

3. Organisation of vascular services

Use of blood products

Only 55% of hospitals routinely provided a cell salvage machine for aortic surgery.

Repair of AAA is inevitably associated with blood loss, sometimes small, sometimes considerable. Despite substantial investment in improving the safety of donated blood, the administration of donor blood is still associated with risks¹⁷. The introduction of extra safety checks has resulted in an increase in the cost of donor blood and restricted its supply. “Better Blood Transfusion”¹⁸ set the objectives of exploring the use of pre-donation of autologous blood and perioperative blood salvage.