Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is concerned about the quality of care you receive and strives to maintain high standards of health care.

However we do appreciate that there may be an occasion where you, or your family, feel dissatisfied with the standard of service you receive. Please do not hesitate to tell us about your concerns as this helps us to learn from your experience and to improve services for future patients.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
This service aims to advise and support patients, families and carers and help sort out problems quickly on your behalf.

This service is available at The James Cook University Hospital and the Friarage Hospital Northallerton, please ask a member of staff for further information.
What is cell salvage?
Cell salvage is a way of collecting the blood that is lost during, or just after your operation, so that it can be given back to you. It is sometimes called autologous blood transfusion (using your own blood).

How is it done?
There are two different types of cell salvage:

Blood collected during your operation. This is called ‘intraoperative cell salvage’.
Blood lost during your operation is collected using a cell salvage machine. This machine separates the different parts of your blood and collects just the red cells (which carry oxygen). These red cells can then be given back to you during or just after your operation. Your red cells will only ever be given to you and will never be used for someone else.

Please see the diagram on the reverse of this leaflet which shows how this process works.

This type of cell salvage is only suitable for some operations. Ask your doctor or nurse if it is suitable for you.

Intraoperative cell salvage will, however, be used in all major cardiac operations.

Blood collected after your operation. This is called ‘postoperative cell salvage’.
Sometimes blood that is lost immediately after your operation can also be collected and returned to you (usually when you are back on the ward). This is called postoperative cell salvage and is usually used after certain operations e.g. knee surgery.

What are the benefits of cell salvage?
During certain operations you may lose some blood. Cell salvage can reduce the chance that you will need a transfusion of blood donated by a blood donor. This reduces the very small risks associated with receiving this type of blood.

Jeff underwent hip resurfacing surgery and received autologous cell salvaged blood. He did not require donor blood and recovered remarkably quickly returning to his managerial position as the head of a busy accident repair centre. He also continues with his active lifestyle which includes golfing, fishing and looking after his grandchildren.

Which patients could benefit from cell salvage?
Patients having certain operations e.g. cardiac (heart) surgery. Cell salvage may reduce the amount of donor blood they need.

Patients who do not wish to receive blood from a blood donor.

Why isn’t it suitable for everyone?
Not all operations result in enough blood loss to enable cell salvage to be used. For some operations cell salvage is not recommended e.g. some bowel surgery.

Where can I get more information?
The James Cook University Hospital provides an intra-operative cell salvage service. It is available to all relevant specialities, for both elective and emergency procedures. Your doctor, nurse, cell salvage co-ordinator or transfusion practitioner will be able to advise if it is suitable for you and the operation you are having.

Cell salvage co-ordinator: 01642 852655 or via switchboard: 01642 850850 and ask to bleep: 2213. Internal callers please dial extension: 55276.

For further information about cell salvage visit: www.learncellsalvage.co.uk