

# ***Interventional Vascular Radiology***

***and***

# ***Interventional Neurovascular Radiology***

***A Report of the National Confidential Enquiry  
into Perioperative Deaths***

Data collection period  
1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999

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Copies can also be purchased from the NCEPOD office.

The analysis of data from questionnaires is not included in full in this report. A supplement containing additional data, and copies of the questionnaires, is available free of charge from the NCEPOD office.

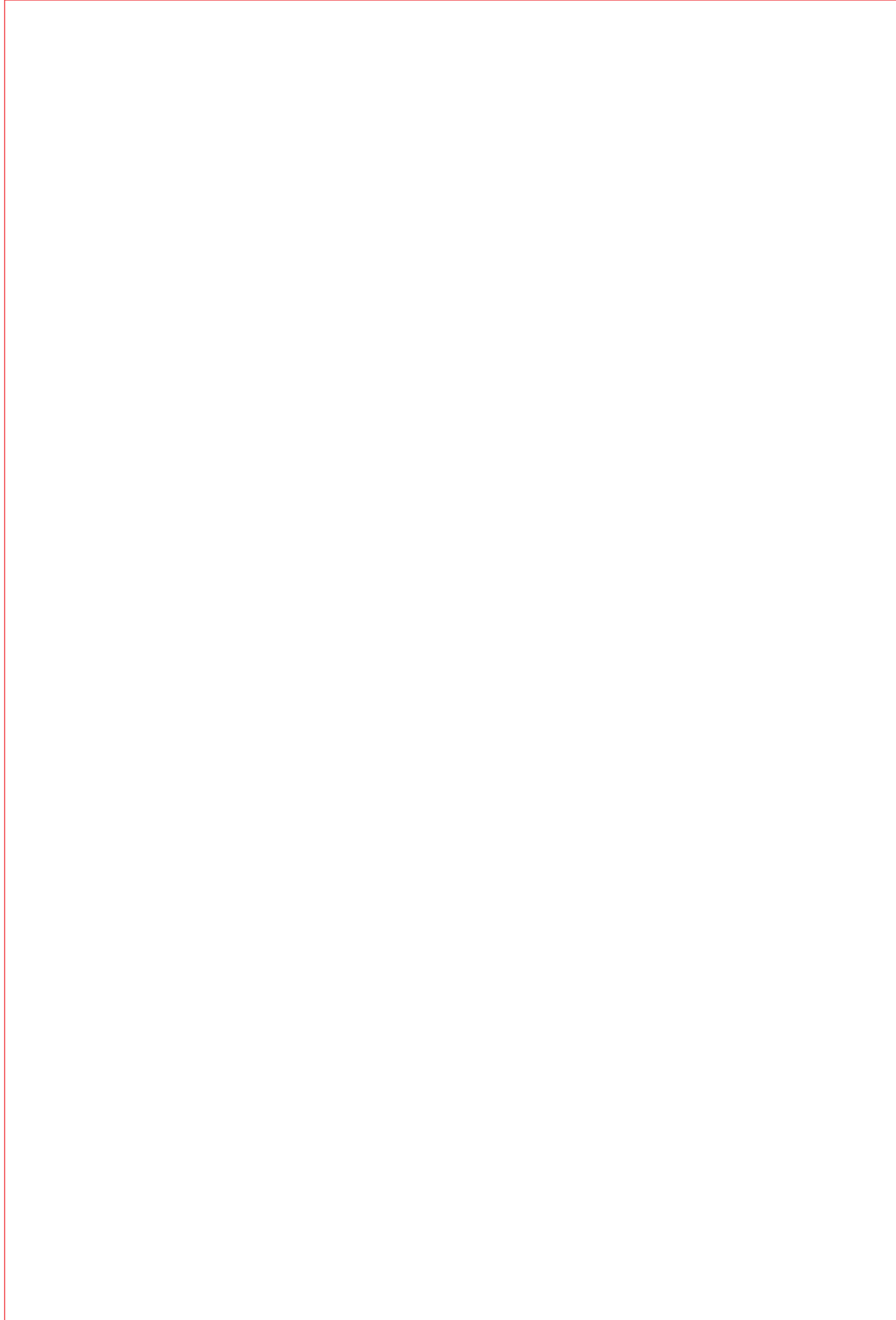
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# CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i> .....	xi
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## 1 Interventional Vascular Radiology

