Estimating Blood Loss – Do We Get It Right?

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Background

- Underestimation of blood loss in PPH
- Unexpected arrest
- Training need identified as part of serious incident investigation
- Transfusion team at RCHT asked to provide this training
- Designed to be quick and simple
Method
Results: <250ml

Distribution

Under estimation

Over estimation

400  200  0  200  400  600  800  1000  1200  1400
Results: 250ml-750ml

Distribution
Results >750ml

Distribution of Estimates for Blood Loss >750ml
Conclusions

- EBL is not a reliable indicator
- Potential to over transfuse or under transfuse
- This could lead to a significant clinical impact
- All transfusion should be guided by the clinical picture of the bleeding patient
- We don’t get it right
Further work

• Questionnaires will be given out at future workshops to understand and assess the weighting given to EBL in clinical scenario
• Further training and workshops to highlight the inaccuracies of using EBL to all staff
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