

HERNIA 2026 INNOVATION FROM TECHNIQUE TO STRATEGY DAYS

Hot Topics 2026

VENTRAL HERNIA

DIASTASIS RECTI

FUTURE TRENDS

PREVENTION

ROBOTICS

ERAS

Faenza
1-2 October 2026



Introduction

Hernia Innovation Days 2026 will bring together leading national experts in abdominal wall surgery for two days dedicated to innovation in clinical pathways, surgical approaches, operative techniques and emerging technologies for the treatment of abdominal wall defects. Following the success of the 2025 edition, the second chapter will broaden the focus of the meeting: from individual techniques to comprehensive strategies, from isolated procedures to structured care pathways, and from defect repair to the multidisciplinary management of complex patients.

Guiding principle: Right patient, right setting, right technique, right team.

Alongside the main congress, the programme will include satellite activities such as dedicated courses, interactive sessions and expert debates, creating a dynamic platform for discussion, training and professional exchange.

Conference Chair

Davide Cavaliere *(Director of the General Surgery Unit - Faenza Infermi Hospital, Surgical Department of Ravenna, AUSL Romagna)*

Organising Committee

Enrico Lazzarini, Benedetta Mattioli, Filippo Paratore, Francesco Pasini, Sara Pellegrini, Gianluca Senatore, Marta Tanzanu, Clara Zumbo
(General Surgery Unit - Faenza Infermi Hospital, Surgical Department of Ravenna, AUSL Romagna)

Programme Schedule

OCTOBER 1 2026	Time	Event	Location
	09:00-12:30	Pre-Congress Hands-On Course	Zaccanti SPA Training Rooms, Via Benedetto Marcello 1 - Bologna
	14:00	Pre-Congress Masterclass	Auditorium MIC (International Museum of Ceramics), V.le Baccarini 19, Faenza (RA)
	16:00	Coffee Break	
	16:15	Registration	
	16:30-19:00	CONGRESS OPENING	
OCTOBER 2 2026	Time	Event	Location
	08:30	Registration	Garden Pavillon Congress Centre Villa Abbondanzi, Via Emilia Ponente 23, Faenza (RA)
	09:00	SESSION 1	
	11:10	Coffee Break	
	11:20	SESSION 2	
	13:30	Lunch	
	14:30	SESSION 3	
	16:40	CONGRESS CLOSING	

CONGRESS PROGRAMME

Thursday, 1 October 2026

Auditorium MIC (International Museum of Ceramics), V.le Baccarini 19, Faenza (RA)

16:15 **Registration**

16:30 **CONGRESS OPENING**

Welcome address by institutional representatives - Municipality of Faenza, AUSL Romagna and supporting scientific societies

Introduction to the congress theme: From innovation to implementation: the next step in abdominal wall surgery - D. Cavaliere

Keynote lecture: Care through Art: a virtual tour of the artistic heritage of AUSL Romagna - S. Muzzarelli

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ROUND TABLE

Diastasis Recti: Beyond Surgical Technique

Care pathways, patient selection, centralisation of expertise and patient-reported value

Rationale. Diastasis recti is one of the most debated topics in contemporary abdominal wall surgery. After a phase largely driven by the proliferation of surgical techniques, the next step is the development of appropriate, multidisciplinary and measurable care pathways. Key issues include accurate diagnosis, surgical indication, patient selection, prehabilitation, postoperative rehabilitation, expectation management, patient-reported outcomes and integration with plastic surgery.

The round table is designed as the starting point for the launch of a multidisciplinary initiative aimed at developing a Core Outcome Set, a minimum clinical dataset and patient-centred criteria for assessment, treatment appropriateness and referral in rectus diastasis.

Chairs: D. Cavaliere, M. Piccoli, G. Soliani

17:00 **SETTING THE SCENE**

Diastasis Recti in 2026: Beyond Anatomy and Beyond Technique

What have we learned from the 2025 consensus, what remains unresolved, and how can we move from an anatomical definition to a patient-relevant condition? - U. Bracale

17:15 WHO SHOULD WE TREAT?

