

## 5. Anaesthesia

### The anaesthetist >> Elective open operations

A consultant anaesthetist was involved in 97% of cases.

<b>Table 7. Grade of the most senior anaesthetist present at the start of anaesthesia</b>		
<b>Grade of anaesthetist</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Consultant	351	93
Associate specialist	4	1
SpR year 3+	20	5
SpR year 1/2	2	<1
Other	1	<1
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>378</b>	
Not answered	56	
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	

Of the 27 non-consultant responses, a more senior anaesthetist took over responsibility during the operation in 14 cases. From the data available, a consultant anaesthetist started the operation in 93% (Table 7) of cases and had a part in 97%.

This probably represents excellent practice. However, the question was not completed in 13% (56/434) of cases. If a consultant had been present at the start of operation in all the cases with missing data, 94% of operations would have been started by a consultant anaesthetist: if a consultant had been present for none of the cases with missing data, 81% would have been started by a consultant.