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<th><em>BMJ Open</em></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Manuscript ID:</td>
<td>bmjopen-2015-009812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Type:</td>
<td>Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Submitted by the Author:</td>
<td>24-Aug-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete List of Authors:</td>
<td>Collaborative, STARSurg Nepogodiev, Dmitri; University of Birmingham, Academic Department of Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Subject Heading:</strong></td>
<td>Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Subject Heading:</strong></td>
<td>Renal medicine, Anaesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords:</strong></td>
<td>Colorectal surgery &lt; SURGERY, Hepatobiliary surgery &lt; SURGERY, Nephrology &lt; INTERNAL MEDICINE, Adult intensive &amp; critical care &lt; ANAESTHETICS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STARSurg Collaborative

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Running title: Acute Kidney Injury Following Surgery

Article type: Study Protocol

Keywords: Acute kidney injury; AKI; Gastrointestinal Surgery; Liver Surgery

Abstract word count: 236

Word Count: 2373
Abstract

Introduction

Acute kidney injury (AKI) is associated with increased morbidity and mortality following cardiac surgery. Data focusing on the patterns of AKI following major gastrointestinal surgery could inform quality improvement projects and clinical trials, but there is a lack of reliable evidence. This multi-centre study aims to determine the incidence and impact of AKI following major gastrointestinal and liver surgery.

Methods and analysis

This prospective, collaborative, multi-centre cohort study will include consecutive adults undergoing gastrointestinal resection, liver resection, or reversal of ileostomy or colostomy. Open and laparoscopic procedures in elective and emergency patients will be included in the study. The primary endpoint will be the incidence of AKI within 7 days of surgery, identified using an adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury, which is based on the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) AKI guidelines. Secondary outcomes will include persistent renal dysfunction at discharge and 1 year post-operatively. The 30-day adverse event rate will be measured using the Clavien-Dindo scale. Data on factors that may be associated with AKI will be collected to identify variables that predict AKI. Based on our previous collaborative studies, a minimum of 114 centres are expected to be recruited, contributing over 6500 patients in total.

Ethics and Dissemination

This study will be registered as clinical audit at each participating hospital. The protocol will be disseminated through local and national medical student networks in the UK and Ireland.
Strengths and limitations of this study

Strengths

- OAKS will be the first prospective study of post-operative AKI in gastrointestinal and liver patients in the UK and Ireland.
- This multi-centre study will be disseminated through a collaborative medical student network, enabling rapid data collection on many thousands of post-operative patients. The results will be generalisable across the UK and Ireland.
- Unlike some previous studies that arbitrarily defined AKI, OAKS will identify AKI based on an algorithm in widespread routine clinical use in England. Whilst, there are limitations to its application to patients with chronic kidney disease, the algorithm is based on the internationally recognised Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) AKI staging guidelines.

Limitations

- Although data will only be collected on variables for which there is a known biologically plausible causative relationship with AKI, this observational study can only identify associations (not causation) between possible pre-disposing factors and AKI. OAKS will be hypothesis generating, identifying areas for further study. It will also generate the data required to design and power robust randomised clinical trials in the future.
- The snap-shot audit methodology limits the quantity and complexity of data it is feasible to collect. Fluid therapy and sepsis may be key factors related to AKI, but it would be difficult to collect robust data on these variables in a student-driven audit. Data on intra-operative contamination will be collected as a surrogate for post-operative abdominal and wound sepsis. Anastomotic leak will be recorded as this is a significant early septic complication.
Not all patients will have blood test results available during the 1-year follow-up window. It is possible that some patients will have persistent renal dysfunction at 1-year, but blood tests will be unavailable to identify this. Therefore rates of persistent renal dysfunction identified in this study are likely to be under-estimates.
Background

Studies in cardiac surgery suggest that post-operative acute kidney injury (AKI) is common and strongly associated with increased morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs (1-3), but there is less evidence on the incidence and burden of AKI following gastrointestinal and liver surgery. Previous studies have reported the incidence of post-operative AKI after gastrointestinal surgery between 1 and 22% (4-7); this broad range reflects both heterogeneity in definitions of AKI and the limitations of retrospective data analysis.

The need for further evidence

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death 'Adding Insult to Injury' report recommended that predictable and avoidable acute kidney injury (AKI) should never occur (8). Moreover, NHS England has recognised AKI as a key priority for improvement in its 2015-16 Commissioning for Quality and Innovation framework (9). However, there are currently no reliable estimates of the incidence of post-operative AKI in gastrointestinal surgery, making it impossible to benchmark and audit local performance. A lack of clarity regarding potential factors associated with the development of post-operative AKI makes it difficult to consistently identify targets for interventions aimed at reducing its incidence (5,7,10). Reliable data on patterns of post-operative AKI could inform future quality improvement projects and clinical trials.

Primary aim

The primary aim of the Outcomes After Kidney injury in Surgery (OAKS) study is to determine the incidence of post-operative AKI after major gastrointestinal and liver surgery.
Secondary aims

The secondary aims of the OAKS study are to determine the short- and long-term morbidity and mortality associated with post-operative AKI and to identify peri-operative variables that predict post-operative AKI.
Methods

Study design
A multi-centre prospective cohort study disseminated through collaborative medical student networks (Figure 1).

The STARSurg network
Student Audit and Research in Surgery (STARSurg) is the UK’s national medical student research collaborative, run by the Surgical Research Gateway (SURG) Foundation (registered charity number 1,159,898). STARSurg is co-ordinated by a team of medical students and surgeons. The collaborative model and the educational benefits to participating students have previously been described elsewhere (11,12)

Study setting
Hospitals in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland that offer elective or emergency gastrointestinal or liver surgery will be invited to participate. Each centre may contribute up to four, two-week sets of consecutive patient data.

Inclusion criteria
- Adult patients (age ≥18 years) undergoing any gastrointestinal resection, liver resection, or reversal of ileostomy or colostomy
- Elective and emergency patients may be included
- Open, laparoscopic, laparoscopic-assisted, laparoscopic-converted, and robotic procedures may be included

Exclusion criteria
- No baseline pre-operative creatinine available
- Previous kidney transplant
Renal replacement therapy (any form of dialysis) in the 90 days preceding operation

- Appendicectomy
- Transplant surgery
- Gynaecological primary indication
- Urological primary indication
- Vascular primary indication

Patient identification and data collection

Operating lists and theatre computer systems will be screened daily to identify eligible patients. The pre-operative and operative data fields will be completed at the earliest opportunity following surgery. Collaborators will actively follow-up patients in the post-operative period, completing 30-day and 1-year follow-up promptly.

Primary outcome

The primary outcome measure will be the incidence of AKI within 7 days of the indexed operative procedure. This period of 7 days has been selected to only capture AKI directly attributable to insults sustained during the peri-operative period.

AKI will be identified using an adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury classification system, which is based upon Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) AKI guidelines (13). It was introduced by NHS England in June 2014 in a Patient Safety Alert requiring standardisation of the identification of AKI across the UK (14). If serum creatinine is not available over the past 7 days, the National Algorithm defines baseline creatinine as the median of all measured creatinine levels over the last year. It would not be practical for study collaborators to manually derive this value; therefore the algorithm has been adapted...
to require the most recent pre-operative serum creatinine measurement. To identify emergency patients who had already developed AKI at admission, both the first creatinine measured on admission and the most recent pre-admission creatinine will be required for emergency patients.

Secondary outcomes

Secondary outcome measures will include:

- Incidence of AKI within 48 hours of surgery
- Persistent renal dysfunction at discharge
- Persistent renal dysfunction at 12 months
- Regular renal replacement therapy (any form of dialysis) at 12 months
- 30-day major complication rate (Clavien-Dindo grades III-V)
- 30-day minor complication rate (Clavien-Dindo grades I-II)
- Mortality at 12 months

Persistent renal dysfunction will be defined as an increase from baseline of chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage, as defined by the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (15). In addition to serum creatinine, all other variables required to calculate estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration formula will be collected (16). For the 30-day outcome, the single eGFR value nearest to post-operative day 30 will be used. For the 1-year outcome, blood tests taken 9 to 15 months post-operatively will be considered. Two separate eGFR values recorded at least 3 months apart will be required to demonstrate a persistent increase in CKD stage.

Complications will be recorded using the Clavien-Dindo classification, a standardised, internationally validated scoring system for post-operative
complications (17). The highest grade complication (grade I-V) experienced by each patient will be recorded.

Factors predictive of AKI

A key aim of OAKS is to identify peri-operative factors that may be associated with subsequent development of AKI. To record this, data will be collected on patient-related, disease-related, and pharmaceutical variables (Table 1). Detailed description of all data fields is available in the Supplementary File.

Centre questionnaire

Supervising consultants will be asked to complete a short centre questionnaire about the resources available at their centre (Table 2).

Quality assurance

Each local team of medical students will be supervised by a qualified doctor (ranging from foundation year to registrar grade) and a consultant surgeon.

A detailed protocol for collaborators describing how to register and run the study will be made available online. It will provide a detailed data dictionary, along with guidance on potential data sources for collaborators to use when collecting the data. The protocol will be presented at collaborator meetings across the UK, enabling participants to clarify any uncertainties in person with the steering committee.

Collaborators will be asked to complete mandatory online e-learning modules covering study inclusion criteria, AKI, the Clavien-Dindo classification system, and data governance protocols. This will ensure collaborators are able to safely collect accurate data.
To identify any local issues regarding data collection, all participating centres will be asked to pilot patient identification and case record completion for one day in the week leading up to the main study starting date. The steering committee will offer support throughout this period to resolve any problems.

**Validation**

Only data sets with >95% data completeness will be accepted. Final year medical students or qualified doctors not involved in initial data collection will act as independent assessors, reviewing data collected at a local centre. Overall independent assessors will validate a minimum of 5% of patient records, with a target of >95% case ascertainment and >98% data accuracy.

**Data management**

Data will be collected and stored online through a secure server running the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) (18) web application, hosted at the University of Edinburgh. REDCap is widely used internationally by academic organisations to store research databases. Collaborators will be given secure login details including a password for the REDCap project server. All transmission and storage of web-based information by this system is encrypted. Any patient identifiable information will not be available for data-analysis and will be automatically stripped from the database when exported from REDCap.

**Anticipated minimum recruitment**

Based on our previous collaborative studies (19), an average centre performs approximately 20 operations meeting the study inclusion criteria in a 14-day period. At most centres in our previous study three data collection teams participated at each
centre, collecting data over consecutive 14-day periods. Previously at least four centres participated at each of the 38 medical schools involved. Overall, we estimate that a minimum of 6,840 patients will be recruited. The observational nature of the study's primary outcome means a power calculation is not required.

**Statistical analysis**

Differences between demographic groups will be tested with the $\chi^2$ test for categorical data, with differences in continuous data analysed using Student’s T-test. Logistic regression will be used to provide adjusted estimates of effects for clinically plausible variables on the outcome measures. Effects will be presented as bootstrapped odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals. Data handling will be performed in REDCap and R (R Foundation Statistical Programming, Vienna, AUT).
Ethics and Dissemination

Research Ethics Approval

OAKS is a clinical audit based on National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guidelines requiring pre-operative and post-operative measurement of serum creatinine in all patients undergoing major surgery (20-22). A research ethics committee has advised that ethical approval is not required for OAKS in the UK. Participating centres will register OAKS locally as a clinical audit. They will also ensure they have successfully applied for Caldicott Guardian approval to submit anonymised patient data to a national audit.

Protocol dissemination

The protocol will be disseminated primarily through the existing STARSurg network, medical student, surgical and medical societies, and post-graduate research collaboratives. A student local lead will be designated at each medical school to facilitate local study co-ordination. STARSurg has successfully developed a social media based strategy for disseminating study protocols (23), including utilisation of Twitter (www.twitter.com/STARSurgUK) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/STARSurgUK).
Discussion

This multi-centre study will robustly measure the incidence and impact AKI in patients undergoing elective and emergency major gastrointestinal and liver surgery. By reliably determining the burden of AKI-associated morbidity and mortality, this study will define targets for future quality improvement programmes and clinical trials. Identifying risk factors for AKI will allow stratification of patients to prioritise future interventions aimed at enhancing pre-operative optimisation and peri-operative monitoring.

The study will be delivered by a national student collaborative network, pairing medical students with supervising doctors. The collaborative student-led and trainee-led collaborative groups have a track record in producing high quality data sets (19,24). A comprehensive study protocol, online training modules and consultant supervision will ensure consistent and reproducible data collection. Pre-planned data validation will allow case ascertainment and data accuracy rates to be estimated.

The interpretation and comparison of previous studies exploring post-operative AKI has been challenging due to the lack of consistency in the definition of AKI. The NHS AKI Algorithm has standardised the recognition of AKI across England (14). Using an adaptation of this algorithm will ensure this study’s findings are clinically applicable; the algorithm has been simplified to streamline data collection, but these changes are unlikely to alter the resultant AKI staging in a significant number of patients.

The greatest limitation of any observational study is, whilst able to identify associations between AKI and various risk factors, it will not be able to prove a definite causative relationship. Consequently, data will only be collected on variables
for which there is a known biologically plausible causative relationship with AKI. The lack of reliable existing data in this field means that further observational data is required prior to the planning of any clinical trial that could produce higher grade evidence.

The snap-shot audit methodology which will be used by this study has previously been shown to collect accurate data (19). This methodology however limits the volume and complexity of data that can be collected. Peri-operative fluid and blood loss have previously been associated with AKI (10,25). The wide variation in fluid management across UK centres would make it difficult to capture meaningful data on fluid therapy within an observational, snapshot audit. Since blood loss is not universally accurately measured and recorded, the requirement for peri-operative blood transfusion will be used as a surrogate for significant intra-operative blood loss. Sepsis may also predispose to AKI (10,26). Although it may be difficult for this collaborative study to accurately recognise sepsis, the extent of intra-operative contamination will be used as a surrogate for risk of intra-abdominal and wound sepsis. In addition, data will be collected on anastomotic leak, as a key early complication that may drive sepsis in gastrointestinal patients.

