



Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain & Ireland

BISICS

3rd March 2021

By email

Dear Colleagues

The SCTS has led the way in validated data collection for adult cardiac surgery in all UK cardiac surgical units. This would not have been possible without the diligence of surgeons, audit leads, personnel in individual trusts and allied healthcare professionals. Over the years, this has resulted in significant improvements in risk-adjusted outcomes after adult cardiac surgery.

More recently, newer ways of performing adult cardiac surgery by minimally invasive cardiac surgical approaches (MICS) has become increasingly popular both nationally and internationally, and is now well established in many centres in the UK. To determine the safety and outcomes of MICS in Great Britain & Ireland, it is important that information on the 'surgical incision' is collected and submitted to NICOR for all adult cardiac surgical operations. Although this field was introduced as mandatory in 2018, completion rates vary significantly between units, with only 60% of units currently reporting the data on incisions.

It is crucial that this field is completed for all patients. This would pave the way for our specialty to understand the volumes and outcomes of the different types of cardiac surgery being performed in the UK enhancing the quality of care for all patients. It would further improve the quality of MICS in the adult UK population and would guide us to the indications for such approaches in the treatment of valvular and ischaemic heart disease in individual patients.

A number of units are already submitting this information to NICOR whilst others collect this data but have not been able to submit. Hence, there are still significant gaps in this area in the national database, which makes any meaningful evaluation difficult to undertake. A recent national review of the data has shown that NICOR data has significantly lower numbers of MICS recorded compared to the data at individual and Trust level.

We would like to ask that all cardiac surgical units in UK to collect and submit the information on 'surgical incision' after adult cardiac surgery prospectively as well as submit such locally

collected data retrospectively. The application of this information will aim to improve outcomes, enhance patient experience and further strengthen the consent process.

Yours sincerely



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