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Editorial:

This is the seventh in a series of newsletters to update cell salvage users with the activities of the UK Cell Salvage Action Group.

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We would welcome any feedback on the content of this newsletter.

Learn Cell Salvage

In November 2011 an updated e-learning package, **Learn Cell Salvage**, was launched across the UK and Ireland under the auspices of the Better Blood Transfusion Network. The package is specifically designed to increase the learner's understanding of Intraoperative Cell Salvage (ICS) and Postoperative Cell Salvage (PCS). The package is also designed to increase general awareness of appropriate transfusion.

There are four units:

- Basic Blood Facts
- Blood Conservation
- Intraoperative Cell Salvage
- Postoperative Cell Salvage

The module has interactive case scenarios, which build on the learning content, as well as an end of module assessment.

On successful completion, learners can print off a certificate and a record of their completion of the package will be maintained by the learning management system that hosts the package.

Learn Cell Salvage is aimed at anyone who is involved in the cell salvage process. It is not intended to replace the UK Cell Salvage Education Workbook or Competency Assessments, but offers an excellent addition to an individual's personal development as well as affording cell salvage trainers a means of ensuring a baseline knowledge prior to practical training and assessment.

To access Learn Cell Salvage go to www.learnbloodtransfusion.org.uk and register for Learn Blood Transfusion to access the package.

UK Cell Salvage Action Group Change of Chair

When the UK Cell Salvage Action Group was originally set up as a sub-group of the NHS Blood and Transplant Appropriate Use of Blood Group, the position of Chair was taken on jointly by Catherine Howell and Joan Jones as Better Blood Transfusion (BBT) Leads in England and Wales. Catherine and Joan have both moved into different roles in their organisations and have 'passed the baton' to Rebecca Gerrard and Karen Shreeve as the new BBT Leads.

Under Catherine and Joan's guardianship the expertise of group members has been harnessed and directed to achieve significant advances in supporting perioperative cell salvage across the UK. This makes the ongoing task for Rebecca and Karen much simpler as they step into the role.

The UKCSAG members and new Chairs thank Catherine and Joan for all their hard work and for developing a strong platform from which it can continue.

Intraoperative Cell Salvage Competency Assessments

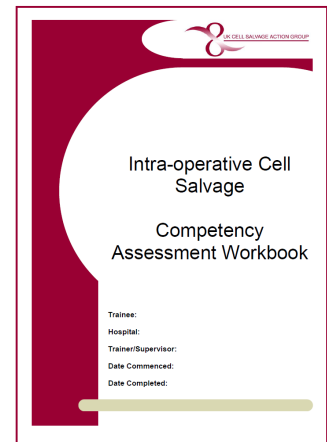
The Intraoperative Cell Salvage (ICS) Competency Assessment Workbook has been available in the UK for a number of years. The content of these competencies was derived from the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for ICS (www.skills4health.org.uk). Following a revision on the NOS in 2010, the UK Cell Salvage Action Group have undertaken a review of the competencies to ensure they remain in-line with the NOS and continue to meet the needs of users.

One of the biggest changes to the competencies relates to their format. Feedback from users suggested that the signing off procedure was laborious and difficult to complete. Revisions have been made to address this problem.

Evidence of competence is important for both the individual member of staff for their professional registration and the Organisation to ensure risk is minimised. The ICS Competency Assessments provide an evidence record that reflects nationally recognised standards.

The competency are available for all hospitals in the UK to download at www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk. The UK Cell Salvage Action Group recommend that all hospitals undertake routine training and competency assessment of staff involved with ICS.

The associated ICS Education workbook can also be downloaded at the above link or can be purchased in hardcopy (please contact a member of the UK Cell Salvage Action Group to find out who your local



ICS Competency Assessment

Section 3 Operate equipment for intra-operative blood salvage collection		Assessment Method						Assessor's Initials	Date
Knowledge and Understanding	The trainee demonstrated knowledge and understanding of:	DO	S	EW	PL	WQ	OO		
The indicators and contraindications to the use of Intraoperative Cell Salvage (ICS).	When and for whom collection for ICS could be started.								
The importance of labelling the collection equipment with unique patient identification.	The importance of priming the collection equipment with anticoagulant to prevent blood clotting.								
The use of suction equipment in relation to ICS.	The rationale behind setting an appropriate vacuum level.								
The components of whole blood.	The functions of red cells in the delivery of oxygen to body tissues.								
The differences between salvaged red cells and whole blood.	The effects of citrate or heparin anticoagulant on salvaged blood and the appropriate intervals of anticoagulant.								
The possible contents of the collection reservoir during surgery, including potential contaminants.									

DO Direct Observation S Simulation EW Expert Witness PL Peer Learning WQ Written Questions OO Oral Questions

Intraoperative Cell Salvage Competency Assessment Workbook Version 3 12

Quality Control

Quality control (QC) is a procedure or set of procedures intended to ensure that a manufactured product or performed service adheres to a defined set of quality criteria or meets the requirements of the client or customer. ICS has been available for a number of years now, but do we really know what is in the end product and the effect the vacuum, washing efficiency, leucodepletion filters and other parts of the ICS process have on the end product? Few hospitals undertake QC so to help address this, the UK Cell Salvage Action Group have undertaken a QC pilot which was developed and co-ordinated by Cornwall Hospital Trust. The aim of the pilot was to gather data with the hope of developing guidelines and recommendations for UK hospitals.

UK hospitals using ICS were invited to participate in the pilot QC programme. Four hospitals participated and data was gathered from 114 cases across 6 surgical specialties (Obstetrics, gynaecology, urology, orthopaedics, vascular and general). The report from the pilot QC programme along with the guidance that was sent to participating hospitals is available from www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk

Request for Information

Following a number of requests for information regarding booking systems used to ensure cell salvage is available when required, the UK Cell Salvage Action Group are developing a booking framework to support new and developing ICS services. If your hospital has an effective method for ensuring ICS is available for patients, whether it be for elective or emergency cases, we would love to hear from you.

Please email Hannah Grainger with details: Hannah.grainger@wales.nhs.uk

The UK Cell Salvage Action Group are continuously developing resources to help support cell salvage in the UK. If you feel there is an area of cell salvage in need of support, please contact the UK Cell Salvage Action Group with your suggestions.

The work from the UK Cell Salvage Action Group and contact details for group members are available on the Better Blood Transfusion Toolkit website - www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk