

Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are writing to request information related to postoperative infections associated with cataract surgeries within your Trust.

Given the clinical importance of postoperative infections, we seek information to conduct a National Ophthalmology Database audit (<https://nodaudit.org.uk/>) on the incidence rates of infection following cataract surgery (referred to as endophthalmitis or presumed-infectious endophthalmitis (PIE)). As these infections are rare – occurring in fewer than 1 per 1000 cataract surgeries – it is necessary to analyse data spanning several years to obtain accurate rate estimates.

We request the following information for the four-year period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023:

1. Post-procedural Endophthalmitis Monitoring or audit:

- Is there a policy/pathway in place for monitoring or regularly auditing the rates of post-cataract endophthalmitis in your organisation?
 - **Yes** – *(Please provide reports from this process as electronic copies or appropriate weblinks if the information is already available to the public)*
 - **No**

2. Endophthalmitis Treatment Policies and Pathways

Do you have a treatment policy for post-cataract presumed infectious endophthalmitis in your hospital detailing timing of treatment, investigations or antibiotic regimes?

- **Yes** – *see attached*
- **No**

3. Cases of Endophthalmitis:

Please could you list the cases of suspected post-cataract surgery endophthalmitis which were recorded across the four NHS Audit years from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023. The purpose of this request is to cross-reference these cases with those reported to the National Ophthalmology Database. To do this we require the list of cases with:

- the date of the cataract surgery that resulted in suspected endophthalmitis
- the location where the cataract surgery was performed
- the date of diagnosis of suspected endophthalmitis
- the laterality of affected eye (right or left)

No post-cataract surgery endophthalmitis cases recorded during 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023 at DBTH.

One post-cataract surgery endophthalmitis case of the left eye treated at DBTH and RHH following cataract surgery being performed at Spamedica on 23/01/2020.

Additionally, if your hospital has treated any patients for suspected endophthalmitis originating from cataract surgeries performed at another facility, please include these cases as well. It is essential to clearly indicate the location where the cataract surgery was undertaken.

4. Microbiology and Antimicrobial Resistance:

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There may be changing patterns of infective agents or emerging strains of resistant bacteria. We therefore request information on each case from the microbiology report:

- What sample was sent to microbiology (vitreous biopsy or anterior chamber tap)?
- What are the microbiology culture or PCR results for the recorded cases of endophthalmitis? (please include negative results of “no growth”)
- What antimicrobial resistance was reported from these cultures?

Vitreous tap.

Infecting organism was *Pseudomonas*

The information will be used to evaluate current clinical practices and potentially influence future guidelines to enhance patient care quality within NHS services.

If at all possible, we would be grateful if the information could be provided on the Excel spreadsheet sent with this FOI request.