

Freedom of Information Request: 0556 2019/20

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request the following:

1) The number of instances in which a surgical instrument has been left inside a patient's body following a surgical procedure between 2015 and 2019 (up to present day and itemised by year).

- For each instance, please list:

a) the type of instruments found during this time and where in the body they were discovered.

b) The surgical procedure that was taking place when instrument was left inside body.

c) The patient's outcome, i.e. if anyone has become seriously ill as a result of leaving an surgical instrument inside the body of a patient or if anyone has died as a result of leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (if this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).

d) How many people have taken legal action against the Trust as a result of a surgeon leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (if this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).

I can confirm that we do hold the information you have requested, please see table below.

Please note the list of incidents was provided by our Investigations Team. Any incidents or allegations which did not result in the circumstances being confirmed through an investigation have not been included

Type of instrument and where	Procedure taking place	Outcome	Claims/legal action
Guide wire in central vein.	Liver biopsy - incidental finding of guide wire when inserting central venous catheter.	No harm.	No
Swab, in wound next to spine.	Lumbar stabilisation.	Patient required further minor surgery to remove swab. No long term harm.	Yes
Swab left under skin of chest, next to implanted device.	Cardio-defibrillator implantation.	Swab removed under local anaesthetic. No long term harm.	No
Chest drain component left inside chest.	VAT procedure.	Required further surgery to remove but no long term harm.	Yes

Component from novasure device left inside vagina after breaking during procedure.	Hysteroscopy/endometrial ablation.	Required removal (not further surgical intervention) but no long term harm.	No
Vaginal pack post-delivery.	Vaginal delivery of baby. (Not c-section).	Required removal (not further surgical intervention) but no long term harm.	No
Swab left in abdomen.	Emergency laparotomy and splenectomy for trauma.	Required further surgical intervention to remove swab but no long term harm.	Yes