

FOI REF: 25/808

15th December 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- Since January 1, 2020, how many incidents have been reported to your Trust involving a wrong-site surgery? Please note that this is any incident falling under the following definition: “A medical error where a procedure is performed on the wrong patient, the wrong body part, or the wrong side of the body.” For each incident, please provide the month, year and the type of surgery involved in the procedure. In addition, please confirm the total number of cases reported between January 1, 2020 and November 7, 2025.**

Clarification was sought with regard to whether you also required the near misses and confirmation was received that you require the following:

Yes, you would like the near misses included.

A total of 6 incidents were reported under wrong site surgery as detailed below.

Month/Year	Number of Incidents reported	Type of Surgery
November 2020	2	Mole removal Tooth extraction
June 2022	1	Trigger finger surgery
April 2023	1	Ureteroscopy
June 2025	1	L3 Root injection
August 2025	1	Lesion removal

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2. **How many incidents fell under the definition of a serious incident, in line with the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (or, prior to that, the Serious Incident Framework)? Please state which cases met this definition**

Of the 6 reported, 4 met the criteria for an investigation under the Serious Incident Framework (SIF)/Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF).

Type of Surgery	SIF/PSIRF
Mole removal	SIF
Tooth extraction	SIF
Trigger finger surgery	SIF
L3 Root injection	PSIRF

3. **How many incidents led to serious, moderate, or slight harm to the patient?**

3 incidents were found to have harm caused.

Type of Surgery	Harm
Tooth extraction	Moderate harm
Trigger finger surgery	Moderate harm
Ureteroscopy	Low harm

4. **What were the causes of wrong-site surgery incidents?**

Type of Surgery	Cause
Mole removal	Wrong mole removed – photographs not uploaded to clinical system nor documentation as to the location of the mole.
Tooth extraction	Wrong tooth removed – WHO safety checklist not adhered to
Trigger finger surgery	Incorrect incision (carpal tunnel) – WHO safety checklist not adhered to
Ureteroscopy	Right ureteroscopy when patient consented for left – X-ray guidance declined.
L3 Root injection	Nerve block administered on the left side, when consented for the right
Lesion removal	Wrong lesion removed – No photograph or documentation as to the location of lesion documented on clinical system. Site of surgery not marked. WHO checklist not completed in its entirety

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net