







NCPA/HPO Annual Report 2019 & 2020

General anaesthetics, Neuraxial blocks and Regional blocks, Administered in Public hospitals in Ireland in 2019 & 2020 as captured in HIPE

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Introduction

This Annual Report contains data for the years 2019 and 2020. Due to the restrictions occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic it was not possible to publish a Report in 2020 so data for 2019 has been included here and we acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our colleagues in the Healthcare Pricing Office in providing us with the information which has enabled us to produce this combined Annual Report.

This Report describes the number of general anaesthetics, neuraxial blocks and regional blocks administered in public hospitals in Ireland in 2019 and 2020 as captured in HIPE. These data are set out alongside data from the previous three years to allow comparisons to be made. Information on patient's age, gender, ASA status, urgency of the procedure and the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) is also included.

The number of beating heart organ donations was provided by Organ Donation and transplant Ireland. Knowing this figure allows us to calculate the number of patients with an ASA 6 status, that is, patients with a diagnosis of brain stem death whose organs were retrieved for transplantation.

Despite being severely hampered by the effects of the pandemic, the National Audit of Emergency Readmission of Day case patients within two days of Discharge, is nearing completion. Data collection sheets from 37 hospitals surveyed have been returned and the information is being analysed.

The format of this Report is identical to that of previous reports and contains data for the last five years. All Annual Reports published to date are available online¹

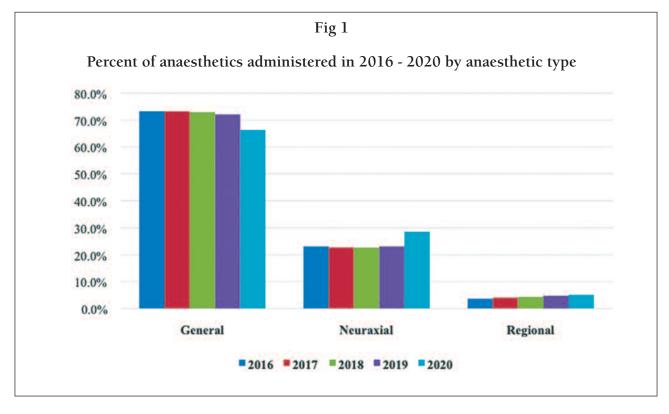
The authors acknowledge that this Annual Report describes only part of the work of anaesthesiologists.

Part 1:

Principal Data

Table 1 & Figure 1 describe the number and type of anaesthetic administered in 2016 – 2020 as reported to HIPE

| Table 1 | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| Number o | f anaesthetics admi | inistered in 201 | .6 - 2020 by ar | naesthetic ty | pe |
| Year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Anaesthetic type | Anaesthetic Coun | t | | | |
| General | 168,304 | 169,640 | 170,012 | 165,913 | 124,534 |
| Neuraxial Block | 53,058 | 52,692 | 52,825 | 53,157 | 53,555 |
| Regional | 8,414 | 9,466 | 10,250 | 11,076 | 9,644 |
| TOTAL * | 229,776 | 231,798 | 233,087 | 230,146 | 187,73 |
| | | | | | |



^{*}The total number of anaesthetics is the sum of all three types of anaesthetics administered. The anaesthetic count (Table 1) exceeds the discharge count (Table 2) because some patients had more than one anaesthetic at the same time (e.g. GA and Neuraxial block) or more than one anaesthetic during the same admission.

Table 2 & Figure 2 describe the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2016 – 2020 by gender as reported to HIPE

| Table 2 | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| | Number of patient dischar in 20 | rges reporting at 116 - 2020 by ge | | procedure(s) | |
| Year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Gender | Discharge Cour | nt | | | |
| Male | 83,975 | 85,003 | 84,572 | 82,976 | 63,569 |
| Female | 134,303 | 134,336 | 135,360 | 134,481 | 112,549 |
| TOTAL | 218,278 | 219,339 | 219,932 | 217,457 | 176,118 |
| | | | | | |