Finally, this collaborative project will further strengthen and develop the STARSurg student collaborative network, encouraging medical students to participate in clinical academic studies whilst providing them with audit and research skills training (11).
List of abbreviations

AKI: Acute Kidney Injury  
ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists  
CKD: Chronic Kidney Disease  
eGFR: Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate  
OAKS: Outcomes After Kidney injury in Surgery  
NICE: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence  
RCT: Randomised Controlled Trial  
REDCap: Research Electronic Data Capture  
STARSurg: Student Audit and Research in Surgery
Collaborating Authors:


*These authors contributed equally

Authors' contributions:

Conception and writing of protocol: Michael Bath, James Glasbey, Henry Claireaux, Tom Drake, Buket Gundogan, Chetan Khatri, Nicholas Kong, Lisa McNamee, Midhun Mohan, Mark Thomas, Ewen Harrison, J. Edward Fitzgerald, Aneel Bhangu, Dmitri Nepogodiev.


Guarantor: Dmitri Nepogodiev.

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (www.rcsed.ac.uk), who provided facilities at their Birmingham Centre for a collaborator meeting to develop and discuss this study.

Funding statement

This work was supported by the INSPIRE grant scheme. INSPIRE is coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences and supported by the Wellcome Trust. INSPIRE activities are designed to build student interest in research through innovative and effective initiatives.

Competing interests

Student Audit and Research in Surgery (STARSurg) is run by the Surgical Research Gateway (SuRG) Foundation. The SuRG Foundation is a registered charity (charity number 1,159,898) whose object is to advance the education of medical students and doctors in surgical science, clinical research and audit methods by promoting participation in collaborative clinical research and audit studies.
Table 1: Explanatory data variables collected for OAKS Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Pharmaceutical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Urgency of operation</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of NSAIDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Underlying pathology</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of ACEi or ARBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Intra-operative contamination</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of diuretics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) Score</td>
<td>Baseline haemoglobin and albumin</td>
<td>Post-operative aminoglycosides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of ischaemic heart disease</td>
<td>Peri-operative red cell transfusion</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of intravenous contrast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of congestive heart disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of hypertension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of diabetes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Centre questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Are patients undergoing elective major surgery at your centre reviewed at a formal pre-operative assessment clinic?</td>
<td>Yes – all patients; Yes – high risk patients only; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a) Do your centre’s U&amp;E (urea and electrolytes) results include AKI stage?</td>
<td>Yes; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b) Does your centre have an electronic alerting system to flag patients that have developed AKI?</td>
<td>Yes; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Does your centre employ a full-time on-site nephrologist (consultant or associate specialist grade at this hospital)?</td>
<td>Yes; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Does your centre offer inpatient dialysis?</td>
<td>Dialysis in ICU only (CRRT); Acute dialysis in a renal centre; Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Is intra-operative goal directed fluid therapy available at your centre for major surgery?</td>
<td>Yes – routinely employed (&gt;50% of cases); Yes – not routinely employed (&lt;50% of cases); No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Are patients undergoing major surgery at your centre admitted to high dependency/intensive care units post-operatively?</td>
<td>Yes – routinely (&gt;50% of patients); Yes – most high risk patients only; Never</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICU – intensive care unit
CRRT – Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy

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Figure 1: STARSurg ‘Mini-Team’ Structure, Roles and Responsibilities

STARSurg National Study ‘Mini-teams’: Structure, Roles and Responsibilities

Medical student
- Registers audit / research locally
- Identifies patients for inclusion in study
- Data collection

Junior Doctor (Intern/Resident)
- Supervises students
- Assists in registering audit/research
- Helps identify patients

Consultant (Attending)
- Clinical governance
- Overall responsibility for patient care
- Supervises junior doctor and students

Independent data validator

Other mini-teams

Local audit department

Medical student

Independent validator
- Validates data collected
- Work at selected data collection sites
- Reports to steering committee

Other mini-teams

Other mini-teams
Figure 2: Adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury (14)
References


Figure 1
334x241mm (72 x 72 DPI)
Figure 2
285x225mm (72 x 72 DPI)
## Supplementary File: Data collection fields

The best place to find the necessary information for each data field is indicated in italics below.

Day of surgery is defined as post-operative day 0.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data field</th>
<th>Data options/required data</th>
<th>Data dictionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Patient age</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>(Clinical notes) Age in whole years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Patient gender</td>
<td>Male or Female</td>
<td>(Clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Patient ethnicity</td>
<td>Black, Other</td>
<td>(Clinical notes) Required for calculation of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 American Society of Anaesthesiologists score</td>
<td>Enter grade 1 – 5</td>
<td>(Anaesthetic chart) See the American Society of Anaesthesiologists’ website for definitions: <a href="http://www.asahq.org/Home/For-Members/Clinical-Information/ASA-Physical-Status-Classification-System">http://www.asahq.org/Home/For-Members/Clinical-Information/ASA-Physical-Status-Classification-System</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 History of ischaemic heart disease</td>
<td>▪ No</td>
<td>Required to calculate Revised Cardiac Risk Index (RCRI). Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 History of congestive heart failure</td>
<td>▪ No</td>
<td>Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 History of cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>▪ No</td>
<td>Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters. Cerebrovascular disease includes either stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 History of hypertension</td>
<td>▪ No</td>
<td>Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 History of diabetes</td>
<td>▪ No</td>
<td>(Admission clerking, clinical notes). Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Type 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Type 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Smoking status</td>
<td>▪ Current</td>
<td>(Admission clerking, clinical notes). Current smokers include those who stopped smoking within the last 6 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Previous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Never</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 For elective patients either 12(a) or 12(b) should be completed. For emergency patients both 11(a) or 11(b) should be completed. In addition, for emergency patients, 11(c) should be completed if more than one blood test was taken on this admission prior to surgery. Do not perform extra blood tests not required by the clinical team looking after the patient.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a Pre-admission blood tests</td>
<td>Enter values</td>
<td>(Pathology system, clinical notes) Include blood tests taken within the 90 days prior to operation. If multiple blood tests have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Creatinine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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11b Admission blood tests
- Creatinine
- Haemoglobin
- Albumin

Enter values

(Pathology system, clinical notes).
Include the first blood test results from this admission. Only include blood tests taken before surgery.

11c Last pre-op blood tests
- Creatinine
- Haemoglobin

Enter values

(Pathology system, clinical notes).
Include the last blood test result from this admission taken before surgery.

12a On post-operative days 0-3, were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs administered

- No
- Yes – ibuprofen, low dose
- Yes – ibuprofen, high dose
- Yes – other NSAID, low dose
- Yes – other NSAID, high dose

Low dose: ‘stat’ or intermittent administration of any NSAID.
High dose: administration of recommended daily allowance for ≥24hr.

For Q12(a) and Q12(b), if more than one NSAID was administered during each respective period, please report the NSAID for which the most doses were administered.