<i>Recommendations</i> .....	1
Introduction .....	3
Data collection .....	3
General data analysis .....	4
Monthly returns of procedures performed .....	4
Reported procedures .....	4
Reported deaths .....	5
Distribution, return and analysis of questionnaires .....	7
Procedures .....	8
Patient profile .....	10
Urgency of procedure .....	10
Fitness of the patient .....	11
Specialty and experience of the medical team .....	13
Specialty of the clinical team .....	13
Radiologist's assessment prior to procedure .....	14
Specialty and seniority of radiologist .....	14
Facilities, personnel and monitoring .....	15
Dedicated room .....	15
Equipment .....	15
Shortage of personnel .....	16
Delays .....	16
Anaesthesia .....	16
Monitoring .....	17
Care following the procedure .....	17
Recovery .....	17
Intensive and high dependency care .....	18
Complications .....	18
Specific problems .....	19
Level of puncture .....	19
Lower limb revascularisation .....	20
Thrombolysis .....	21
Embolisation .....	22
SVC stent .....	23
Central venous access .....	23
Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) .....	23
DVT prophylaxis .....	23
Postmortem examinations .....	24
Audit and availability of patient records .....	25

## 2 Interventional Neurovascular Radiology

<i>Recommendations</i> .....	27
Introduction .....	29
Data collection .....	30
General data analysis .....	30
Monthly returns of procedures performed .....	30
Reported deaths .....	31
Distribution of deaths .....	32
Distribution, return and analysis of questionnaires .....	33
Procedures .....	34
Patient profile .....	35
Urgency of procedure .....	35
Fitness of the patient .....	36
Facilities, personnel and monitoring .....	38
Seniority and specialty of the radiologist .....	38
Dedicated room .....	38
Monitoring .....	38
Anaesthesia .....	38
Care following the procedure .....	39
Intensive and high dependency care .....	39
Complications .....	39
Postmortem examinations .....	40
Audit and quality .....	40
Audit .....	40
Quality of questionnaires .....	40
Standard of care .....	40

<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	41
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## APPENDICES

A Abbreviations .....	43
B NCEPOD corporate structure .....	45
C Data collection and review methods .....	47
D Local Reporters – Interventional Vascular Radiology .....	49
E Local Reporters – Interventional Neurovascular Radiology .....	53
F Participants – Consultant Vascular Radiologists .....	55
G Participants – Consultant Neurovascular Radiologists .....	57





# TABLES, FIGURES AND QUESTIONS

## 1 Interventional Vascular Radiology

### *General data analysis*

Figure 1.1:	Monthly returns of total procedures performed	4
Table 1.1:	Monthly returns by region	4
Figure 1.2:	Total deaths reported	5
Table 1.2:	Inappropriate reports received and excluded	5
Table 1.3:	Deaths reported to NCEPOD by region	5
Figure 1.3:	Calendar days from procedure to death	6
Figure 1.4:	Age/sex distribution of reported deaths	6
Figure 1.5:	Distribution, return and analysis of questionnaires	7
Table 1.4:	Reasons for exclusion of questionnaires from analysis	7
Figure 1.6:	Reasons for non-return of questionnaires	7
Table 1.5:	Regional distribution, return and analysis rates	8
Table 1.6:	Endovascular interventions (arterial)	8
Table 1.7:	Endovascular interventions (venous)	9
Table 1.8:	Other interventions	9

### *Patient profile*

Figure 1.7:	Day of the procedure	10
Figure 1.8:	Admission category	10
Figure 1.9:	ASA status	11
Table 1.9:	Coexisting medical problems	11
Table 1.10:	Anticipated risk of death related to the proposed procedure	12

### *Specialty and experience of the medical team*

Table 1.11:	Specialty of consultant surgeon under whose care the patient was at the time of the procedure	13
Table 1.12:	Specialty of consultant physician under whose care the patient was at the time of the procedure	13
Table 1.13:	Grade of the most senior doctor who referred the patient	13
Table 1.14:	Grade of the most senior radiologist who reviewed the patient before the procedure	14
Table 1.15:	Specialty of most senior radiologist present	14

