

GSTT ECMO Retrieval Preparation Checklist for Referring Hospitals

ECMO is the oxygenation of blood by an artificial lung aided by a modified heart-lung machine. Two large cannulae are inserted to allow the blood to circulate extracorporeally. Cannulation takes one to two hours and is carried out in theatres under fluoroscopic guidance. After allowing a further one to two hours for stabilization patients are transported back to GSTT.

We would appreciate it if the following preparations could be made:

Patient Preparation

- Inform the patient's family of the retrieval by our team and preferably have them available to discuss assent
- Insert radial arterial line
- Leave central line in current position
- Pregnancy test for all women aged 12-60
- Have drawn up and attached to the patient your usual balanced crystalloid, your usual strength infusions of noradrenaline, sedatives and neuromuscular blockers
- All notes/charts photocopied, all imaging on CD or transferred electronically to GSTT

Organise operating theatres

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- A free theatre with an anaesthetist and scrub nurse available
- Radiolucent theatre table
- C-arm in theatre with fluoroscopy capability and radiographer
- Contrast for intravenous injection – at least 100mL
- Vascular ultrasound in theatre
- Two large empty surgical trolleys with drapes for sterile preparation of equipment
- One small empty surgical trolley

Current Investigations

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- Full blood count, electrolytes, creatinine, liver function tests, lactate, CRP
- APTTr, INR, fibrinogen
- Chest x-ray, ECG, echocardiogram (if possible)
- Current microbiology
- Pregnancy test where appropriate.

Blood Bank

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- Crossmatch and have available 4 units packed red cells, regardless of Hb
- Crossmatch and have available platelets, ONLY if platelet count < 100
- Crossmatch and have available FFP, ONLY if INR or APPTTr >1.5

The retrieval team will bring all equipment and medicines with them, except controlled drugs which you will need to provide. The retrieval team will draw these up prior to transfer back to GSTT to avoid any syringe driver incompatibility.

**Any problems or changes in patient condition, please contact GSTT ICU
02071882511**