12b On post-operative days 4-7, were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs administered

Options as in Q12(a)

13a Was the patient taking ACEi or ARBs pre-operatively

- No
- Yes

(Drug chart)
Pre-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the 7 days preceding surgery, excluding the 24 hours prior to operation.

13b Did the patient take ACEi or ARBs in the 24 hour prior to operation

- No
- Yes

Post-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the first 7 post-op days.

13c Was the patient taking ACE inhibitors or ARBs post-operatively

- No
- Yes

ACEi: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitors; include Ramipril, Captopril, Enalapril, Fosinopril, Lisinopril, Quinapril. ARBs: Angiotensin Receptor Blockers; include Losartan, Candesartan, Eprosartan, Irbesartan, Valsartan.

14 Was an aminoglycoside administered peri-operatively

- No
- Yes

(Drug chart)
Peri-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose intra-operatively or in the first 7 post-op days. Aminoglycosides include Gentamycin, Streptomycin, Neomycin.

15a Was the patient taking diuretics pre-operatively

- No
- Yes

(Drug chart)
Pre-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the 7 days preceding surgery.

15b Was the patient taking diuretics post-operatively

- No
- Yes

Post-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the first 7 post-op days.

Diuretics include Amiloride, Bendroflumethiazide, Bumetanide, Furosemide, Spironolactone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16a Was intravenous contrast administered pre-operatively</td>
<td>No, Yes, RPM, Yes, no RPM&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(Clinical notes, imaging system)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Pre-operative use: administration of contrast in the 7 days preceding surgery.&lt;br&gt;Post-operative use: administration of contrast in the first 7 post-operative days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16b Was intravenous contrast administered post-operatively</td>
<td>No, Yes, RPM, Yes, no RPM&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;RPM = Renoprotective measures. RPM are defined as administration of intravenous N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) or intravenous bicarbonate prior to or after receiving contrast; administration of NAC or bicarbonate must be on the same day as contrast was given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Urgency of operation</td>
<td>Elective, Emergency&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(operation note, clinical notes)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Elective surgery: any planned admission for surgery.&lt;br&gt;Emergency surgery: any surgery on the same admission as diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Operative approach</td>
<td>Open, Laparoscopic, Laparoscopic, assisted, Laparoscopic converted to open, Robotic&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(operation note)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Laparoscopic: Surgery performed exclusively using instruments inserted in to the abdomen through small ports.&lt;br&gt; Laparoscopic, assisted: Laparoscopic surgery in which an incision is enlarged to deliver a specimen or to insert a gloved hand into the abdomen.&lt;br&gt;Laparoscopic converted to open: Surgery planned to be performed laparoscopically but for unforeseen reasons decision made to change to an open approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Primary operation performed</td>
<td>Select main procedure type&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(operation note, clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Underlying pathology/indication</td>
<td>Select main pathology type&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(operation note, clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Intra-operative contamination</td>
<td>Clean, Clean-Contaminated, Contaminated, Dirty&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(operation note)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Clean: Gastrointestinal and genitourinary tracts not entered.&lt;br&gt;Clean-Contaminated: GI or genitourinary tracts entered but no gross contamination.&lt;br&gt;Contaminated: Gastrointestinal or genitourinary tracts entered with gross spillage or major break in sterile technique.&lt;br&gt;Dirty: There is already contamination prior to operation (e.g. with faeces or bile).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22a Were red cells transfused pre-operatively</td>
<td>No, Yes&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(Drug chart, clinical notes, discharge letter)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Pre-operative transfusion: transfusion of at least 1 unit in the 7 days preceding surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22b Were red cells transfused peri-operatively</td>
<td>No, Yes&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Peri-operative transfusion: transfusion of at least 1 unit on day of surgery, following induction of anaesthesia, or during the first 2 days following surgery (days 0-2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Post-operative renal replacement therapy</td>
<td>No, Yes – early, Yes – late, Yes – early and late&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(Clinical notes, discharge letter)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Include renal replacement therapy of any duration performed during early and/or late periods. Early is defined as post-op days 0-7, late is defined as post-op days 8-30. Renal replacement therapy includes dialysis and haemofiltration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24 | Surgical site infection (SSI) | ![Yes](No) ![Yes](Yes) ![No](No) ![No](Yes) | (Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters) Use the Centre for Disease Control's SSI definition, which is any **one** of:
- Purulent drainage from the incision
- At least **two** of: pain or tenderness; localised swelling; redness; heat; fever; **AND**
  - The incision is opened deliberately to manage infection or the clinician diagnoses a surgical site infection
- Wound organisms **AND** pus cells from aspirate/swab

25 | Anastomotic leak | ![No](No) ![Yes](Yes) ![No anastomosis](No anastomosis) | (Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters) Include all anastomotic leaks. Include leaks detected by CT scan and/or intra-operatively; and leaks managed conservatively or surgically.

26 | Referral to medical specialty (enter day referral first made) | ![No](No) ![Yes](Yes) ![No anastomosis](Yes - nephrology) ![Yes - nephrology](Yes - general medicine) | (Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters) Include all anastomotic leaks. Include leaks detected by CT scan and/or intra-operatively; and leaks managed conservatively or surgically.

27 | 30-day Clavien-Dindo grade | ![None](None) ![Enter grade I-V](Enter grade I-V) | (Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters) Please use the full 7-point (grade I, II, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, V) Clavien-Dindo scale.

28 | Post-operative length of stay | ![Enter days](Enter days) | (Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters, electronic records) This should be calculated from the first post-operative day to day of discharge. If the patient admitted in hospital at the end of 30-day follow-up, enter '30'

29 | Creatinine values: | ![Enter values for:](Enter values for:)
- Day 1 post-op
- Day 2 post-op
- Day 3 post-op
- Day 4 post-op
- Day 5 post-op
- Day 6 post-op
- Day 7 post-op
- Discharge day | (Pathology system, clinical notes) Leave blank if a blood test was not performed on that day (this will not affect your data completion rate). Do **not** perform extra blood tests not required by the clinical team looking after the patient.

30 | Haemoglobin values: | ![Enter value](Enter value)
- Day ≥3 post-op
- Discharge | (Pathology system, clinical notes) Enter the earliest haemoglobin available from day 3 post-op onwards, and the last blood test result taken on this admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal:</th>
<th>BMJ Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript ID:</td>
<td>bmjopen-2015-009812.R1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Type:</td>
<td>Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Submitted by the Author:</td>
<td>07-Dec-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete List of Authors:</td>
<td>Collaborative, STARSurg Nepogodiev, Dmitri; University of Birmingham, Academic Department of Surgery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Subject Heading:** Surgery

**Secondary Subject Heading:** Renal medicine, Anaesthesia

**Keywords:** Colorectal surgery < SURGERY, Hepatobiliary surgery < SURGERY, Nephrology < INTERNAL MEDICINE, Adult intensive & critical care < ANAESTHETICS

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Running title: Acute Kidney Injury Following Surgery
Article type: Study Protocol
Keywords: Acute kidney injury; AKI; Gastrointestinal Surgery; Liver Surgery
Abstract word count: 238
Word Count: 2538
Abstract

Introduction
Acute kidney injury (AKI) is associated with increased morbidity and mortality following cardiac surgery. Data focusing on the patterns of AKI following major gastrointestinal surgery could inform quality improvement projects and clinical trials, but there is a lack of reliable evidence. This multi-centre study aims to determine the incidence and impact of AKI following major gastrointestinal and liver surgery.

