

The costs of anaemia after major surgery

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Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	Austin Health
Enrollment	1,300 participants

Plain Language Summary

Anaemia — a low level of red blood cells — is common in people preparing for major surgery. Research shows that patients going into surgery already anaemic are more likely to experience complications, stay in hospital longer, and cost the health system significantly more. However, the exact financial impact of pre-operative anaemia has not been well quantified in Australia.

This retrospective study analyses data already collected from adult patients who had major abdominal surgery (colon, rectal, pancreatic, or liver operations) at Austin Hospital in Melbourne between 2010 and 2018. By linking pre-operative blood test results to actual hospital costs, the study aims to quantify just how much anaemia costs — in medications, intensive care, ward care, and total hospital expenses.

This is a records-based study that does not enrol new patients. Eligible patients are those who had qualifying abdominal surgery lasting over two hours with at least one overnight stay at Austin Hospital during the study period. Pregnant patients are excluded.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (2)

- Adult patients (>18 years of age) undergoing one of four types of major abdominal surgeries at Austin Health: Colon resections, Rectal resections, Pancreaticoduodenectomy and Liver resections. Both emergent and elective patients will be included.
- We will only include patients who underwent surgery of greater than two hours duration and who required at least one overnight hospital stay.

Exclusion (1)

- Pregnancy

Locations (1 total)

Austin Health - Austin Hospital - Heidelberg, VIC, Australia