT and Neurosurgery reflects a powerful shift in modern medicine: precision, minimal invasiveness and multidisciplinary expertise - all working together to protect what matters most, including a patient’s vision, quality of life, and long-term outcomes.

For more information / referrals

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