Methods and analysis
This prospective, collaborative, multi-centre cohort study will include consecutive adults undergoing gastrointestinal resection, liver resection, or reversal of ileostomy or colostomy. Open and laparoscopic procedures in elective and emergency patients will be included in the study. The primary endpoint will be the incidence of AKI within 7 days of surgery, identified using an adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury, which is based on the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) AKI guidelines. Secondary outcomes will include persistent renal dysfunction at discharge and 1 year post-operatively. The 30-day adverse event rate will be measured using the Clavien-Dindo scale. Data on factors that may predispose to the development of AKI will be collected to identify variables associated with AKI. Based on our previous collaborative studies, a minimum of 114 centres are expected to be recruited, contributing over 6500 patients in total.

Ethics and Dissemination
This study will be registered as clinical audit at each participating hospital. The protocol will be disseminated through local and national medical student networks in the UK and Ireland.
Strengths and limitations of this study

Strengths

- OAKS will be the first prospective study of post-operative AKI in gastrointestinal and liver patients in the UK and Ireland.

- This multi-centre study will be disseminated through a collaborative medical student network, enabling rapid data collection on many thousands of post-operative patients. The results will be generalisable across the UK and Ireland.

- Unlike some previous studies that arbitrarily defined AKI, OAKS will identify AKI based on an algorithm in widespread routine clinical use in England. Whilst, there are limitations to its application to patients with chronic kidney disease, the algorithm is based on the internationally recognised Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) AKI staging guidelines.

Limitations

- Although data will only be collected on variables for which there is a known biologically plausible causative relationship with AKI, this observational study can only identify associations (not causation) between possible pre-disposing factors and AKI. OAKS will be hypothesis generating, identifying areas for further study. It will also generate the data required to design and power robust randomised clinical trials in the future.

- The snap-shot audit methodology limits the quantity and complexity of data it is feasible to collect. Fluid therapy and sepsis may be key factors related to AKI, but it would be difficult to collect robust data on these variables in a student-driven audit. Data on intra-operative contamination will be collected as a surrogate for post-operative abdominal and wound sepsis. Anastomotic leak will be recorded as this is a significant early septic complication.
- Not all patients will have blood test results available during the 1-year follow-up window. It is possible that some patients will have persistent renal dysfunction at 1-year, but blood tests will be unavailable to identify this. Therefore rates of persistent renal dysfunction identified in this study are likely to be under-estimates.
Background

Studies in cardiac surgery suggest that post-operative acute kidney injury (AKI) is common and strongly associated with increased morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs (1-3), but there is less evidence on the incidence and burden of AKI following gastrointestinal and liver surgery. Previous studies have reported the incidence of post-operative AKI after gastrointestinal surgery between 1 and 22% (4-7); this broad range reflects both heterogeneity in definitions of AKI and the limitations of retrospective data analysis.

The need for further evidence

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death ‘Adding Insult to Injury’ report recommended that predictable and avoidable acute kidney injury (AKI) should never occur (8). Moreover, NHS England has recognised AKI as a key priority for improvement in its 2015-16 Commissioning for Quality and Innovation framework (9). However, there are currently no reliable estimates of the incidence of post-operative AKI in gastrointestinal surgery, making it impossible to benchmark and audit local performance. A lack of clarity regarding potential factors associated with the development of post-operative AKI makes it difficult to consistently identify targets for interventions aimed at reducing its incidence (5,7,10). Reliable data on patterns of post-operative AKI could inform future quality improvement projects and clinical trials.

Primary aim

The primary aim of the Outcomes After Kidney injury in Surgery (OAKS) study is to determine the incidence of post-operative AKI after major gastrointestinal and liver surgery.
Secondary aims

The secondary aims of the OAKS study are to determine the short- and mid-term morbidity and mortality associated with post-operative AKI and to identify peri-operative variables that are associated with post-operative AKI.
Methods

Study design

A multi-centre prospective cohort study disseminated through collaborative medical student networks (Figure 1).

The STARSurg network

Student Audit and Research in Surgery (STARSurg) is the UK’s national medical student research collaborative, run by the Surgical Research Gateway (SURG) Foundation (registered charity number 1,159,898). STARSurg is co-ordinated by a team of medical students and surgeons. The collaborative model and the educational benefits to participating students have previously been described elsewhere (11,12)

Study setting

Hospitals in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland that offer elective or emergency gastrointestinal or liver surgery will be invited to participate. Each centre may contribute up to four, two-week sets of consecutive patient data.

Inclusion criteria

- Adult patients (age ≥18 years) undergoing any gastrointestinal resection, liver resection, or reversal of ileostomy or colostomy
- Elective and emergency patients may be included
- Open, laparoscopic, laparoscopic-assisted, laparoscopic-converted, and robotic procedures may be included

Exclusion criteria

- No baseline pre-operative creatinine available
- Previous kidney transplant
- Renal replacement therapy (any form of dialysis) in the 90 days preceding operation
- Appendicectomy
- Transplant surgery
- Gynaecological primary indication
- Urological primary indication
- Vascular primary indication

**Patient identification and data collection**

Operating lists and theatre computer systems will be screened daily to identify eligible patients. The pre-operative and operative data fields will be completed at the earliest opportunity following surgery. Collaborators will actively follow-up patients in the post-operative period, completing 30-day and 1-year follow-up promptly.

**Primary outcome**

The primary outcome measure will be the incidence of AKI within 7 days of the indexed operative procedure. This period of 7 days has been selected to only capture AKI directly attributable to insults sustained during the peri-operative period.

Collaborators will submit raw creatinine values to the study database. AKI will be identified using an adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury classification system (Figure 2), which is based upon Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) AKI guidelines (13). It was introduced by NHS England in June 2014 in a Patient Safety Alert requiring standardisation of the identification of AKI across the UK (14). If serum creatinine is not available over the past 7 days, the National Algorithm defines baseline creatinine as the median of all measured creatinine levels over the last year. It would not be practical for study
collaborators to manually derive this value; therefore the algorithm has been adapted to require the most recent pre-operative serum creatinine measurement. To identify emergency patients who had already developed AKI at admission, both the first creatinine measured on admission and the most recent pre-admission creatinine will be required for emergency patients. A full description required creatinine data points is available in the Supplementary file (data points 11 and 29). In this observational study no extra blood tests will be performed, other than those ordered by the clinical team.