Patient Selection, Surgical Appropriateness and Referral Pathways

From symptoms and functional impairment to surgical indication, patient expectations and referral to specialised centres - G. Cavallaro

17:30 FROM CORE TRAINING TO FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY

Defining the Role of Physiotherapy Before and After Surgery

Who should undergo physiotherapy, when should it be prescribed, which objectives should be pursued, and how should treatment failure and outcomes be defined? - P. Tomaiuolo

17:45 WHAT REALLY MATTERS TO PATIENTS?

Expectations, Function, Body Image and Patient-Reported Value

Moving beyond inter-rectus distance: which outcomes reflect meaningful benefit from the patient's perspective? - E. Albanese

18:00 WHEN RECONSTRUCTION MEETS AESTHETICS

The Role of the Plastic Surgeon in Patient Selection and Combined Procedures

Indications, complementary expertise, shared decision-making and boundaries between functional reconstruction and aesthetic correction - R. Sgarzani

18:15 INTERACTIVE SCOPING DISCUSSION AND LIVE POLLING

What Should We Measure, Whom Should We Treat and When Should We Refer?

Multidisciplinary Expert Panel - F. Pasini, S. Pellegrini

18:45 SCOPING MEETING AND INITIATIVE LAUNCH

From Consensus to Value-Based Care: Launching the DR-COS & CARE Initiative

Towards a multidisciplinary Core Outcome Set and an integrated, value-based care pathway for diastasis recti

EXPERT PANEL

F. Agresta, G. Anania, J. Andreuccetti, G. Barone, L. Bergossi, R.D. Berta, C.L. Bertoglio, S. Capoccia Giovannini, A. Carrara, G. Cassese, M. G. Confalonieri, A. Crucitti, D. Cuccurullo, M. Di Pangrazio, G. Ercolani, S. Esposito, N. Fabbri, G. Faillace, F. Fiori, G. Formisano, G. Garulli, F. Gossetti, E. Guerra, F. Guerra, A. Iossa, E. Lazzarini, A. Lucchi, C. Magistro, L. Noceroni, G. Palini, A. Palladino, P. Palumbo, F. Paratore, F. Pasini, S. Pellegrini, R. Peltrini, B. Perenze, A. Ruffato, C. Sagnelli, G. Soliani, R. Stano, M. Tanzanu, E. Tartaglia, V. Trapani, R. Turrini, C. Vallicelli, N. Vettoretto, F. Zanzi

19:00 Day 1 closing

Friday, 2 October 2026

Garden Pavillon Congress Centre - Villa Abbondanzi,
Via Emilia Ponente 23, Faenza (RA)

8:30 - 9:00 **REGISTRATION**

9:00 - 11:10 **SESSION 1**

MIDLINE VENTRAL HERNIAS

From small- and medium-sized defects closure to tailored reconstruction

Chairs: A. Crucitti, G. Garulli, P. Palumbo

Introduction and Session Overview - Chairs

Choosing the Right Plane: Anatomy, Defect and Strategy - V. Trapani

Robotic ventral TAPP and peTEP - G. Formisano

eTEP and Robotic Rives Repair - J. Andreuccetti

TARUP, TARM and TARD: Tailored Retromuscular Reconstruction - F. Guerra

LIRA and r-LIRA: Aponeurotic Release for Tension-Free Midline Reconstruction - F. Pasini

TESAR: An Alternative Route to Extraperitoneal Abdominal Wall Reconstruction - F. Fiori

THT: Redefining Midline Ventral Hernia Repair - A. Carrara

FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION - L. Bergossi, M. Di Pangrazio, E. Guerra, A. Palladino, A. Ruffato, M. Tanzanu, P. Tomaiuolo

11:10 - 11:20 **Coffee break**

11:20 - 13:30 **SESSION 2**

COMPLEXITY IN ABDOMINAL WALL SURGERY

Beyond Standard Repair: Anatomy, Patient Risk and Clinical Decision-Making

Chairs: G. Cavallaro, D. Cuccurullo, N. Fabbri

Introduction and Session Overview - Chairs

Complex Groin Hernias: Scrotal Hernias, Recurrences, Previous Pelvic Surgery and Visceral Risk - A. Iossa

