

Local doctor in demand across the UK

Surgeon pioneers hip ops

A CHORLEY surgeon is leading the way in keyhole hip surgery after developing his own specialist equipment.

Aslam Mohammed is at the forefront of the minimally invasive procedure for the hip joint which is provided at only a handful of NHS hospitals in the UK.

The consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital has been perfecting the procedure for more than 12 years and has developed instrumentation which gives safe access into the hip joint and to perform the surgery.

Now Mr Mohammed trains and teaches other surgeons wanting to perform the procedure, which although compli-

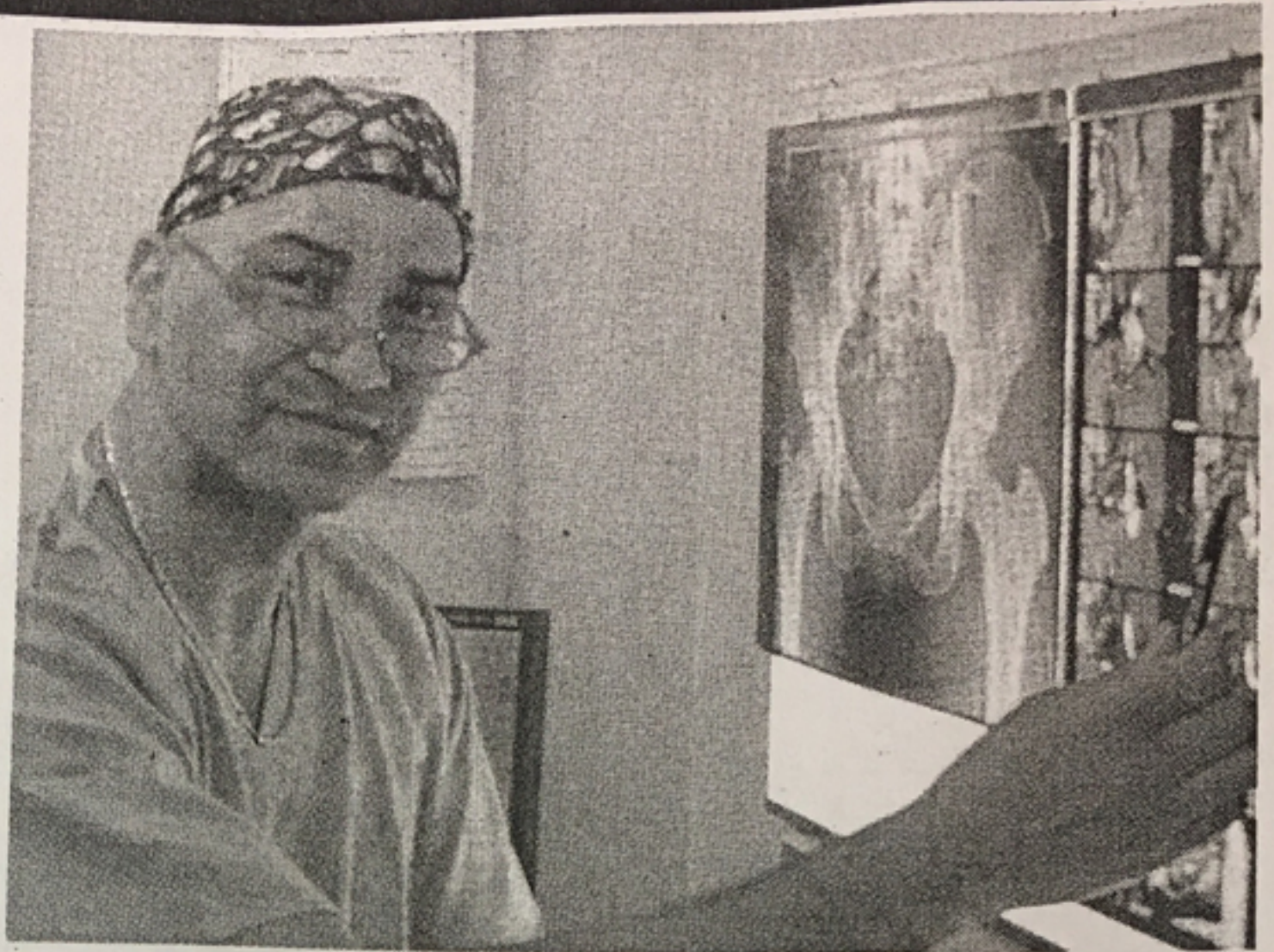
By Vanessa Taylor

cated, allows most patients to go home the same day.

Mr Mohammed said: "Hip arthroscopy is a surgical procedure which is used to look inside a hip joint and treat problems which are diagnosed with specific tests prior to surgery.

"This procedure allows the surgeon to use small incisions, which are less traumatic than an open procedure.

"A pencil sized optical device (an arthroscope) is inserted into the hip joint to view what is wrong and a second incision is made to introduce the instruments to examine and operate on the problem.



Through the keyhole: Dr Aslam Mohammed with a hip X-ray

The images are transferred by miniature video camera on the end of the arthroscope on to a video monitor in the operating room.

"The procedure is quite complex and not widely performed by surgeons in the UK. I am one of the very few surgeons who perform this operation on a regular basis and receive referrals from other orthopaedic surgeons in the North West and nationwide.

"Young patients who have had long standing problems with their hips from their teenage years, such as problems from the abnormal de-

velopment of the hip joint, can find this technique particularly beneficial.

"I am planning to run courses for surgeons at this hospital and at Wrightington Hospital in the future.

"With the development of newer more sophisticated instruments and the recognition of new pathologies in and around the hip joint, there is a growing interest and demand for the procedure."

The technique helps in the treatment of patients with hip problems, which are related to the soft tissues around the hip and are not severely arthritic.