**Secondary outcomes**

Secondary outcome measures will include:

- Incidence of AKI within 48 hours of surgery
- Persistent renal dysfunction at discharge
- Persistent renal dysfunction at 12 months
- Regular renal replacement therapy (any form of dialysis) at 12 months
- 30-day major complication rate (Clavien-Dindo grades III-V)
- 30-day minor complication rate (Clavien-Dindo grades I-II)
- Mortality at 12 months

Persistent renal dysfunction will be defined as an increase from baseline of chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage, as defined by the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (15). In addition to serum creatinine, all other variables required to calculate estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration formula will be collected (16). For the 30-day outcome, the single eGFR value nearest to post-operative day 30 will be used. For the 1-year outcome, blood tests taken 9 to 15 months post-operatively will be considered. Two
separate eGFR values recorded at least 3 months apart will be required to
demonstrate a persistent increase in CKD stage.

Complications will be recorded using the Clavien-Dindo classification, a
standardised, internationally validated scoring system for post-operative
complications (17). The highest grade complication (grade I-V) experienced by each
patient will be recorded.

Factors associated with AKI
A key aim of OAKS is to identify peri-operative factors that may be associated with
subsequent development of AKI. To record this, data will be collected on patient-
related, disease-related, and pharmaceutical variables (Table 1). Detailed description
of all data fields is available in the Supplementary File.

Centre questionnaire
Supervising consultants will be asked to complete a short centre questionnaire about
the resources available at their centre (Table 2).

Quality assurance
Each local team of medical students will be supervised by a qualified doctor (ranging
from foundation year to registrar grade) and a consultant surgeon.

A detailed protocol for collaborators describing how to register and run the study will
be made available online. It will provide a detailed data dictionary, along with
guidance on potential data sources for collaborators to use when collecting the data.
The protocol will be presented at collaborator meetings across the UK, enabling
participants to clarify any uncertainties in person with the steering committee.
Collaborators will be asked to complete mandatory online e-learning modules covering study inclusion criteria, AKI, the Clavien-Dindo classification system, and data governance protocols. This will ensure collaborators are able to safely collect accurate data.

To identify any local issues regarding data collection, all participating centres will be asked to pilot patient identification and case record completion for one day in the week leading up to the main study starting date. The steering committee will offer support throughout this period to resolve any problems.

**Validation**

Only data sets with >95% data completeness will be accepted. Final year medical students or qualified doctors not involved in initial data collection will act as independent assessors, reviewing data collected at a local centre. Overall independent assessors will validate a minimum of 5% of patient records, with a target of >95% case ascertainment and >98% data accuracy.

**Data management**

Data will be collected and stored online through a secure server running the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) (18) web application, hosted at the University of Edinburgh. REDCap is widely used internationally by academic organisations to store research databases. Collaborators will be given secure login details including a password for the REDCap project server. All transmission and storage of web-based information by this system is encrypted. Any patient identifiable information will not be available for data-analysis and will be automatically stripped from the database when exported from REDCap.
Anticipated minimum recruitment

Based on our previous collaborative studies (19), an average centre performs approximately 20 operations meeting the study inclusion criteria in a 14-day period. At most centres in our previous study three data collection teams participated at each centre, collecting data over consecutive 14-day periods. Previously at least four centres participated at each of the 38 medical schools involved. Overall, we estimate that a minimum of 6,840 patients will be recruited. The observational nature of the study's primary outcome means a power calculation is not required.

Statistical analysis

Differences between demographic groups will be tested with the $\chi^2$ test for categorical data, with differences in continuous data analysed using Student's T-test. Two-sided statistical significance will be defined at the level of $P<0.05$. Multivariable binary logistic regression will be used to provide adjusted estimates of effects. Variables to be entered to the model will be those that occur prior to the operation. Initially all these variables will be considered. Variables to remain in the final model will be selected by best using Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). Effect estimates will be presented as odds ratios and bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals and $p$-values. All relevant second order interactions will be examined. We will explore the possibility of creating a risk prediction model. Such a model would be derived from one half of the data set and validated in the other half. Data handling and analysis will be performed in REDCap and R (R Foundation Statistical Programming, Vienna, AUT).
Ethics and Dissemination

Research Ethics Approval

OAKS is a clinical audit based on National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guidelines requiring pre-operative and post-operative measurement of serum creatinine in all patients undergoing major surgery (20-22). The South East Scotland Research Ethics Service advised that ethical approval is not required for OAKS in the UK. Participating centres will register OAKS locally as a clinical audit. They will also ensure they have successfully applied for Caldicott Guardian approval to submit anonymised patient data to a national audit and secure online database. In the Republic of Ireland collaborators are responsible for securing approval for the study from their local research ethics service.

Protocol dissemination

The protocol will be disseminated primarily through the existing STARSurg network, medical student, surgical and medical societies, and post-graduate research collaboratives. A student local lead will be designated at each medical school to facilitate local study co-ordination. STARSurg has successfully developed a social media based strategy for disseminating study protocols (23), including utilisation of Twitter (www.twitter.com/STARSurgUK) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/STARSurgUK).
Discussion

This multi-centre study will robustly measure the incidence and impact AKI in patients undergoing elective and emergency major gastrointestinal and liver surgery. By reliably determining the burden of AKI-associated morbidity and mortality, this study will define targets for future quality improvement programmes and clinical trials. Identifying risk factors for AKI will allow stratification of patients to prioritise future interventions aimed at enhancing pre-operative optimisation and peri-operative monitoring.

The study will be delivered by a national student collaborative network, pairing medical students with supervising doctors. The collaborative student-led and trainee-led collaborative groups have a track record in producing high quality data sets (19,24). A comprehensive study protocol, online training modules and consultant supervision will ensure consistent and reproducible data collection. Pre-planned data validation will allow case ascertainment and data accuracy rates to be estimated.

The interpretation and comparison of previous studies exploring post-operative AKI has been challenging due to the lack of consistency in the definition of AKI. The NHS AKI Algorithm has standardised the recognition of AKI across England (14). Using an adaptation of this algorithm will ensure this study's findings are clinically applicable; the algorithm has been simplified to streamline data collection, but these changes are unlikely to alter the resultant AKI staging in a significant number of patients.

The greatest limitation of any observational study is, whilst able to identify associations between AKI and various risk factors, it will not be able to prove a definite causative relationship. Consequently, data will only be collected on variables
for which there is a known biologically plausible causative relationship with AKI. The lack of reliable existing data in this field means that further observational data is required prior to the planning of any clinical trial that could produce higher grade evidence.

The snap-shot audit methodology which will be used by this study has previously been shown to collect accurate data (19). This methodology however limits the volume and complexity of data that can be collected. Peri-operative fluid and blood loss have previously been associated with AKI (10,25). The wide variation in fluid management across UK centres would make it difficult to capture meaningful data on fluid therapy within an observational, snapshot audit. Since blood loss is not universally accurately measured and recorded, the requirement for peri-operative blood transfusion will be used as a surrogate for significant intra-operative blood loss. Sepsis may also predispose to AKI (10,26). Although it may be difficult for this collaborative study to accurately recognise sepsis, the extent of intra-operative contamination will be used as a surrogate for risk of intra-abdominal and wound sepsis. In addition, data will be collected on anastomotic leak, as a key early complication that may drive sepsis in gastrointestinal patients.

