

Intra-operative Use of Limb Tourniquets in Orthopaedic Surgery at GSTT

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Type	AUDIT
Specialty	orthopaedics
Trust	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Year	2022
Added	25 Apr 2026

Background

Limb tourniquets are routinely used in orthopaedic surgery to create a bloodless field. Despite their widespread use, incorrect application and documentation can lead to serious complications including nerve palsy, skin injury and compartment syndrome. The British Orthopaedic Association has published guidelines on safe tourniquet use, but compliance with these standards at GSTT had not been previously assessed.

Aims

To define current tourniquet usage practice in orthopaedic surgery at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals and compare against national BOA guidelines.

Objectives

1. Retrospectively review operative records for all patients undergoing orthopaedic surgery with a tourniquet between January and October 2022. 2. Document tourniquet pressure, inflation time, limb protection, and operator documentation. 3. Identify cases where tourniquet use deviated from BOA guidelines. 4. Develop recommendations for departmental guidance on tourniquet documentation and safe use.

Guidelines

British Orthopaedic Association Guidelines on Safe Use of Intra-operative Tourniquets

Keywords

tourniquet, intra-operative, limb ischaemia, BOA guidelines, orthopaedic surgery, patient safety