

Patient information

Surgery for patients with bleeding disorder

Haematology Liverpool

Major or minor surgery for people with haemophilia (A and B), Von Willebrand disease, other factor deficiencies, platelet disorders or an acquired bleeding disorder.

If you need surgery contact the haemophilia team and let them know the name of the hospital you are having the procedure, as well as the name of the surgical consultant and the date/time of your surgery, as soon as possible. We will try to support procedures at local hospitals where possible, but some procedures may need to be moved to hospitals with more specialist facilities or to within LUHFT.

The haemophilia team will contact the surgical team to develop a care plan and organise any treatment you may need before or after the surgery (including blood tests). A specialist haemophilia nurse will then call you to discuss your care plan, treatment, and surgery.

You should also follow any advice provided to you in your pre-operative assessment appointment with the surgical team as the haemophilia team can only provide advice on treatment for your bleeding disorder.

Major or minor surgery for people who are haemophilia carriers

Depending on your factor VIII or factor IX level you may need treatment or monitoring before or after your surgery.

If you need surgery contact the haemophilia team and let them know the name of the hospital where you are having the procedure and the date and time of the surgery as soon as possible.

The haemophilia team can then contact your surgical team, to develop a care plan and organise any treatment you may require before and after the surgery (including blood tests). A specialist haemophilia nurse will then call you to discuss your care plan, treatment and surgery.

Length of stay in hospital

How long you stay in hospital will depend on the surgery you are having and the length of the treatment for your bleeding disorder. If you are having minor surgery, you may be able to have the operation as a day case, which means you would normally go home the same day.

If you are having major surgery, you will most likely need to stay in hospital for 7-10 days, as you may require more intensive factor treatment after the operation, as well as monitoring of your factor levels to reduce your bleeding risk and minimise any surgery-related bleeding complications.

Surgery in a different hospital

It is safest if your surgery takes place in a hospital with a haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre, such as the Royal Liverpool Hospital or Manchester Royal Infirmary. This is because the haemophilia team is on site, so can provide care and treatment before and after surgery.

If you have been listed for surgery, please let the haemophilia team know. They can speak to the surgical team in other hospitals, to organise your care. However, your haemophilia consultant or the haemophilia team may ask for your surgery to be carried out in the Royal Liverpool Hospital, so they can closely monitor you and provide treatment before and after your surgery. This close monitoring may not be available in hospitals outside of Liverpool.

Private Surgery

We do not generally recommend anyone registered with a bleeding disorder at the Royal Liverpool Hospital has private surgery, as we are unable to provide free advice or treatment to a private consultant or hospital.

However, we would encourage you to contact the haemophilia team and discuss this with your specialist team as they can give you advice about whether this is an appropriate route for your surgery or if you need to be referred to an NHS hospital.

Endoscopy Procedures

If you are having an endoscopy procedure, such as a gastroscopy or colonoscopy, you should let the haemophilia team know. They will need to know the type of endoscopy procedure you are having, as well as the date, time and where it is taking place. The haemophilia team can then contact the Endoscopy unit to arrange any treatment you may need before and after the procedure. Most procedures carried out by the Endoscopy Unit are day cases so you shouldn't need to stay overnight.

Biopsies

If you are having a biopsy (a small sample of tissue collected), you should let the haemophilia team know the type of biopsy you are having as well as the date, time and where it is being done. The Haemophilia team can then contact the relevant team to arrange any treatment you may need before and after procedure.

For some biopsies you may need to stay in hospital overnight, to be monitored for any bleeding complications or further factor concentrate.

Dental Surgery

If you are having dental surgery, you should let the haemophilia team know the type of dental surgery you are going to have (such as extraction) as well as the date and time of the surgery.

We would usually recommend that your dental surgery is carried out at the Royal Liverpool University Dental Hospital so we can provide necessary treatment before and afterwards, including blood tests and monitoring for bleeding. Most dental surgery is carried out as a day case so you shouldn't need to stay in hospital overnight.

If your dental surgery is being carried out by your local dentist or hospital you should discuss this with the haemophilia team. They can then provide advice about whether this is an appropriate route for your dental surgery or if you need to be referred to the Royal Liverpool University Dental Hospital. You may need factor concentrate or other treatment and blood tests before your dental surgery which may not be available at your local dentists or hospital.

Other types of surgery

If you are having another type of surgery or a procedure not already discussed whether it is minor or major and being carried out in the Royal Liverpool Hospital or at another hospital, please contact your haemophilia team.

They can talk with you about the type of treatment you may need before and after the surgery/procedure, to minimise your bleeding risk or any surgery-related bleeding complications, including the length of treatment and any recommended stay in hospital.

Emergency surgery

If you are admitted into hospital for emergency surgery, you (or the person accompanying you) should let the medical staff know that you have a bleeding disorder.

The staff looking after you will need to contact the haemophilia team at the Royal Liverpool Hospital (see the details at the end of this leaflet). This is so that the correct advice and treatment can be given, to help minimise your bleeding risk or reduce any surgery related bleeding complications. If you carry a bleeding disorder card, this can be shown to the medical staff to direct them to the haemophilia team.

Cancelled or postponed surgery

If your surgery is cancelled or postponed, you should let the haemophilia team know, so this can be noted on your medical records.

If you are given a new date and time, you should let the haemophilia team know, so they can make sure the surgical teams are aware of the care and treatment plan in place to reduce your bleeding risk and minimise any surgery-related bleeding complications.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Telephone: 0151 706 3397

Monday-Friday between 9:00am-5:00pm

Out of these hours please contact Switch board and ask for the haematology registrar on-call via:

0151 706 2000

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3397

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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