Finally, this collaborative project will further strengthen and develop the STARSurg student collaborative network, encouraging medical students to participate in clinical academic studies whilst providing them with audit and research skills training (11).
List of abbreviations

AKI: Acute Kidney Injury
ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists
CKD: Chronic Kidney Disease
eGFR: Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate
OAKS: Outcomes After Kidney injury in Surgery
NICE: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
RCT: Randomised Controlled Trial
REDCap: Research Electronic Data Capture
STARSurg: Student Audit and Research in Surgery
Collaborating Authors:

Michael Bath*, James Glasbey*, Henry Claireaux, Tom Drake, Buket Gundogan,
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Sivesh Kathir Kamarajah, Andrew E. Logan, Annika Mills, Pho N.H. Phan, Cal
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Holly Wilson, Nishkantha Arulkumaran, Toby Richards, Fiona Duthie, Mark Thomas,
John Prowle, Ewen Harrison, J. Edward Fitzgerald, Aneel Bhangu, Dmitri
Nepogodiev, on behalf of the STARSurg Collaborative.

*These authors contributed equally

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Midhun Mohan, Mark Thomas, Ewen Harrison, J. Edward Fitzgerald, Aneel Bhangu,
Dmitri Nepogodiev.

Participation in collaborator meeting, development of study concept, and editing of
protocol: Michael Bath, James Glasbey, Henry Claireaux, Tom Drake, Buket
Gundogan, Chetan Khatri, Nicholas Kong, Lisa McNamee, Midhun Mohan, Humzah
Amin, Ishani Barai, Shivam Bhanderi, Fraser S. Brown, Stephen J. Chapman, Olivia
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Ibrahim Ibrahim, Sivesh Kathir Kamarajah, Andrew E. Logan, Annika Mills, Pho N.H.
Phan, Cal Robinson, Rajiv Sethi, Abigail Shaw, Reena Suresh, Sukrit Suresh, Catrin
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Thomas, John Prowle, Ewen Harrison, J. Edward Fitzgerald, Aneel Bhangu, Dmitri
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Guarantor: Dmitri Nepogodiev.

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (www.rcsed.ac.uk), who provided facilities at their Birmingham Centre for a collaborator meeting to develop and discuss this study.

Funding statement

This work was supported by the INSPIRE grant scheme. INSPIRE is coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences and supported by the Wellcome Trust. INSPIRE activities are designed to build student interest in research through innovative and effective initiatives.

Competing interests

Student Audit and Research in Surgery (STARSurg) is run by the Surgical Research Gateway (SuRG) Foundation. The SuRG Foundation is a registered charity (charity number 1,159,898) whose object is to advance the education of medical students and doctors in surgical science, clinical research and audit methods by promoting participation in collaborative clinical research and audit studies.
## Tables and Figures

### Table 1: Explanatory data variables collected for OAKS Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Pharmaceutical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Urgency of operation</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of NSAIDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Underlying pathology</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of ACEi or ARBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Intra-operative contamination</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of diuretics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) Score</td>
<td>Baseline haemoglobin and albumin</td>
<td>Post-operative aminoglycosides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of ischaemic heart disease</td>
<td>Peri-operative red cell transfusion</td>
<td>Peri-operative use of intravenous contrast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of congestive heart disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>History of cerebrovascular disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of hypertension</td>
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<td>History of diabetes</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking status</td>
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**Table 2: Centre questionnaire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Are patients undergoing <strong>elective</strong> major surgery at your centre reviewed at a formal pre-operative assessment clinic?</td>
<td>Yes – all patients; Yes – high risk patients only; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a) Do your centre’s U&amp;E (urea and electrolytes) results include AKI stage?</td>
<td>Yes; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b) Does your centre have an electronic alerting system to flag patients that have developed AKI?</td>
<td>Yes; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Does your centre employ a full-time on-site nephrologist (consultant or associate specialist grade at this hospital)?</td>
<td>Yes; No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Does your centre offer inpatient dialysis?</td>
<td>Dialysis in ICU only (CRRT); Acute dialysis in a renal centre; Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Is intra-operative goal directed fluid therapy available at your centre for major surgery?</td>
<td>Yes – routinely employed (&gt;50% of cases); Yes – not routinely employed (&lt;50% of cases); No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Are patients undergoing major surgery at your centre admitted to high dependency/intensive care units post-operatively?</td>
<td>Yes – routinely (&gt;50% of patients); Yes – most high risk patients only; Never</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICU – intensive care unit  
CRRT – Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy
Figure 1: STARSurg “Mini-Team” Structure, Roles and Responsibilities
Figure 2: Adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury (14)
References


Figure 1: STARSurg ‘Mini-Team’ Structure, Roles and Responsibilities

80x57mm (300 x 300 DPI)

For peer review only - http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/guidelines.xhtml
Figure 2: Adaptation of the National Algorithm for Detecting Acute Kidney Injury (14)

68x54mm (300 x 300 DPI)
### Supplementary File: Data collection fields

The best place to find the necessary information for each data field is indicated in italics below. Day of surgery is defined as post-operative day 0.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data field</th>
<th>Data options/required data</th>
<th>Data dictionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Patient age</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>(Clinical notes) Age in whole years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Patient gender</td>
<td>Male or Female</td>
<td>(Clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Patient ethnicity</td>
<td>Black, Other</td>
<td>(Clinical notes) Required for calculation of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 American Society of Anaesthesiologists score</td>
<td>Enter grade 1 – 5</td>
<td>(Anaesthetic chart) See the American Society of Anaesthesiologists’ website for definitions: <a href="http://www.asahq.org/Home/For-Members/Clinical-Information/ASA-Physical-Status-Classification-System">http://www.asahq.org/Home/For-Members/Clinical-Information/ASA-Physical-Status-Classification-System</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 History of ischaemic heart disease</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Required to calculate Revised Cardiac Risk Index (RCRI). Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 History of congestive heart failure</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 History of cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters. Cerebrovascular disease includes either stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 History of hypertension</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Required to calculate RCRI. Any documented diagnosis is acceptable, e.g. admission clerking or clinic letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 History of diabetes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>(Admission clerking, clinical notes). Required to calculate RCRI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Smoking status</td>
<td>Current, Previous, Never,</td>
<td>(Admission clerking, clinical notes). Current smokers include those who stopped smoking within the last 6 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 For elective patients either 12(a) or 12(b) should be completed. For emergency patients both 11(a) or 11(b) should be completed. In addition, for emergency patients, 11(c) should be completed if more than one blood test was taken on this admission prior to surgery. Do not perform extra blood tests not required by the clinical team looking after the patient.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a Pre-admission blood tests</td>
<td>Enter values</td>
<td>(Pathology system, clinical notes) Include blood tests taken within the 90 days prior to operation. If multiple blood tests have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11b Admission blood tests
- Haemoglobin
- Albumin
- Creatinine
- Haemoglobin
- Albumin

Enter values
(Pathology system, clinical notes).
Include the first blood test results from this admission. Only include blood tests taken before surgery.

