

Cutting edge of keyhole surgery

By **GORDON MCCULLY**

A surgeon at Chorley Hospital is leading the way in minimally invasive keyhole surgery of the hip joint.

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.

Aslam Mohammed, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been performing this procedure for over 12 years and has developed instrumentation, which gives safe access to perform the surgery.

Mr Mohammed said: "This procedure allows the surgeon to use small inci-

sions, 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.

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

Mr Mohammed is one of the few surgeons to perform the operation on a regular basis and is training other surgeons to perform this procedure.

He is also receiving referrals from across the coun-



CONSULTANT: Aslam Mohammed

try, and added: "It is the patients with unusual or uncommon hip problems (other than advanced arthritis) who benefit from this procedure.

"Young patients who have had long standing problems with their hips from their teenage years, such as problems from the abnormal development of the hip joint, can find this technique particularly beneficial."