

22 April 2022

Confirmed or Suspected Dural Punctures Reported Following Epidurals Administered during Labour for the Past 10 years

Statistics on the number of confirmed or suspected dural punctures reported following epidurals administered during labour. Please provide data on a year-by-year basis covering the past 10 years until present date (13/03/22) in the Trust.

Data on total number of labour epidurals per year over the same period.

Data and statistics on the treatment recommended for labour dural punctures - such as conservative treatment, 1 blood patch, 2 blood patches, 3 blood patches, fibrin glue patch, surgery, etc. and the location where treatment was provided, and if not performed by the Trust where in the UK or beyond?

Figures for post-dural puncture headache and blood patch procedures also include patients who have received spinal anaesthesia. Though we do not have exact figures for 2012 - 2022, there were 1344 performed in the past year and this would equate to roughly 12000 spinals over the past 10 years.

Year	Epidurals - NIMATS	PDPH - Anaesthetic Records	Blood Patch - Anaesthetic Records
2012	1328	n/a	n/a
2013	1155	n/a	n/a
2014	1081	n/a	n/a
2015	1033	13	8
2016	1024	26	10
2017	1038	5	<5
2018	1008	7	<5
2019	962	20	15
2020	1018	19	9
2021	998	8	6
Feb-22	149	6	< 5
Total	10704	104	59

Use of < 5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - as this could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

All conservative treatment is managed on the postnatal ward and, if necessary, is followed up in an outpatient setting. All blood patches are performed on the delivery suite and followed up in an outpatient setting. We do not perform any other procedures such as glue patches etc. There were 4 repeat blood patches in our records between 2015 and 2022.