TAPP versus TEP in Complex Groin Hernias: Different Routes, Different Challenges - M. G. Confalonieri, G. Faillace

High-Risk Patients: Can We Reduce the Surgical and Anaesthetic Impact? - C. Magistro

The Challenging Ventral Hernia: Loss of Domain, Obesity, Multiple Recurrences and Lateral Defects - R.D. Berta

Abdominal Wall Defects in Transplant Recipients: When Patient Complexity Meets Surgical Complexity - G. Cassese

Emergency Abdominal Wall Surgery: Timing, Contamination and Mesh Strategy - F. Pecchini

LECTURE

Defining Complexity in Abdominal Wall Surgery: From Anatomy to Patient and System Factors - C. Stabilini

FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION - S. Esposito, L. Noceroni, G. Palini, S. Pellegrini, B. Perenze, E. Tartaglia

13:30 - 14:30 **Lunch buffet**

14:30 - 17:10 **SESSION 3**

INCISIONAL HERNIA: FROM PREVENTION TO SALVAGE

Prevention, Complications and Rescue Strategies in Abdominal Wall Surgery

Chairs: F. Agresta, G. Soliani, F. Zanzi

Introduction and Session Overview - Chairs

Optimising the Patient Before Repair: ERAS, Prehabilitation and Modifiable Risk Factors - C. Sagnelli

Prophylactic Mesh Reinforcement: Who, When and Where? - R. Peltrini

Preventing Incisional Hernia Starts in the Operating Room - S. Capoccia Giovannini

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: Preventing and Managing Surgical Site Complications - G. Barone, C.L. Bertoglio

Mesh Infection: Salvage, Partial Explantation or Complete Mesectomy? - F. Gossetti

Severe Abdominal Wall Failure: Large Defects, High-Stakes Decisions and Rescue Strategies - N. Vettoretto

Parastomal Hernia: From Prevention to Repair and Recurrence Management - G. Garulli

FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION - E. Lazzarini, F. Paratore, R. Stano, R. Turrini, C. Vallicelli

