

## **Surgical Aspects of Myelomeningocele Closure**

**Paul Leach**

Department of Paediatric Neurosurgery, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

Spina bifida is the most frequently occurring congenital anomaly of the central nervous system compatible with life. Myelomeningocele is the most common type; the prevalence of which is decreasing in most of the UK as a result of more widespread use of folic acid. In contrast the number of live births in Wales is gradually rising.

This is a complex group of patients requiring input from multiple health professionals from a variety of specialities. In this presentation, we present the management of these children in South Wales with regard to specialist ante-natal counselling, surgical intervention and longer term follow-up.

We also discuss the possibilities of prenatal closure of myelomeningocele in the light of the management of myelomeningocele study (MOMS) trial.