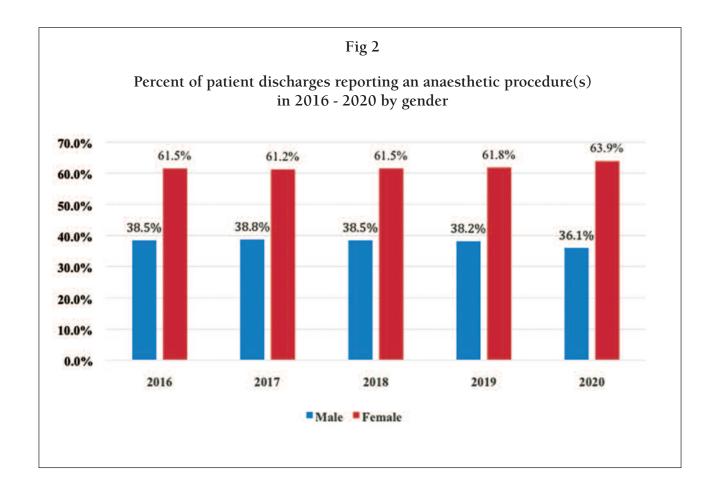
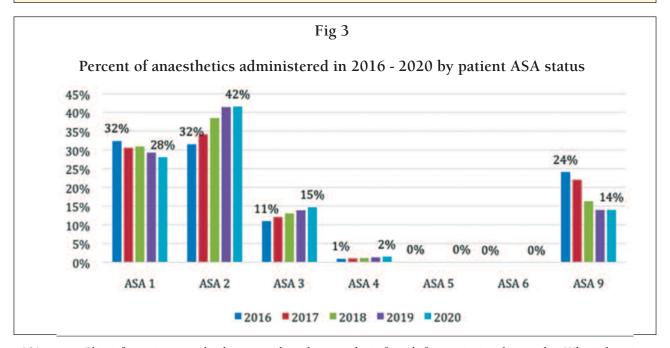


Table 3 & Figure 3 describe the number of anaesthetics administered in 2016 – 2020 by patient ASA status as reported to HIPE

| Table | Table 3 Number of anaesthetics administered in 2016 - 2020 by patient ASA status | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| Year | | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | | | | |
| #ASA Score | N Patient status | Anaesthe | etic Count | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Normal healthy patient | 74,370 | 70,879 | 72,055 | 67,358 | 52,697 | | | | |
| 2 | Mild systemic disease | 72,408 | 79,199 | 89,756 | 95,378 | 78,094 | | | | |
| 3 | Severe systemic disease limiting activity | 25,279 | 28,050 | 30,472 | 31,928 | 27,588 | | | | |
| 4 | Severe systemic disease posing a constant threat to life | 2,140 | 2,463 | 2,662 | 3,079 | 2,898 | | | | |
| 5 | Moribund patient not expected to survive longer than 24 hrs without surgery | 150 | 199 | * | 241 | 200 | | | | |
| 6 | Brain stem death and organ donation for transplant | 8 | 8 | ~ | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| 9 | No documentation on ASA status | 55,421 | 51,000 | 37,957 | 32,162 | 26,256 | | | | |
| | TOTAL | 229,776 | 231,798 | 233,087 | 230,146 | 187,733 | | | | |



#ASA scores -This information must be documented on the anaesthetic form before assigning these codes. Where there is no documentation of ASA score or the emergency modifier is not indicated, filler digits 9 should be assigned [1]. Cells with discharges between one and five inclusive are not reported. In the table above such cells have been replaced by ~. Where further suppression is necessary to ensure that such cells are not disclosed it is necessary to suppress the cell with the next lowest discharges with *.

