Government of **Western Australia**
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

Intra-operative cell salvage

Cell salvage is when your own blood is collected during surgery, recycled and then given back to you.

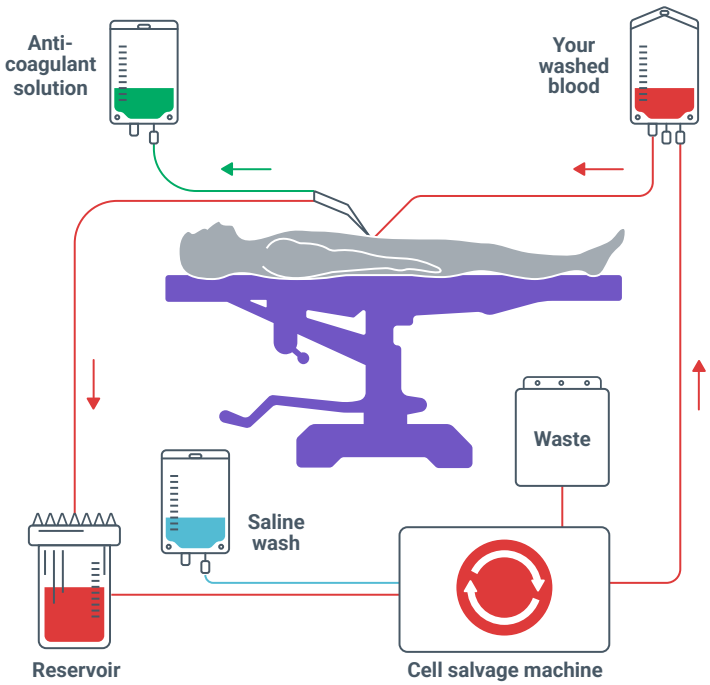
What does it involve?

Gentle suction collects the blood you lose during surgery.

Blood-thinning medication (anti-coagulant) is added to stop it from clotting.

Your blood then undergoes a process to wash and separate the red blood cells that carry the oxygen.

Your blood is then returned to you via a 'drip'.



What are the benefits of cell salvage?

Blood lost during surgery sometimes needs to be replaced. By collecting and re-administering your own blood we may reduce the need for donated blood that has its own associated risks. It will also save donated blood for patients unable to undergo cell salvage. Cell salvage is a good alternative if you can not accept donated blood for religious or other personal reasons.

What are the risks involved?

Cell salvage is generally very safe, effective and complications are uncommon. Contamination of collected blood, infection, a drop in blood pressure during administration of blood, and the development of antibodies in your blood have been reported. The risk of long-term harm from these events is very low. Your doctor can discuss this with you further.

Please read this leaflet and discuss it with your partner and family if you wish, so they can help and support you. If you are interested in finding out more about blood transfusions, you might find the following website useful: **www.transfusion.com.au**

CONSUMER REVIEWED

The information provided is for information purposes only. If you are a patient using this publication, you should seek assistance from a healthcare professional when interpreting these materials and applying them to your individual circumstances.

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WNHS7198_0825 TBR0828