Table 1.16:	Grade of most senior doctor performing the procedure	14
Question 1.1:	If the most senior operator was not a consultant, was a more senior doctor immediately available?	14

### *Facilities, personnel and monitoring*

Table 1.17:	Location in which the procedure was performed	15
Question 1.2:	Was there a shortage of personnel in this case?	16
Question 1.3:	Were there any delays (between admission and procedure) due to factors other than clinical?	16
Table 1.18:	Reasons for non-clinical delay between admission and procedure	16
Question 1.4:	Was the procedure performed solely under local anaesthetic or sedation administered by the operator?	16
Table 1.19:	Monitoring performed during or immediately after the procedure	17
Table 1.20:	Responsibility for monitoring the patient's general condition during the procedure	17
Question 1.5:	Was there a recovery room/area available attached to the procedure suite?	17

### *Complications*

Table 1.21:	Unexpected procedural complications	18
Table 1.22:	Postprocedural complications	19
Question 1.6:	Were any measures taken (before, during or after the procedure) to prevent venous thromboembolism?	23

### *Postmortem examinations*

Question 1.7:	Did the pathological information confirm the team's clinical impression?	24
---------------	--	----

## 2 Interventional Neurovascular Radiology

### *General data analysis*

Figure 2.1:	Monthly returns of total procedures performed	30
Table 2.1:	Monthly returns by region	30
Figure 2.2:	Total deaths reported	31
Table 2.2:	Deaths reported to NCEPOD by region	31
Figure 2.3:	Calendar days from procedure to death	32
Figure 2.4:	Age/sex distribution of reported deaths	33
Figure 2.5:	Distribution, return and analysis of questionnaires	33
Table 2.3:	Regional distribution and return rates	33
Table 2.4:	Neurovascular interventions	34

### *Patient profile*

Figure 2.6:	Day of the procedure	35
Figure 2.7:	Admission category	36
Table 2.5:	Coexisting medical problems	37
Figure 2.8:	ASA status	37
Table 2.6:	Modified Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)	37

### *Facilities, personnel and monitoring*

Table 2.7:	Specialty of the most senior radiologist present	38
Question 2.1:	Was there non-medical help with anaesthesia?	38

### *Complications*

Table 2.8:	Postprocedural complications	39
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### *Postmortem examinations*

Question 2.2:	Did the pathological information confirm the team's clinical impression?	40
Table 2.9:	Specialty of the pathologist who performed the postmortem examination	40

## FOREWORD

Significant advances in interventional techniques, particularly in vascular and neurovascular radiology, in the last decade have led NCEPOD to explore the morbidity and mortality associated with such procedures. It should be appreciated that this is a new area of investigation, but in view of the frequency with which these minimally invasive techniques are being carried out, it is important that the consequences of such interventions should be investigated. Furthermore, this is an area of team working which has developed very significantly, the relationships between members of that team and the role that each play are highlighted in an investigation of this type. There is a need to understand the potential roles that each member of the team can play and the responsibilities that each should take at different stages in the care of the patient.

It is fundamental to the development of new techniques that adequate facilities should be available. What is highlighted in this report, therefore, is the necessity for interventional radiologists and surgeons to have not only sufficient experience and expertise, but also the facilities and equipment with which to carry out their tasks in as safe an environment as possible.

This report not only highlights the frequency with which these procedures are now being carried out, but also the safety of such techniques, recognising that the patients in question are frequently seriously ill, such that minor complications could have various serious outcomes. This is reflected in the very low mortality rate of around 2%. The fact that these patients are so severely ill links with this year's general NCEPOD report "Then and Now" in emphasising the need for both high dependency and intensive care facilities to be available where such clinical activities are being performed.

The increasing demand for interventional procedures of this type is as yet unmet by the number of consultant vascular radiologists and neurovascular radiologists who are available to satisfy that need. This report, therefore, further highlights the need for an increase in resources which is emphasised in our report "Then and Now" also published this year.

John Ll Williams  
Chairman