Table 4 & Figure 4 describe the number of anaesthetics administered in 2016-2020 by urgency of procedure as reported to HIPE

| Table 4 | | | c 22221 | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------|
| Number of an | aesthetics admir | nistered in 2016 | 6 - 2020 by ur | gency of pro | cedure |
| Year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| ı | Anaesthetic Coun | t | | | |
| Emergency | 26,048 | 27,550 | 32,187 | 33,650 | 33,394 |
| Non emergency or | | | | | |
| not known | 203,728 | 204,248 | 200,900 | 196,496 | 154,339 |
| TOTAL | 229,776 | 231,798 | 233,087 | 230,146 | 187,733 |
| | | | | | |

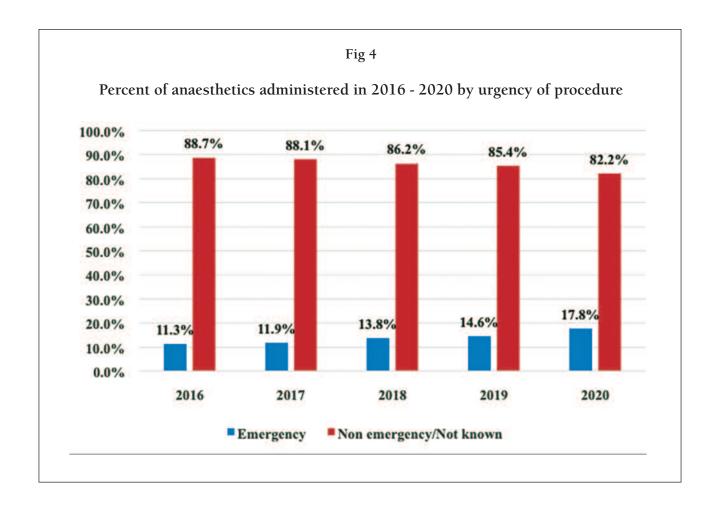


Table 5 & Figure 5 describe the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2016 – 2020 by age as reported to HIPE

| Table 5 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| Table 5 & Figure 5 describe the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2016 – 2020 by age as reported to HIPE | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | | | | |
| Age categories (yrs) | | Discharge Coun | t | | | | | | |
| Less than 1 yr | 2,119 | 1,948 | 1,952 | 1,775 | 1,696 | | | | |
| 1 – 05 yrs | 13,859 | 13,520 | 13,175 | 12,269 | 8,597 | | | | |
| 06 – 15 yrs | 20,028 | 20,411 | 20,603 | 20,120 | 14,776 | | | | |
| 16 – 25 yrs | 18,494 | 18,460 | 18,122 | 17,649 | 14,516 | | | | |
| 26 – 35 yrs | 41,109 | 39,449 | 38,684 | 37,847 | 34,750 | | | | |
| 36 – 45 yrs | 36,243 | 36,472 | 36,636 | 36,658 | 31,157 | | | | |
| 46 - 55 yrs | 24,324 | 25,009 | 25,240 | 25,222 | 19,277 | | | | |
| 56 – 65 yrs | 23,945 | 24,408 | 24,584 | 24,561 | 18,844 | | | | |
| 66 – 75 yrs | 22,415 | 23,289 | 24,240 | 24,182 | 18,598 | | | | |
| 76 – 85 yrs | 12,579 | 13,060 | 13,372 | 13,761 | 10,977 | | | | |
| Over 85 yrs | 3,163 | 3,313 | 3,324 | 3,413 | 2,930 | | | | |
| TOTAL | 218,278 | 219,339 | 219,932 | 217,457 | 176,118 | | | | |

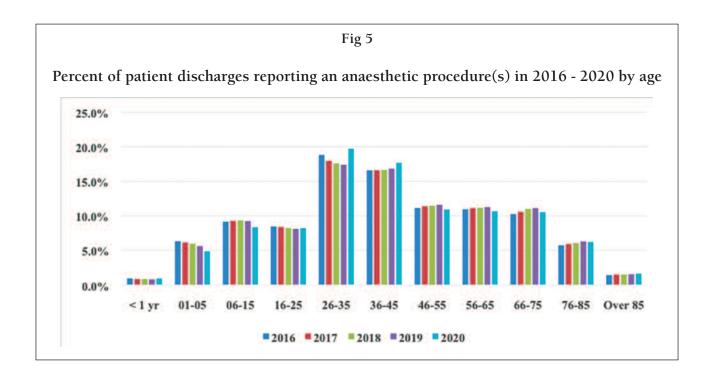


Table 6A describes the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2019 by age and hospital group as reported to HIPE

