

6. Endovascular aneurysm repair

Anaesthesia grade and type

86% of anaesthetics for endovascular repair were given by a consultant.

Grade of anaesthetist	Total	%
Consultant	44	86
SpR year 3+	6	12
SpR year 1/2	1	2
Sub-total	51	
Not answered	2	
Total	53	

As with open repair, the great majority, 86% (44/51), of cases were done by consultants.

An epidural catheter was placed in 33% (17/51) of patients with an unruptured aneurysm. In one case the question was unanswered. The only patient with a ruptured aneurysm was managed without an epidural.

As has been shown, endovascular repairs can take several hours. If the team are confident that the procedure will be relatively short then it is reasonable to use epidural anaesthesia, but some patients may have difficulty tolerating procedures lasting more than two or three hours without general anaesthesia.