

5. Anaesthesia

The anaesthetist >> Emergency open operations

A consultant anaesthetist was involved in 97% of emergency cases.

Table 8. Grade of the most senior anaesthetist present at the start of anaesthesia

Grade of anaesthetist	Total	%
Consultant	185	85
Associate specialist	2	<1
Staff grade	3	1
SpR year 3+	25	11
SpR year 1/2	3	1
Sub-total	218	
Unknown	2	
Not answered	44	
Total	264	

A consultant anaesthetist was present at the start of the anaesthetic in 85% of cases. In 27 cases a more senior anaesthetist (always a consultant) took over responsibility during the operation, so that from the data available, overall a consultant was involved in 97% of cases.

Again this probably represents good practice but the question was not completed in 17% of cases. If a consultant had been present at the start of operation in all the cases with missing data, 88% of operations would have been started by a consultant anaesthetist: if a consultant had been present for none of the cases with missing data, 70% would have been started by a consultant.