| Table 6A | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2019 by age and hospital group | | | | | | | | | | |
| Discharge count by age and hospital group | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Ireland East | RCSI | Dublin Midlands | South S/West | UL Hospital Group | Saolta | Children's Group | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 1 yr | ~ | ~ | ~ | 104 | 19 | 31 | 1,618 | | | |
| 01 – 05yrs | * | * | * | 1,941 | 760 | 1,561 | 6,630 | | | |
| 06 – 15yrs | 1,256 | 1,306 | 1,046 | 3,579 | 1,487 | 2.871 | 8,575 | | | |
| 16 – 25yrs | 3,603 | 2,962 | 2,930 | 3,758 | 1,288 | 2,624 | 484 | | | |
| 26 – 35yrs | 8,926 | 7,380 | 6,395 | 7,201 | 2,461 | 5,448 | 0 | | | |
| 36 – 45yrs | 8,565 | 6,556 | 6,109 | 7,493 | 2,736 | 5,199 | 0 | | | |
| 46 – 55yrs | 6,124 | 3,779 | 3,828 | 5,736 | 1,980 | 3,775 | 0 | | | |
| 56 – 65yrs | 6,311 | 3,048 | 3,635 | 5,896 | 1,671 | 4,000 | 0 | | | |
| 66 – 75yrs | 6,036 | 2,709 | 3,407 | 5,943 | 1,657 | 4,430 | 0 | | | |
| 76 – 85yrs | 3,255 | 1,631 | 1,962 | 3,304 | 820 | 2,789 | 0 | | | |
| Over 85yrs | 772 | 430 | 459 | 832 | 181 | 739 | 0 | | | |
| Sub totals | 45,220 | 30,160 | 30,456 | 45,787 | 15,060 | 33,467 | 17,307 | | | |
| Total | Total 219,339 | | | | | | | | | |

The full list of hospitals in each hospital group is given in Appendix 1

Cells with discharges between one and five inclusive are not reported. In the table above such cells have been replaced by \sim . Where further suppression is necessary to ensure that such cells are not disclosed it is necessary to suppress the cell with the next lowest discharges with *.

For reporting purposes, discharges aged 17 years and older from Tallaght University Hospital are included in the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, while discharges aged less than 17 years from Tallaght University Hospital are included in the Children's Hospital Group.

Table 6B describes the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2020 by age and hospital group as reported to HIPE

| Table 6B | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|
| Number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2019 by age and hospital group | | | | | | | | | | |
| Discharge count by age and hospital group | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ireland RCSI Dublin South UL Saolta Children's East Midlands S/West Hospital Group Group | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 1 yr | ~ | 0 | 0 | 73 | 18 | 29 | 1,574 | | | |
| 01 – 05yrs | * | 215 | 469 | 1,390 | 331 | 951 | 5,040 | | | |
| 06 – 15yrs | 908 | 832 | 816 | 3,004 | 712 | 1,817 | 6,697 | | | |
| 16 – 25yrs | 3,181 | 2,754 | 2,276 | 3,135 | 833 | 1,900 | 387 | | | |
| 26 – 35yrs | 8,094 | 7,345 | 5,815 | 6,787 | 2,280 | 4,429 | 0 | | | |
| 36 – 45yrs | 7,359 | 5,990 | 4,971 | 6,620 | 1,999 | 4,218 | 0 | | | |
| 46 – 55yrs | 4,710 | 3,215 | 2,809 | 4,599 | 1,243 | 2,701 | 0 | | | |
| 56 – 65yrs | 4,949 | 2,563 | 2,704 | 4,762 | 1,008 | 2,858 | 0 | | | |
| 66 – 75yrs | 4,660 | 2,329 | 2,656 | 4,863 | 1,034 | 3,056 | 0 | | | |
| 76 – 85yrs | 2,621 | 1,487 | 1,429 | 2,836 | 595 | 2,009 | 0 | | | |
| Over 85yrs | 634 | 424 | 402 | 750 | 178 | 542 | 0 | | | |
| Sub totals | 37,319 | 27,154 | 24,347 | 38,819 | 10,281 | 24,510 | 13,688 | | | |
| Total | Total 176,118 | | | | | | | | | |

The full list of hospitals in each hospital group is given in Appendix 1

Cells with discharges between one and five inclusive are not reported. In the table above such cells have been replaced by \sim . Where further suppression is necessary to ensure that such cells are not disclosed it is necessary to suppress the cell with the next lowest discharges with *.

