

about CELL SALVAGE

What is Cell Salvage?

Cell salvage is a way of collecting the blood that is lost during, or just after your operation, so that it can be given back to you. It is sometimes called autologous blood transfusion (using your own blood).

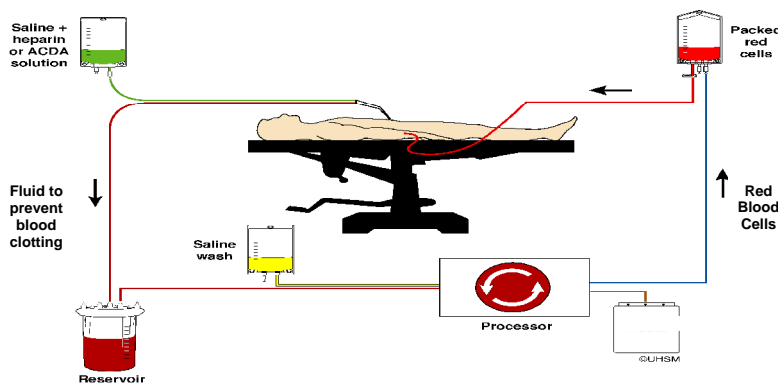
How is it done?

There are two different types of cell salvage:

Blood collected during your operation. This is called Intraoperative Cell Salvage

Blood that is lost during your operation is collected using a cell salvage machine. This machine separates the different parts of your blood and collects just the red cells (which carry oxygen). These red cells can then be given back to you during or just after your operation. Your red cells will only ever be given to you and will never be used for someone else.

This type of cell salvage is only suitable for some operations. Ask your doctor or nurse if it is suitable for you.



Blood collected after your operation. This is called Postoperative Cell Salvage

Sometimes blood that is lost immediately after your operation can also be collected and returned to you (usually when you are back on the ward). This is called postoperative cell salvage and is usually used after certain operations e.g. knee surgery.

What are the benefits of cell salvage?

During certain operations you may lose some blood. Cell salvage can reduce the chance that you will need a transfusion of blood donated by a blood donor. This therefore reduces the very small risks associated with receiving this type of blood.

If you are a blood donor and have received only salvaged blood and no donor blood, it may be possible for you to continue as a blood donor if you wish to, once you have recovered from your surgery. (Patients who have received donor blood since January 1st 1980 cannot be blood donors as a precaution against the possible spread of vCJD by transfusion).



Jeff underwent hip resurfacing surgery and received autologous cell salvaged blood.

He did not require donor blood and recovered remarkably quickly returning to his managerial position at the head of a busy accident repair centre. He also continues with his active lifestyle golfing, fishing and looking after his grandchildren.

Which patients could benefit from cell salvage?

Patients having certain operations e.g. cardiac (heart) surgery. Cell salvage may reduce the amount of donor blood they need.

Patients who do not wish to receive blood from a blood donor.

Why isn't it suitable for everyone?

Not all operations result in enough blood loss to enable cell salvage to be used. For some operations cell salvage is not recommended e.g. some bowel surgery.

Where can I get more information?

Ask your hospital doctor or nurse if cell salvage is available in your hospital.

If it is, your doctor or nurse will be able to advise you if it is suitable for you and for the operation you are having.

For further information about cell salvage visit:

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/transfusion-practice/uk-cell-salvage-action-group>