

# Surgeon's skill reduces trauma for Italian Paola

By VANESSA TAYLOR

A PIONEERING Lancashire surgeon has performed his latest successful operation – on a patient from Italy.

Paola Resasco, 35, from Genoa, suffered from a condition which would normally have meant major surgery, a two week stay in hospital followed by several weeks on crutches.

But after ground-breaking keyhole surgery by consultant Aslam Mohammed at Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital, she was up and about with a couple of days.

And instead of a huge scar, she has just two half centimetre wounds.

Mrs Resasco was brought to Chorley by her husband, a professor in obstetrics and gynaecology in Genoa who had approached hospitals in Italy and even France, only to be told major surgery was the only answer.

## Technique

He heard about the keyhole surgery when Chorley and Wrightington Hospital consultant orthopaedic surgeon Mr Mohammed spoke on the subject at an Italian seminar.

Mr Mohammed said: "I had been in Italy giving a talk on this technique and demonstrated three cases while I was there.

"Professor Resasco rang me up, he came over to see me a few weeks ago and then came back with his wife for the surgery."

Mr Mohammed heads a team in the North West which has perfected the technique of arthroscopic surgery of the hip joint.

He said: "We have been doing operations with this now for over three years but have perfected the technique to use it on a range of hip complaints."

Mrs Resasco suffered from synovial chondromatosis a condition where small pieces of bone form in the lining of the joint.

Mr Mohammed said: "It's like having pebbles in your shoe. It's

## Technique shortens scar and time in bed

painful and would cause damage to the joint surface and would eventually end up as arthritis.

"In the past it has been a major operation to open up the whole joint damaging the blood supply to the head of the femur, and is cosmetically scarring to take the small pieces of bone out.

"You don't want to do that, particularly on someone so young. This technique is doing it with minimal invasive surgery.

"I have developed a technique using a fine guide wire to pass the arthroscope accurately into the hip joint without causing damage."

Mr Mohammed said the technique can be used to deal with a number of conditions including early arthritis in young patients, synovectomy, biopsy, removal of loose bodies and in major cases of trauma.

The only other place in the country using the technique is Cambridge.

Mr Mohammed who has been consultant at Chorley for the past four years and been doing surgery for 15 years, is now developing instrumentation for more joint work.

Mr Mohammed said: "It is a technique which not only benefits the patient but is also cost effective as the patient is in hospital only two days.

"Although Mrs Resasco's condition can happen again, we can always do it again and it will save her from having a major operation."



OPERATION SUCCESS: Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Aslam Mohammed with Paola Resasco from Italy