TITLE: Timing of Pre-Operative Testing and Assessment: Guidelines

DATE: 25 February 2016

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the timing of pre-operative testing and assessment for adult patients undergoing general surgical procedures?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the timing of pre-operative testing and assessment for adult patients undergoing obstetric or gynecological surgical procedures?

KEY FINDINGS

One evidence-based guideline regarding the timing of pre-operative testing for adult patients undergoing orthopedic surgery was identified.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including MEDLINE, PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2011 and February 16, 2016. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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### Table 1: Selection Criteria

| Population                          | Q1: Adult patients undergoing surgery  
| Q2: Adult female patients undergoing obstetric or gynecological surgery |
| Intervention                       | Pre-operative laboratory testing and assessment |
| Comparator                         | None |
| Outcomes                           | Appropriate timing of testing before surgery (i.e., 96 hours/4 days prior to surgery versus one week prior to surgery) |
| Study Designs                      | Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, evidence-based guidelines |

### RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline regarding the timing of pre-operative testing for adult patients undergoing orthopedic surgery was identified. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, or meta-analyses regarding the timing of pre-operative testing for adult patients undergoing general, obstetric, or gynecological surgery were identified. No evidence-based guidelines regarding the timing of pre-operative testing for adult female patients undergoing obstetric or gynecological surgery were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

### OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One evidence-based guideline regarding the timing of pre-operative testing for adult patients undergoing orthopedic surgery was identified. The guideline was produced by the Network for Advancement of Transfusion Alternatives (NATA) and indicates that hemoglobin testing should be performed within 28 days prior to orthopedic surgery. The guidelines are focused on anemia and do not mention performing other laboratory tests prior to surgery.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Previous CADTH Reports


Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses – Timing Not Specified in Abstract


Guidelines and Recommendations

Timing Not Specified

Timing of Pre-Operative Testing and Assessment

See: Section 1.2 Preoperative Testing

Methodology Not Specified


Practice Advisory


Review Articles


Additional References