

## Meeting New Standards in Surgery

The Groene Hart Ziekenhuis (GHZ - Green Heart Hospital) in Gouda, the Netherlands, is a regional hospital that serves the city of Gouda and surrounding towns. Formed by the merger of two previously separate hospitals in the region, the Groene Hart Ziekenhuis has undergone significant changes over the last few years.

Dr. Sicco Thoe Schwartzenberg, Ophthalmologist at the GHZ, explains how introducing a SurgiCube® enabled the hospital's Ophthalmology Department to meet the challenges of increasingly stringent hospital regulations, as well as evolving Ophthalmology practices.

GHZ's SurgiCube® was first installed in 2008 to provide improved air sterility standards.

"With new, more stringent regulations on air quality introduced in hospitals across Europe in 2006/2007, our former operating room in Gouda required a significant upgrade," said Dr. Schwartzenberg. "We were already aware of the SurgiCube® and it seemed to offer a solution that would allow us to continue operating at the site under the new standards without having to make the extremely large investment involved in rebuilding our entire operating room. We had the ideal setting for the SurgiCube® unit within the old operating room itself."

### Adapting to a New Workspace

The Ophthalmology Team at GHZ had some initial reservations about the limited space available in the SurgiCube®.

"Before it was installed, we had seen the system and heard from others how well it worked, but we didn't know how the SurgiCube® would work out space-wise in our own practice. With all the equipment we had to fit in, such as the operating microscope and phaco-emulsification machine, we had to think about how best to use the space available. At first, we had to adapt to working in a limited area and get accustomed to some new ways of doing things, like the new method to arrange the surgical drapes on the patient, but very soon, we got used to it."

After several years, the SurgiCube® was moved to new building in GHZ's daycare center. Within this, it was housed within a general operating area.

"Daycare has really become the norm in Ophthalmology," said Dr. Schwartzenberg. "Long ago, cataract operations, used to be carried out with the patient under general anesthetic, now topical drop anesthetic is widely used. We perform two-thirds of our cataract operations in the SurgiCube® in the daycare center. We also perform intravitreal injections in the system. The SurgiCube® fits in well with today's operative needs, more stringent air quality regulations, and it utilizes smaller areas. It is an ingenious system that provides optimal sterility directly around the patient."

### Efficient and Affordable

As well as bringing clinical benefits, the SurgiCube® has proved an economical option for the GHZ.

"The SurgiCube® has benefitted the GHZ financially and has lowered the costs of operations required in Ophthalmology," continued Dr. Schwartzenberg. "We are very happy with the system. It's a neat, well-thought-out solution. SurgiCube® really helps our practice."

## Quote

*“The SurgiCube® fits in well with today’s operative needs.”*

Dr. Sicco Schwartzberg, Ophthalmologist at the Groene Hart Ziekenhuis (GHZ - Green Heart Hospital), Gouda, the Netherlands.

## **Dr. Sicco Thoe Schwartzberg.**

Dr. Sicco Thoe Schwartzberg trained as an Ophthalmologist at the Rotterdam Eye Hospital, in the Netherlands. After his training, he attended a fellowship in glaucoma at the University of Toronto, in Canada. Dr. Schwartzberg has been an Ophthalmologist at the Groene Hart Hospital (GHZ) in Gouda since 1999. He works as a General Ophthalmologist, with special focus on glaucoma, cataracts and refractive surgery. Since 2013, Dr. Schwartzberg has been Chairman of the Dutch Society for Refractive Surgery (NGRC).