Supplementary material

1. Training arrangements for participating surgeons

Participating surgeons were required to complete the first two cases with an experienced
surgeon assisting for training purposes. The first two cases were supervised by a leading
expert in IPVR surgery, Dr Marianeschi, who was based overseas. Dr Marianeschi completed
training for two surgeons in Bristol and one in Southampton.

It took longer than expected for participating surgeons in Bristol and Southampton to
complete the required training. During this time, patients whose operations were scheduled at
short notice could not be approached due to logistical issues. In Bristol, there were initially
two participating surgeons. To help improve recruitment rates, we invited an additional
surgeon to participate in the trial. For the additional surgeon it was agreed that participating
surgeons could supervise the first two IPVR cases if needed.