APPENDIX 1: PROBE QUESTIONS

- What information was available to you at the time of the decision?
- What information did you use in recognising the situation/making this decision?
- What was the most important piece of information that you used to formulate your decision?
- At any stage were you uncertain about either the reliability of the information or the relevance of the information you had available to you?
- Were you reminded of any previous experiences?
- What about that previous experience seemed relevant for this case?
- Are there any situations in which your decision could turn out differently?
- Does this case fit a standard or typical scenario?
- Is it a type of event that you were trained to deal with?
- What were your specific goals and objectives at this time?
- What other courses of action were considered or were available to you?
- How was this option chosen or others rejected?
- Was there a rule that you were following in choosing this option?
- What specific training or experience was necessary or helpful in making this decision?
- Did you imagine the events and how they would unfold?
- How did you know to make the decision?
- How did you know when to make the decision?
- How did you arrive at your chosen course of action?
- How much time pressure was involved in making this decision?
- How long did it take to actually make this decision?
- At any stage were you uncertain about the appropriateness of your decision?
- Did you seek any guidance at this point in the incident?
- How did you know to trust the guidance you got?
- What were some of the threats involved in the situation?
- How did you manage these threats?
- How did you use the knowledge of the threats to make a decision?
- Can you rate the risk to the patient on a scale of 1 (low risk) to 3 (high risk)?
- Can you rate the risk to you, the surgeon, on a scale of 1 (low risk) to 3 (high risk)?