

Dr Stephen Tolchard MBChB, BSc., PhD., FRCA

NHS: Consultant Anaesthetist & Lead for Peri-operative Cardiopulmonary Evaluation of High Risk Surgical Patients at Southmead Hospital, NBT, Bristol

University: Associate Medical Dean of NBT Academy

Specialist interests:

Regional and general anaesthesia for orthopaedic surgery

Anaesthesia for a wide range of specialties including robotic, general, vascular, urological, emergency and neurosurgical procedures.

Pre-operative cardiopulmonary evaluation of high risk patients using cardiopulmonary exercise testing

Research interests:

Risk stratification and evaluation of patients for high risk open, endovascular and robotic surgery

The physiological impact of major surgery and the physiology of post-operative recovery

Anaesthesia for Orthopaedic Patients

Patients undergoing hip and knee surgery will generally benefit from combined regional and general anaesthesia. On arrival in the anaesthetic room patients will first have a spinal anaesthetic. This involves inserting a very fine needle into the back under local anaesthesia, through which anaesthetic is injected. This abolishes all pain messages from the lower limbs and means that the vast majority of patients awaken pain free. Once the spinal is working patients undergo a light general anaesthetic. After surgery the patients are transferred to the recovery unit where they are cared for until they are ready for the ward. The anaesthetist will see them on the ward on the day of surgery and the following day in order to ensure the very best post-operative recovery and pain relief.