INTERNTIONAL CENTER OF MINIMALLY-INVASIVE PROCTOLOGY SURGERY
Director: Piercarlo Meinero MD

VAAFT & EPSIT
CERTIFIED CENTRE

"SIXTH INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE" VAAFT & EPSIT TECHNIQUES

Genoa, 12-13 October 2026

Course Director

Piercarlo Meinero M.D.

REGIONE LIGURIA

"Villa Montallegro" Clinic
Via Monte Zovetto, 27
Genoa - Italy

FACULTY

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Twenty years have passed since the first VAAFT procedure, and twelve since the first EPSiT operation. Looking back, we are proud of how far we've come, and even more excited about where we're heading. As these pioneering techniques continue to evolve, staying up to date is no longer an option, it's essential. Mastering the latest innovations means offering our patients the safest, most effective, and truly modern care in colorectal surgery.

Why Does Minimally Invasive Surgery Matter? Because today, it should simply be the standard. Treating anal fistulas with procedures that risk compromising fecal continence is no longer acceptable. The same principle applies to pilonidal disease: preserving quality of life is just as important as achieving a cure. Modern minimally invasive surgery is changing patients' lives, not only by improving clinical outcomes, but by helping them return sooner to work, family, and everyday activities. Continuous technological innovation is making this possible. We are witnessing a transformation similar to the laparoscopic revolution of forty years ago, a revolution that was initially met with skepticism but ultimately changed surgery forever.

What makes VAAFT and EPSiT truly unique is the power of direct vision. Seeing the disease from the inside changes everything. It allows us to treat the pathology more precisely, more safely, and with greater respect for healthy tissues. So why settle for less when we now have better, patient-centered solutions that are redefining surgical excellence?

We look forward to welcoming you as we continue shaping the future of minimally invasive surgery. Join us for an inspiring opportunity to learn, share experiences, and be part of the next chapter in colorectal surgery.

Piercarlo Meinero

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- *To cover a broad spectrum of VAAFT & EPSiT procedures;*
- *To provide indications for minimally-invasive surgical treatments of anal fistula and pilonidal disease, and discuss operative complications;*
- *To highlight technical aspects of VAAFT & EPSiT through the broadcasting of live procedures;*
- *To allow real-time discussion between operators and trainee surgeons;*
- *To provide hands-on session to improve skills in VAAFT & EPSiT through practice on models under expert tutorials.*

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

- *Interactive theoretical and video sessions between Faculty and Course Participants;*
- *Direct participation of the Participants in the operative room;*
- *Live and pre-recorded operative demonstrations;*
- *Practical training on animal specimens.*

COURSE PROGRAMME

MONDAY 12

07:30 a.m.	**Welcome and Course Presentation**
08:00 a.m.	***Live Surgery – VAAFT Procedure** ▪ Complex Transphincteric Anal Fistula (VAAFT) ▪ Recurrent complex anal fistula (VAAFT)
	Coffee break ▪ Complex anal fistula (Combination VAAFT+LIFT+Stem Cells) ▪ Horse-shoe anal fistula (VAAFT + Autologous Dermis Flap)
01:30 p.m.	**Lunch Buffet** (Villa Rosa)
02:30 p.m. (to 06:00 p.m.)	**LAB SESSION** ▪ Hands-on learning on animal models ▪ VAAFT & EPSiT: debate with the Faculty
07:30 p.m.	**Faculty and Participants Dinner**

TUESDAY 13

08:00 a.m.	***Live Surgery – EPSiT Procedure** ▪ Recurrent Pilonidal Sinus ▪ Common case of Pilonidal Sinus
	Coffee break ▪ Fistulized pilonidal sinus ▪ Complicated pilonidal sinus
01:15 p.m.	**Lunch Buffet** (Villa Rosa)
02:30 p.m. (to 06:00 p.m.)	**Theoretical Session** Interactive presentation of VAAFT & EPSiT cases CORSO Diagnostic tools Patients' preparation and postoperative management Literature and debate
06:00 p.m.	**End of the course and delivery of certificates**

****The types of procedures may be subject to change***

COURSE VENUE

"Villa Montallegro" Clinic
Via Monte Zovetto, 27 – Genoa (Italy)
Phone: +39.01035311
Website: www.montallegro.it

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

"Il Giardino di Albaro" Hotel ***
Via Oreste De Gasperi, 19C, Genoa (Italy)
Phone: +39.010366276
E-mail address: info@ilgiardinodialbaro.it
Website: www.ilgiardinodialbaro.com

FROM THE "C. COLOMBO AIRPORT" TO THE "IL GIARDINO DI ALBARO" HOTEL

By taxi: 25 minutes. Approximate cost € 25 – € 30 (recommended)
By bus: (VOLABUS) every 30-45 minutes. Approximate cost € 15.
Get off at Piazza Verdi ("Brignole" Rail Station) and take a taxi to the Hotel (€ 15 – 3,5 Km)

FROM THE "IL GIARDINO DI ALBARO" HOTEL TO THE "VILLA MONTALLEGRO CLINIC"

By taxi: 6 minutes. Approximate cost € 15
By foot: 20 minute walk (1.6 Km)

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Genoa Radio Taxi: + 39.0105966
Emergency: +39112

NOTE: When you arrive at the "Villa Montallegro" Clinic on the morning, you will be provided with operating room clothing, including shoes, in the size you have previously communicated to the Secretariat. For any communication regarding this matter, including possible food allergies or other specific needs, please contact the Secretariat in advance by email. Every your request will be accommodated.

A special thanks to

"Villa Montallegro" Clinic *– Genoa (Italy) and* ***Karl Storz SE*** *– Tuttlingen (Germany)*

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