

Mortality Rates for AAA Surgery in SHIP

Why is there a concern?

- Outcomes for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) surgery are worse in this country than elsewhere in Europe where the mortality rate in 2008 was 7.9% in the UK compared to 3.5% in Europe
- National guidelines aim to halve the mortality rate for planned AAA surgery within 30 days of treatment in the UK to 3.5% by 2013.

What are the new standards?

- *Now* 6% or less people die within 30 days of planned surgery
- *By 2013* 3.5% or less people die within 30 days of planned surgery

Please note that over one year our local hospitals see between 50 and 80 patients. One or two deaths can therefore make a big difference to annual mortality figures. This means that in one year figures could look very good and in another quite poor. For this reason the figure of the last 100 cases is chosen as the benchmark by the national professional body for vascular surgeons. The local population may generally sicker in some areas and this may affect the probability of higher mortality rates in those areas.

How are we doing locally?

Provider of Services	Numbers of AAA planned operations in 2009/10	2010/11 Mortality Rate (percentage)	Mortality Rate last 100 cases
University Hospitals Southampton Foundation NHS Trust (UHSFT)	76	0%	
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT)	47	2.2%	2%
Frimley Park Hospital Foundation NHS Trust (FPHFT)	85	2.3%	
England Average	5.6% open surgery, 4.1% all types of AAA surgery		

This is from information provided by the trusts themselves in autumn 2011; England average from the AAA Quality Improvement Programme report July 2011

All hospitals are using new technology which involves less open surgery and this has the potential to further improve survival rates. Independent experts have reviewed the outcomes and have stated that they are all satisfactory.

What about emergency surgery?

- There is no national standard for outcomes for emergency AAA surgery
- Annual numbers of operations are much lower and more subject to fluctuation as noted above
- The national average figure is 33% and locally our figures are 33% (UHSFT), 59% (PHT) and 28% (FPHFT)
- The national AAA screening programme aims to detect abdominal aortic aneurysm earlier with a simple ultrasound test. This should mean that over time nearly all operations will be planned

What about other vascular surgery?

- There is no national standard for outcomes for other surgery
- There were 52 inpatient deaths last year following carotid surgery to prevent strokes, recorded for England by the national agency Hospital Episode Statistics
- There were 3 deaths last year from carotid surgery across Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and over 500 operations were performed
- AAA Elective Mortality Rates for the financial year 2010/11 provided by Trusts to the cardiovascular network, November 2011

NHS South Central figures

AAA Elective Mortality Rates for the financial year 2010/11 provided by Trusts to the South Central cardiovascular network, November 2011

Trust	Number	Deaths	%	3 year
Buckinghamshire HT	34	0	0	1.4%
Heatherwood and Wexham Park FT	19	1	5.2	
Royal Berkshire FT	16	0	0	
University Hospitals Oxford	111	none in 30 days 1 after 30 days	0	
University Hospitals Southampton FT	76	0	0	
Portsmouth HT	47	1	2.2	2%
Frimley Park FT	85	2 (EVAR)	2.3*	

- Please note that on such a low volume procedure one year activity will not be a statistically significant sample. Except where an asterisk is shown, It is also unclear if 30 day mortality rates are quoted. The network tried to obtain validating information from the national vascular database but was refused due to poor data quality in the mortality field.