

Reference Number: FOIAH2324/402
From: Other
Date: 24 October 2023
Subject: Treatment of Pectum Excavatum

- Q1 What treatment do you offer for the diagnosis of pectus excavatum?
- a. Do you offer respiratory physiotherapy?
 - b. Do you offer vacuum bell correction treatment?
 - c. Do you offer surgical correction?

A1 Pectus excavatum is a clinical diagnosis. However, in severe cases or those with significant cardiorespiratory symptoms we proceed to do investigations in the form of a CT scan of the chest, an Echocardiogram, ECG and Lung Function Tests. Recently we have added CPEX test in line with the new developments in NHS England.

Treatment – Our line of management in those who benefit from conservative measures include postural adjustments, exercise, chest muscle building exercises, Vacuum suction Bell therapy and surgical management include minimally invasive NUSS repair. Currently we are able to provide surgical treatment for Welsh patients only. However, with one of the designated National Centres for Pectus Excavatum surgery as well as co-investigators of RESTORE -pectus excavatum trial we are hoping to provide surgeries for the eligible patients in England.

- a. We do offer respiratory physiotherapy for in-patients only and not as a routine for the outpatients. Some of those who are under our respiratory department might require out-patients physio depending upon their needs.
- b. We advise vacuum suction bell as part of the primary management plan. However, at the moment we are not able to provide it for free in the NHS. We are still working the ways to get it supplied through our Orthotic department to provide it free of cost for the patients.
- c. Yes. Currently we are providing surgical corrections for Welsh patients only. However, as one of the designated National Centres for Pectus Excavatum surgery as well as co-investigators of RESTORE - pectus excavatum trial we are hoping to provide surgeries for the eligible patients in England from 2024 onwards.