For reporting purposes, discharges aged 17 years and older from Tallaght University Hospital are included in the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, while discharges aged less than 17 years from Tallaght University Hospital are included in the Children's Hospital Group.

Table 7 describes the number of anaesthetics administered in 2016 – 2020 by the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) as reported to HIPE

Table 7

Number of anaesthetics administered in 2016 - 2020 categorised by the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI)

| | Anaesthetic Count | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | | | | | | |
| Intervention Chapter | Year 2016 | Year 2017 | Year 2018 | Year 2019 | Year 2020 | |
| 1. Procedures on the nervous system | 5,374 | 5,428 | 5,484 | 5,321 | 4,967 | |
| 2. Procedures on endocrine system | 1,135 | 1,223 | 1,246 | 1,325 | 1,004 | |
| 3. Procedures on eye and adnexa | 7,749 | 7,985 | 8,916 | 9,819 | 7,113 | |
| 4. Procedures on ear and mastoid process | 4,263 | 4,391 | 4,417 | 4,073 | 2,447 | |
| 5. Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx | 7,946 | 7,793 | 8,487 | 8,036 | 5,087 | |
| 6. Dental services | 5,328 | 5,013 | 4,977 | 4,752 | 2,714 | |
| 7. Procedures on respiratory system | 4,269 | 4,276 | 4,439 | 4,422 | 3,213 | |
| 8. Procedures on cardiovascular system | 8,357 | 8,199 | 7,831 | 7,755 | 6,137 | |
| 9. Procedures on blood and blood forming organs | 1,220 | 1,204 | 1,166 | 1,121 | 920 | |
| 10. Procedures on digestive system | 35,872 | 36,458 | 36,186 | 35,215 | 27,715 | |
| 11. Procedures on urinary system | 9,819 | 10,371 | 10,309 | 10,452 | 8,567 | |
| 12. Procedures on male genital organs | 6,773 | 7,523 | 7,049 | 6,709 | 4,996 | |
| 13. Gynaecological procedures | 23,511 | 23,512 | 24,667 | 25,054 | 18,916 | |
| 14. Obstetric procedures | 38,103 | 37,061 | 37,230 | 36,958 | 38,466 | |
| 15. Procedures on musculoskeletal system | 46,608 | 46,583 | 45,752 | 44,807 | 37,273 | |
| 16. Dermatological and plastic procedures | 12,088 | 12,442 | 12,142 | 11,738 | 8,670 | |
| 17. Procedures on breast | 4,892 | 5,241 | 5,821 | 5,651 | 3,727 | |
| 18. Radiation oncology procedures | 418 | 636 | 574 | 605 | 541 | |
| 19. Non-invasive, cognitive and others intervention not elsewhere classified | 3,270 | 3,414 | 3,292 | 3,240 | 2,725 | |
| 20. Imaging services | 1,754 | 1,841 | 1,870 | 1,843 | 1,399 | |
| No procedure on same date as anaesthetic procedure | 1,027 | 1,204 | 1,232 | 1,250 | 1,136 | |
| TOTAL | 229,776 | 231,798 | 233,087 | 230,146 | 187,733 | |

Table 8 A describes the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2019 by admission type and hospital group as reported to HIPE

Table 8A

Number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2019 by admission type and hospital group