11c Last pre-op blood tests
- Haemoglobin
- Albumin

Enter values
(Pathology system, clinical notes).
Include the last blood test result from this admission taken before surgery.

12a On post-operative days 0-3,
- were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs administered
- No
- Yes – ibuprofen, low dose
- Yes – ibuprofen, high dose
- Yes – other NSAID, low dose
- Yes – other NSAID, high dose

12b On post-operative days 4-7,
- were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs administered
- Options as in Q12(a)

Low dose: ‘stat’ or intermittent administration of any NSAID.
High dose: administration of recommended daily allowance for ≥24hr.

For Q12(a) and Q12(b), if more than one NSAID was administered during each respective period, please report the NSAID for which the most doses were administered.

13a Was the patient taking ACEi or ARBs pre-operatively
- No
- Yes
(Pre-operative chart)

Pre-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the 7 days preceding surgery, excluding the 24 hours prior to operation.

13b Did the patient take ACEi or ARBs in the 24 hour prior to operation
- No
- Yes
(Post-operative chart)

Post-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the first 7 post-op days.

13c Was the patient taking ACE inhibitors or ARBs post-operatively
- No
- Yes

ACEi: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitors; include Ramipril, Captopril, Enalapril, Fosinopril, Lisinopril, Quinapril. ARBs: Angiotensin Receptor Blockers; include Losartan, Candesartan, Eprosartan, Irbesartan, Valsartan.

14 Was an aminoglycoside administered peri-operatively
- No
- Yes
(Drug chart)

Peri-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose intra-operatively or in the first 7 post-op days. Aminoglycosides include Gentamycin, Streptomycin, Neomycin.

15a Was the patient taking diuretics pre-operatively
- No
- Yes
(Drug chart)

Pre-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the 7 days preceding surgery.

15b Was the patient taking diuretics post-operatively
- No
- Yes
(Post-operative chart)

Post-operative use: administration of at least 1 dose in the first 7 post-op days.

Diuretics include Amiloride, Bendroflumethiazide, Bumetane, Furosemide, Spironolactone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16a</td>
<td>Was intravenous contrast administered pre-operatively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes, RPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes, no RPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Clinical notes, imaging system)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-operative use: administration of contrast in the 7 days preceding surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-operative use: administration of contrast in the first 7 post-operative days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In case of multiple scans, report the closest pre-op and post-op scans to time of surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPM</td>
<td>Renoprotective measures. RPM are defined as administration of intravenous N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) or intravenous bicarbonate prior to or after receiving contrast; administration of NAC or bicarbonate must be on the same day as contrast was given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16b</td>
<td>Was intravenous contrast administered post-operatively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes, RPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes, no RPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Urgency of operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(operation note, clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective surgery: any planned admission for surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency surgery: any surgery on the same admission as diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Operative approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Laparoscopic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Laparoscopic, assisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Laparoscopic converted to open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Robotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(operation note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laparoscopic: Surgery performed exclusively using instruments inserted in to the abdomen through small ports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laparoscopic, assisted: Laparoscopic surgery in which an incision is enlarged to deliver a specimen or to insert a gloved hand into the abdomen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laparoscopic converted to open: Surgery planned to be performed laparoscopically but for unforeseen reasons decision made to change to an open approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Primary operation performed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select main procedure type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(operation note, clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Underlying pathology/indication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select main pathology type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(operation note, clinical notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Intra-operative contamination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Clean-Contaminated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Contaminated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Dirty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(operation note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean: Gastrointestinal and genitourinary tracts not entered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean-Contaminated: GI or genitourinary tracts entered but no gross contamination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contaminated: Gastrointestinal or genitourinary tracts entered with gross spillage or major break in sterile technique.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dirty: There is already contamination prior to operation (e.g. with faeces or bile).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22a</td>
<td>Were red cells transfused pre-operatively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Drug chart, clinical notes, discharge letter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-operative transfusion: transfusion of at least 1 unit in the 7 days preceding surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22b</td>
<td>Were red cells transfused peri-operatively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Drug chart, clinical notes, discharge letter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peri-operative transfusion: transfusion of at least 1 unit on day of surgery, following induction of anaesthesia, or during the first 2 days following surgery (days 0-2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Post-operative renal replacement therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes – early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes – late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yes – early and late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Clinical notes, discharge letter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Include renal replacement therapy of any duration performed during early and/or late periods. Early is defined as post-op days 0-7, late is defined as post-op days 8-30. Renal replacement therapy includes dialysis and haemofiltration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Surgical site infection (SSI)**

- **No**
- **Yes**

(Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters)

Use the Centre for Disease Control’s SSI definition, which is any **one** of:

- Purulent drainage from the incision
- At least **two** of: pain or tenderness; localised swelling; redness; heat; fever; **AND**
- The incision is opened deliberately to manage infection or the clinician diagnoses a surgical site infection
- Wound organisms **AND** pus cells from aspirate/ swab

---

**Anastomotic leak**

- **No**
- **Yes**
- **No anastomosis**

(Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters)

Include all anastomotic leaks. Include leaks detected by CT scan and/or intra-operatively; and leaks managed conservatively or surgically.

---

**Referral to medical specialty**

(enter day referral first made)

- **No**
- **Yes - nephrology**
- **Yes - general medicine**

(Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters)

For all patients, include all post-operative referrals made to medical or nephrology services for a renal indication. Include telephone discussions with renal/medical doctors. Do not include referrals regarding non-renal problems, e.g. cardiology or respiratory conditions. **Record** on which post-operative day the referral was first made.

---

**30-day Clavien-Dindo grade**

- **None**
- **Enter grade I-V**

(Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters)

Please use the full 7-point (grade I, II, IIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, V) Clavien-Dindo scale.

---

**Post-operative length of stay**

Enter days

(Clinical notes, discharge letter, clinic letters, electronic records)

This should be calculated from the first post-operative day to day of discharge. If the patient admitted in hospital at the end of 30-day follow-up, enter ‘30’

---

**Creatinine values:**

Days 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 post-op; discharge day.

Enter values for:

- Day 1 post-op
- Day 2 post-op
- Day 3 post-op
- Day 4 post-op
- Day 5 post-op
- Day 6 post-op
- Day 7 post-op
- Discharge day

(Pathology system, clinical notes)

Leave blank if a blood test was not performed on that day (this will not affect your data completion rate). Do **not** perform extra blood tests not required by the clinical team looking after the patient.

If multiple blood tests were performed on the same day, please supply the value from the test taken closest to 12pm.

For ‘discharge day’ please supply the last blood test result taken on this admission. If patient remained admitted at end of 30-day follow up, please supply the result of the last blood test prior to end of 30-day follow up.

---

**Haemoglobin values:**

Day ≥3 post-op

Enter value

(Pathology system, clinical notes)

Enter the earliest haemoglobin available from day 3 post-op onwards, and the **last** blood test result taken on this admission.