Closing Remarks - D. Cavaliere

17:10 Congress Closing



FACULTY

Dott. **Ferdinando Agresta**, *Vittorio Veneto*

Elena Albanese, Presidente Diastasi Donna ODV, *Roma*

Prof. **Gabriele Anania**, *Ferrara*

Dott. **Jacopo Andreuccetti**, *Brescia*

Dott.ssa **Gisella Barone**, *Milano*

Dott. **Leonardo Bergossi**, *Cesena*

Dott.ssa **Rossana Daniela Berta**, *Milano*

Dott. **Camillo Leonardo Bertoglio**, *Milano*

Prof. **Umberto Bracale**, *Napoli*

Dott.ssa **Sara Capoccia Giovannini**, *Genova*

Dott. **Alessandro Carrara**, *Trento*

Dott. **Gianluca Cassese**, *Alessandria*

Dott. **Davide Cavaliere**, *Faenza*

Prof. **Giuseppe Cavallaro**, *Latina*

Dott. **Marco Guido Confalonieri**, *Romano di Lombardia*

Prof. **Antonio Crucitti**, *Roma*

Prof. **Diego Cuccurullo**, *Napoli*

Dott. **Marco Di Pangrazio**, *Modena*

Prof. **Giorgio Ercolani**, *Forlì*

Dott.ssa **Sofia Esposito**, *Modena*

Dott. **Nicola Fabbri**, *Cesena*

Dott. **Giuseppe Faillace**, *Milano*

Dott. **Federico Fiori**, *Milano*

Prof. **Giampaolo Formisano**, *Milano*

Dott. **Gianluca Garulli**, *Rimini*

Prof. **Francesco Gossetti**, *Roma*

Dott. **Enrico Guerra**, *Ravenna*

Dott. **Francesco Guerra**, *Grosseto*

Dott. **Angelo Iossa**, *Latina*

Dott. **Enrico Lazzarini**, *Faenza*

Dott. **Andrea Lucchi**, *Riccione*

Dott. **Carmelo Magistro**, *Vizzolo Predabissi*

Dott.ssa **Sonia Muzzarelli**, *Forlì-Cesena, Ravenna, Rimini*

Dott. **Luigi Noceroni**, *Rimini*

Dott. **Giammarco Palini**, *Rimini*

Dott. **Alessandro Palladino**, *Cesena*

Prof. **Piergaspare Palumbo**, *Roma*

Dott. **Filippo Paratore**, *Faenza*

Dott. **Francesco Pasini**, *Faenza*

Dott.ssa **Francesca Pecchini**, *Ibiza, Spagna*

Dott.ssa **Sara Pellegrini**, *Faenza*

Dott. **Roberto Peltrini**, *Napoli*

Dott.ssa **Barbara Perenze**, *Forlì*

Dott.ssa **Micaela Piccoli**, *Modena*

Dott. **Alberto Ruffato**, *Lugo*

Dott. **Carlo Sagnelli**, *Napoli*

Prof.ssa **Rossella Sgarzani**, *Forlì*

Dott. **Giorgio Soliani**, *Ferrara*

Prof. **Cesare Stabilini**, *Genova*

Dott. **Rocco Stano**, *Ferrara*

Dott.ssa **Marta Tanzanu**, *Faenza*

Dott. **Ernesto Tartaglia**, *Napoli*

Dott.ssa **Pasquina Tomaiuolo**, *Roma*

Dott. **Vincenzo Trapani**, *Castellammare di Stabia*

Dott. **Riccardo Turrini**, *Faenza*

Dott. **Carlo Vallicelli**, *Cesena*

Dott. **Nereo Vettoretto**, *Montichiari*

Dott. **Federico Zanzi**, *Lugo*

GENERAL INFORMATION

CME (ECM) accreditation - 2 October 2026

3937 – 492644

Accredited professions and disciplines: Medical doctor (General surgery, Plastic surgery), Nurse. Number of credits: 7

Educational objectives: Guidelines, protocols, procedures.

The ECM assessment will be available online for 72 hours. It must be completed online through the ECM Provider's website. Attendance for at least 90% of the total duration of the programme and at least 75% correct answers to the learning assessment questionnaire are required.

LANGUAGE

The proceedings will take place in Italian

VENUES

Hernia Innovation Days 2026 will take place across different venues, according to the scheduled activities:

- Pre-Congress Hands-On Course: *Suturing Techniques in AWS*, Thursday, 1 October 2026, Zaccanti SPA Training Rooms, Via Benedetto Marcello 1, Bologna
- Pre-Congress Masterclass: *Outpatient Groin Hernia Surgery* Thursday, 1 October 2026, Auditorium MIC – International Museum of Ceramics, Viale Baccarini 19, Faenza
- Opening Ceremony & Multidisciplinary Round Table on Diastasis Recti, Thursday, 1 October 2026, Auditorium MIC – International Museum of Ceramics, Viale Baccarini 19, Faenza
- Main Congress, Friday, 2 October 2026, Garden Pavillon Congress Centre, Villa Abbondanzi, Via Emilia Ponente 23, Faenza

ORGANIZATIONAL SECRETARIAT AND ECM PROVIDER

Comunicazione&venti - ID Provider 3937

Via Punta di Ferro 2/L, 47122 Forlì (FC) - Tel. 0543 720901

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Pre-Congress Hands-On Course

Suturing Techniques in Abdominal Wall Surgery

Thursday, 1 October 2026

Venue	Zaccanti SPA Training Rooms, Via Benedetto Marcello 1 - Bologna
Time	09:00 – 12:30
Format	Pelvic trainers, video demonstrations, individualised feedback and small-group tutoring

Rationale: Modern abdominal wall surgery requires advanced skills in intracorporeal suturing, management of anatomical planes, fascial release, defect closure, and midline reconstruction. The course is designed for residents and early-career surgeons, as well as surgeons beginning a structured training pathway in minimally invasive abdominal wall surgery.

Expected learning outcomes: Each participant will receive a structured technical assessment, an individual debriefing and recommendations for a progressive training pathway in minimally invasive abdominal wall surgery.

Training format: Participants will work in groups of two or three, with one tutor assigned to each training station, rotating through progressively complex open and minimally invasive exercises and advanced reconstructive scenarios.