Discharge count by admission type and hospital group

| | Ireland East | RCSI | Dublin Midlands | South S/West | UL Hospital Group | Saolta | Children's Group | TOTAL |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Day cases | 15,384 (34.0%) | 6,988 (23.2%) | 8,297 (23.2%) | 17,083 (37.3%) | 6,199 (40.6%) | 11,148 (33.3%) | 9,936 (57.4%) | 74,955 (34.5%) |
| In Patients | | | | | | | | |
| Elective | 12,066 (26.7%) | 6,186 (20.5%) | 7,455 (24.5%) | 11,712 (25.6%) | 3,311 (20.0%) | 8,207 (24.5%) | 3,661 (21.2%) | 52,598 (24.2%) |
| Emergency | 8,395 (18.6%) | 8,072 (26.8%) | 7,828 (25.7%) | 9,573 (20.8%) | 2,753 (18.3%) | 8,019 (24.0%) | 3,710 (21.4%) | 48,350 (22.2%) |
| Maternity | 9,375 (20.7%) | 8,914 (29.6%) | 6,876 (22.6%) | 7,419 (16.2%) | 2,877 (19.1%) | 6,093 (18.2%) | 0 (0%) | 41,554 (19.1%) |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 45,220 | 30,160 | 30,456 | 45,787 | 15,060 | 33,467 | 17,307 | 217,457 (100%) |

Note: The Admission Type is the category of admission relating to the episode of care and is downloaded directly from the patient administration system.

Table 8B describes the number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2020 by admission type and hospital group as reported to HIPE

Table 8B

Number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic procedure(s) in 2020 by admission type and hospital group

Discharge count by admission type and hospital group

| | Ireland East | RCSI | Dublin Midlands | South S/West | UL Hospital Group | Saolta | Children's Group | TOTAL |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Day cases | 10,600 (28.4%) | 5,290 (19.5%) | 5,811 (23.9%) | 12,497 (32.2%) | 2,822 (27.4%) | 6,590 (26.9%) | 7,292 (53.3%) | 50,902 (28.9%) |
| In Patients | | | | | | | | |
| Elective | 10,075 (27.0%) | 5,092 (18.8%) | 5,133 (21.1%) | 9,252 (23.8%) | 1,901 (18.5%) | 5,458 (22.3%) | 3,049 (22.3%) | 39,960 (22.7%) |
| Emergency | 7,172 (19.2%) | 7,059 (26.0%) | 6,644 (27.3%) | 9,254 (23.8%) | 2,334 (22.7%) | 6,707 (27.4%) | 3,347 (24.5%) | 42,517 (24.1%) |
| Maternity | 9,472 (25.4%) | 9,713 (35.8%) | 6,759 (27.8%) | 7,816 (20.1%) | 3,224 (31.4%) | 5,755 (23.5%) | 0 (0%) | 42,739 (24.3%) |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 37,319 | 27,154 | 24,347 | 38,819 | 10,281 | 24,510 | 13,688 | 176,118 (100.0%) |

Note: The Admission Type is the category of admission relating to the episode of care and is downloaded directly from the patient administration system.

Part 2:

Supplementary data

ASA 6 Patient status

ASA 6 denotes a patient with a diagnosis of brain stem death who is donating organs for transplant.

Data from ODTI* indicate that 85 patients in 2019 and 56 patients in 2020 donated organs following a diagnosis of brain stem death.

| Deceased Organ Donors | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| Year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | | | | |
| Beating heart Non beating heart | 74 3 | 91 8 | 77 4 | 78 7 | 56 7 | | | | |
| TOTAL | 77 | 99 | 81 | 85 | 63 | | | | |

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Organ Donation and Transplant Ireland has been delegated the regulatory functions assigned to the Health Service Executive (HSE) in Statutory Instrument (SI) 325 (2012), European Union (Quality and Safety of Human Organs Intended for Transplantation) Regulations 2012. This annual ODTI report has been produced in compliance with part 5, SI 325 (2012)

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Discussion & Conclusion

This is the seventh NCPA/HPO Annual Report. Due to the constraints occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic it was not possible to produce a report for 2019 on time so information for both 2019 and 2020 is contained here.

2019

The figures for 2019 are very similar to those of previous years with only minor fluctuations seen. The total number of anaesthetics administered in 2019 was 230,146 (Table 1 & Figure 1), which is within 1% of the average for the years 2016, 2017 and 2108.

The male to female ratio remains at 2:3 (Table 2 & Figure 2)

The patterns within the age categories are also maintained. There is a small but steady decrease in the number of patients under 36 years of age and an accompanying increase in the number over 36 years (Table 5 & Figure 5).

