Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Emergency Robotic Surgery

Reference Number: RDF2046-23
Date of Response: 17/01/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

I would like to make an FOI request to obtain the following information email for the time period of 2019-2022, on the theme of Emergency Robotic Surgery in General Surgery:

1. *The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic*
   Answer: Please see table below. In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases ≤5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

   This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023.	**Total**
Open:	20,208
Laparoscopic:	1,933
Robotic:	≤5

2. *Type of robot available in your trust and used in emergency general surgery cases (Examples include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand, Soloassist, Microhand S, AESOP, Zeus).*
   Answer: Da Vinci, Rosa.

3. *Number of robotic general surgery cases performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023.*

Answer: Please see table below.

Number of robotic general surgery cases performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023.	≤5

4. *Number the following emergency surgeries performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic*
   a. *hot cholecystectomies*
   b. *laparotomies*
   c. *appendectomies*
   d. *hernia repairs*
   e. *abscess*
   f. *scrotal explorations (which may be under torsions or orchidopexy)*

Answer: Please see table below.

Number the following performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023.	**Total**
hot cholecystectomies	
Open:	105
Laparoscopic:	2,410
Robotic:	≤5
laparotomies	
Open:	108
Laparoscopic:	≤5
Robotic:	Nil
Appendectomies	
Open:	299
Laparoscopic:	1,723
Robotic:	≤5
Hernia Repairs	
Open:	3,640
Laparoscopic:	575
Robotic:	≤5
Abscess	
Open:	196
Laparoscopic:	Nil
Robotic:	Nil
Scrotal Explorations	
Open:	407
Laparoscopic:	Nil
Robotic:	Nil

5. *Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following emergency surgeries performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic.*
   a. *hot cholecystectomies*
   b. *laparotomies*
   c. *appendectomies*
   d. *hernia repairs*
   e. *abscess*
   f. *scrotal explorations (which may be under torsions or orchidopexy)*

   Answer: Please see table below.

Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023.	**Average Length of Stay (days)**
1. Hot Cholecystectomies	
Open:	7.5
Laparoscopic:	1.3
Robotic:	0.5
2. Laparotomies	
Open:	15.9
Laparoscopic:	2.0
Robotic:	0.0
3. Appendectomies	
Open:	6.2
Laparoscopic:	2.9
Robotic:	7.0
4. Hernia Repairs	
Open:	2.2
Laparoscopic:	0.7
Robotic:	2.5
5. Abscess	
Open:	6.9
Laparoscopic:	0.0
Robotic:	0.0
6. Scrotal Explorations	
Open:	0.4
Laparoscopic:	0.0
Robotic:	0.0

6. *The number and type of complications that occurred in robotic emergency general surgery cases between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Including but not limited to conversions to another type of surgery, device-related complications, injury to surrounding structures or tissue, serums, infection, leakage, hernias.*

   Answer: Nil.

7. *Number of staff trained to assist with robotic cases.*

   Answer: 25.

8. *The average (Over 4 weeks) number of staff trained to assist n robotic surgery available out of hours (weekends/nights).*

   Answer: The Trust do not perform robotic surgery out of hours.

To elaborate emergency general surgery would include robotic assisted operations in any of: Acute surgical diseases of the abdomen, mesenteric ischaemia, appendectomies, cholecystectomies, hernias, bowel obstruction, adhesiolysis, diverticular disease, diverticulitis, incarceration, perforation, peritonitis, and acute conditions of the gastrointestinal tract.

Regarding the abscess questions we are interested in all incision and drainages of abscesses in perianal, truncal, buttock and limb areas.