

Clinical haematology

Surgical procedures for people with inherited bleeding disorders

Information for patients

Introduction

If you have an inherited bleeding disorder you will probably know the potential risks associated with having surgery. This leaflet explains more about the role of the haemophilia team before and after surgery. If you have any questions about the information below please speak to a member of the haemophilia team.

What happens before surgery?

Before your surgery can take place we may need to take some extra blood tests. We can usually take these when you come for your pre-admission appointment, which should have already been booked by your surgical team.

When you have your date for your pre-admission appointment, please contact us to let us know using the details on page 2 and we will arrange the extra blood tests for that day.

What happens on the day of surgery?

When you are on the ward, we (the haemophilia team) will come and see you before you go to theatre. We will carry out any treatment needed to reduce the potential bleeding risks associated with surgery. If the drugs we are using are short-acting, we may give them to you in the anaesthetic room.

What types of treatment are available?

The type of treatment you have before your surgery depends on the nature of your bleeding disorder and the type of surgery you are having. We will discuss your treatment options with you before your surgery. The treatments we use are often given by mouth (orally), as an injection under the skin or as an injection or infusion into an appropriate vein.

If you are having major surgery we can use continuous infusions of treatments for certain bleeding disorders. This would be given via a cannula (a thin tube) in your arm or hand, which is attached to a pump.

For some bleeding disorders, we will take blood tests before and after we have given you the treatment to assess your response.

We will speak to the surgical team and discuss your treatment plan, which will be documented and filed in your records. We will also let them know not to use aspirin and aspirin-like drugs as well as intramuscular injections.

What happens after the operation?

For certain bleeding disorders, we may need to take another blood sample after surgery. The results of this blood sample will help us decide if you need more treatment. If you do, the sample shows what dose you need and when to give it. Once we have the results and have made a treatment plan after your surgery (called a post-operative treatment plan), we will visit you on the ward and explain what is going to happen next.

The length of treatment post-operatively will depend on what procedure you have had. You may have to stay in hospital longer than someone else having the same procedure who does not have a bleeding disorder. We will discuss this with you.

We may also need to continue your treatment after you leave hospital. Again, this depends on the type of bleeding disorder you have and the type of procedure you had. If your treatment will continue after leaving hospital, you may have to come back to the haematology day unit as an outpatient so that we can give you your treatment.

Depending on the type of surgery and your bleeding disorder, we may recommend that you have post-operative heparin injections to prevent thrombosis (blood clots in the legs or lungs). The decision to start heparin injections will be made by the consultant in the haemophilia team.

Contact details

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the haemophilia team:

Hammersmith Hospital
Haemophilia centre
Second floor, Garry Weston centre
Du Cane Road
London
W12 0HS

Telephone: 020 3313 4345 (09.00 - 17.00, Monday to Friday)

Outside of these hours please call 020 3311 7755 to speak to the on-call haemophilia registrar.

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088**. You can also email PALS at **imperial.pals@nhs.net**. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.patient.information@nhs.net

Wi-fi

We have a free wi-fi service for basic filtered browsing and a premium wi-fi service (requiring payment) at each of our five hospitals. Look for WiFiSPARK_FREE or WiFiSPARK_PREMIUM