The number of anaesthetics given for emergency cases in 2019 shows an increase of 1,463 (4.5%) on 2018, (Table 4 & Figure 4). It should be noted that the number of emergency cases has been increasing steadily year on year since 2013 when the first NCPA/HPO Annual Report was published. The 2019 figure is the highest recorded to date. Just how real this yearly increase is however, is difficult to determine because it has been accompanied by a clear improvement in the use of the "e" modifier on anaesthetic records as evidenced by the decline in ASA 99 codes recorded by HIPE coders (Table 3 & figure 3). This means that emergency cases previously recorded in HIPE as elective or unknown are now correctly being recorded as emergencies.

The number of patient discharges reporting an anaesthetic for day case procedures was 74,955, just 261 or 0.3% fewer than in 2018, and represents 34.4% of the total patient discharges in 2019 (Table 8 & Figure 8).

78 patients donated organs for transplant following a diagnosis of brain stem death. This compares with 77 in 2018 (Supplementary data, page 14).

The top four ACHI categories in which anaesthetics were administered were Obstetrics, the Musculoskeletal system, Gynaecology and the Digestive system (Table 7 & Figure 7), as has been the case in previous years.

2020

The first case of Covid 19 in Ireland was reported in late February 2020². The subsequent epidemic had a profound negative effect on all aspects of life in Ireland and put enormous strain in the health service, severely reducing the amount of elective scheduled work that could be undertaken.

Not surprisingly this Report demonstrates activity for 2020 was significantly reduced in all clinical areas and across all Hospital Groups, with one exception, Obstetrics.

The total number of anaesthetics administered in 2020 was 187,733, a fall of 18.4% on 2019 while the number of patients reporting an anaesthetic fell by 19% (Table 1 & 2, Figure 1 & 2).

The fall in activity in the Hospital Groups varied from 10.1% in the RCSI Group to 31.7% in the UL Group, compared with 2019 (Table 8).

The patterns in the age categories referred to above for 2019 for patients aged less than 36 have continued but the increases noted for previous years for patients older than this have not continued (Table 5 & Figure 5).

There was a reduction in the number of male patients by 19,407 (23.4%) and female patients by 21,932 (16.3%) reporting an anaesthetic compared with 2019 but the male to female ratio remains at 2:3.

The number of anaesthetics given for emergency procedures in 2020 was 33,394, a fall of 0.8% on the 2019 figure (Table 4 & Figure 4). This is the second highest figure recorded since 2013 and the role of the increased use of the "e" modifier on the anaesthetic record has been noted above. (Table 3& figure 3).

50,902 patients had an anaesthetic for a day case procedure in 2020, which was 24,053 (32.1%) fewer than in 2019 (Table 8A & Table 8B)

56 patients with a diagnosis of brain stem death donated organs for transplant compared with 78 in 2019 (Supplementary data, page 13). The ODTA Annual Report for 2020 states "Because of the risk related to Covid 19 transmission transplant surgery was targeted at super urgent cases, particularly heart, lung, liver and subsequently kidney transplantation. The kidney transplant pogramme in the context of risk benefit evaluation was paused from 6th March to 28Th May 2020. During this period the National Organ Procurement Service volunteered team members to work in ICU's to support ICU pressure whilst maintaining a 24/7 rota for organ donation"³.

The number of patients receiving an anaesthetic for an obstetric procedure in 2020 was 38,466, an increase of 1,508 (4.0%) on 2019. This is the only area to record an increase in activity in 2020.

Despite a reduction in the number of anaesthetics given across all ACHI categories, (with the exception of obstetrics), the four categories with the highest number of anaesthetics given in 2020 were the same as in 2019 and in previous years (Table 7 & Figure 7).

All acute public hospitals participate in HIPE. Please note that the 2020 data provided does not include any public activity performed in private hospitals under the 2020 private hospital agreements.

Part 3:

Audit Projects

1. Emergency readmission of day case patients within two postoperative days of discharge.

Emergency readmission following a surgical procedure is now recognised as a measure of quality of care and of morbidity. However, there is a paucity of information on emergency readmission following day case surgery. The NCPA with the assistance of the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) has undertaken a national audit of emergency readmission of patients who, following a day case procedure with an anaesthetic in 2018, were readmitted to the same hospital as an emergency within two postoperative days of discharge. The audit period is from January 1st to December 31st 2018.

