

20 July 2023

Transfusion practice around UK elective open AAA repair

We write to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information as a provider of arterial services. We are interested in transfusion practice around UK elective open AAA repair which is not captured or reflected in other publicly available resource. To accurately reflect contemporaneous practice, between the dates 01.01.2018 – 31.12.2022, we would be grateful if you could provide information on the following points with responses as set out in the table below:

- Autologous cell salvage equipment availability for the Vascular unit
- Number of elective open infra-renal (non-complex) AAA repairs performed each year
 - In whom, the number of patients who received red cell transfusions
 - The number of units transfused and phase in which the transfusion occurred
- And finally, the number of 30day mortalities in those receiving a transfusion versus not

Please provide the information in the below format:

Unit access to autologous cell salvage Yes (since year _____) / No

Autologous cell salvage is routinely available or used in elective open AAA repairs Yes (since year _____) / No

| | | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total number of elective infra-renal (non-complex) open AAA repairs | | | | | | |
| Number of above repairs requiring red cell transfusion (i.e. non-autologous) | | | | | | |
| Number of repairs requiring 3 or more units of red cell transfusion | | | | | | |
| Number of patients who died within 30 days of surgery | Patients receiving non-autologous red cell transfusion | | | | | |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Total | | | | | |
| Of those patients requiring red cell transfusion, how many units were transfused: | Pre-op | __ units | __ units | __ units | __ units | __ units |
| | Intra-op | __ units | __ units | __ units | __ units | __ units |
| | Post-op | __ units | __ units | __ units | __ units | __ units |

The Vascular Service has access to cell salvage equipment and it is routinely used in elective open AAA repairs.

We are unable to determine the number of patients who had blood transfusions over the past 5 years as this would require a manual note check which would take longer than 18 hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

The 30 day mortality rate for AAA is 4.7% which is inclusive of emergency procedures. The table below shows the number of Elective Open AAA repairs carried out from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total number of elective infra-renal (non-complex) open AAA repairs | 56 | 67 | 47 | 35 | 90 |