Learning Objectives:

- Apply the principles of needle handling, traction and countertraction and intracorporeal knotting.
- Perform a structured fascial closure and midline reconstruction.
- Compare the ergonomics, advantages and limitations of different suturing techniques and approaches.
- Recognise technical errors that may compromise tissue perfusion, closure integrity or reconstructive stability.
- Use a structured checklist for self-assessment and progressive skills development.

Registration: Attendance is limited to 12 participants.

Programme:

- 09:00** Technical principles of open and minimally invasive suturing: working angles, needle handling, traction/countertraction and tissue tension control
- 09:15** Why intracorporeal suturing has become central in modern abdominal wall surgery
- 09:30** Station 1 - Basic skills: needle passage, intracorporeal knots, running sutures, tension management
- 10:15** Station 2 - Fascial closure and midline reconstruction: simulation of defect closure, mobilisation and medialisation of the fascial margins, continuous suture and reinforcing stitches
- 11:00** Station 3 - Advanced scenario: closure of a complex defect, reconstruction of a fascial or peritoneal flap, suturing in confined spaces
- 11:45** Final debriefing and take-home messages: technical evaluation, common technical errors, recommended training pathway

Faculty:

- *Course Director:* D. Cavaliere
- *Technical Course Lead:* F. Paratore
- *Station tutors:* F. Pasini, E. Lazzarini

Registration:



Pre-Congress Masterclass

Outpatient Groin Hernia Surgery: Appropriateness, Safety, Sustainability, and Pathway Implementation

Thursday, 1 October 2026

Venue	Auditorium MIC (International Museum of Ceramics), Viale Baccarini 19 - Faenza (RA)
Time	14:00-16:00
Format	Interactive course with case discussions, checklists, and operational pathways
ECM 496051	Accredited for: Medical doctor (General surgery, Plastic surgery), Nurse. Number of credits: 2,6

Rationale: Outpatient inguinal hernia surgery represents a concrete solution to the need to balance clinical appropriateness, patient safety, reduced hospitalisation, organisational sustainability, and resource optimisation. The course addresses this topic not merely as a reduction in the care setting, but as a selective, structured, and measurable pathway.

Expected learning outcomes: Participants will be able to define patient-selection criteria, distinguish the appropriate care setting, design a standardised perioperative pathway, identify minimum organisational requirements, and select relevant quality and safety indicators.

Learning Objectives:

- Define clinical, anesthetic, and social selection criteria.
- Distinguish between outpatient surgery, day surgery, and inpatient admission.
- Standardise the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative pathway.
- Analyse organisational and economic implications.
- Identify relevant quality and safety indicators .

Registration: Attendance is limited to 20 participants including surgeons, anesthetists, operating room nurses, perioperative pathway professionals, and organizational coordinators. Advance registration is mandatory. Registration deadline: 20/09/2026 - <https://forms.gle/u5obbP3RqDyvNCrH6>

Programme:

- 14:00** Welcome, course objectives and introductory remarks
- 14:10** Why outpatient groin hernia surgery now? Clinical rationale and appropriateness of care setting
- 14:25** From referral to discharge: patient selection, preoperative assessment, operating room pathway, recovery and follow-up - *Including case discussion and selection checklist*
- 14:50** Surgical technique and anaesthetic strategy - *Standardisation, local or regional anaesthesia, sedation, analgesia and discharge readiness*
- 15:15** Organisational sustainability - *Volumes, dedicated operating lists, turnover, resources and minimum implementation requirements*
- 15:30** Interactive implementation workshop - *Case-based decisions, pathway checklist, safety indicators and barriers to implementation*
- 15:50** Take-home messages and closing remarks

Faculty:

- **Course Chairs:** D. Cavaliere, E. Bigi, P. Palumbo
- **Organisational Management:** M. Tanzanu, M.C. Prudentino, S. Montefiori
- **Surgical Technique and Anesthesia:** S. Pellegrini, M. Meglio
- **Sustainability:** R. Respigo

Registration:



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF



Italian Society of Hernia
and Abdominal Wall Surgery
Società Italiana di Chirurgia dell'Ernia
e della Parete Addominale



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