All HSE and Voluntary hospitals carry out day case procedures but not all offer a 24 hour emergency service and are therefore not in a position to readmit emergency cases. The audit focuses on hospitals capable of admitting emergency cases.

An examination of the national file by the HPO identified 37 hospitals where episodes of emergency readmission following a day case procedure with an anaesthetic were recorded by the local HIPE office. In 2018 over 90% of all day case procedures with an anaesthetic were carried out in these thirty seven hospitals and the anaesthetic departments in these institutions were invited to take part in the audit.

Details of emergency readmissions were sought by use of a standard data collection sheet sent to participating anaesthetic departments. Information requested included patient details (age, gender, ASA status), the name of the day case procedure, the type and duration of the anaesthetic, time spent in the post anaesthesia recovery room (PACU), and on the ward post operatively, the date and time of the emergency readmission and discharge and details of any treatment given.

The primary objective of the audit is to estimate the number of emergency readmission of day case patients in this group of 37 hospitals but information on the reasons for emergency readmission, treatment given and outcome will also be presented.

Despite the enormous delays occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic, data collection is now complete and we hope to publish the results of the audit in the first quarter of 2022.

The NCPA is hugely indebted to our colleagues at the HPO, to our anaesthetic colleagues in participating hospitals and to the HIPE coders without whose assistance and expertise the audit could not have been completed.

Acknowledgements

The NCPA acknowledges the support and expertise of the following people and the institutions they represent in preparing this report.

Healthcare Pricing Office Ms Jacqui Curley

Ms Deirdre Murphy Ms Laura Metcalfe Mr Brian McCarthy

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland Professor George Shorten, President

Dr Brian Kinirons, Immediate Past President Dr Wouter Jonker, Consultant Anaesthetist,

Sligo University Hospital

Organ Donation and Transplant Ireland Prof Jim Egan, Director, ODTI

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Dr. Margaret Bourke Dr. Larry Crowley Dr. James Shannon Dr. John Cahill

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APPENDIX 1

Hospital Groups

Ireland East

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital,
St Vincent's University Hospital,
Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar,
St Lukes's Hospital Kilkenny,
Wexford General Hospital,
Our Lady's Hospital Navan,
St Colmcille's Hospital,
St Michael's Hospital Dun Laoghaire,
National Maternity Hospital,
Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital,

The Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin.

RCSI

Beaumont Hospital,
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda,
Connolly Hospital,
St Joseph's Hospital, Raheny,
Cavan General Hospital,
Rotunda Hospital,
Louth County Hospital,
Monaghan Hospital.

Dublin Midlands

St James's Hospital,
AMNCH-Tallaght University Hospital**,
St Luke's Hospital, Rathgar,
Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore,
Naas General Hospital,
Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise,
The Coombe Women & Infants University
Hospital.

South/South West

Bantry General Hospital,
Cork University Hospital,
University Hospital Kerry,
Mallow General Hospital,
Mercy University Hospital,
South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital,
South Tipperary General Hospital,
Clonmel, University Hospital Waterford,
Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital.

University of Limerick Hospital Group (U L Hospital Group)

University Hospital Limerick,
University Maternity Hospital, Limerick,
Croom Orthopaedic Hospital Limerick,
Ennis General Hospital,
Nenagh General Hospital,
St John's Hospital Limerick.

Saolta

Hospital,
Sligo University Hospital,
Letterkenny University Hospital,
Mayo University Hospital,
Portiuncula University Hospital,
Roscommon University Hospital.

University Hospitals Galway including Merlin Park

Children

Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, The Children's University Hospital Temple Street, AMNCH-Tallaght University Hospital Paediatrics.

^{**} For reporting purposes, discharges aged 17 years and older from Tallaght University Hospital are included in the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, while discharges aged less than 17 years from Tallaght University Hospital are included in the Children's Hospital Group.

| NOTES | |
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