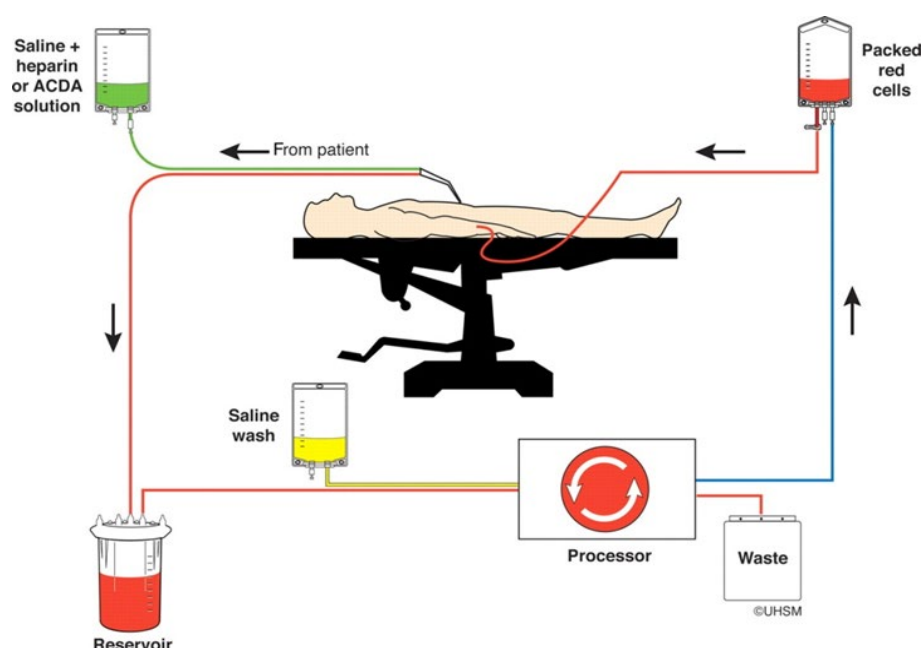


# PATIENT INFORMATION

## 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?

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.

## **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)

## **Which patients could benefit from cell salvage?**

For patients having certain operations, 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 for your operation.

At Torbay Hospital our Cell Salvage Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, whether your operation is planned or is an emergency.

Cell Salvage Factsheets:

<https://www.jpac.org.uk/transfusion-practice/uk-cell-salvage-advisory-group/technical-factsheets/>

or contact [tsdft.htt@nhs.net](mailto:tsdft.htt@nhs.net)

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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