

VCJD: ANAESTHETIC GUIDELINES FOR TONSILLECTOMY AND ADENOIDECTOMY FREEMAN HOSPITAL

Effective date: December 2005

Review date: December 2008

N.B. These do not apply to patients with known or suspected vCJD

Prion proteins are responsible for vCJD and abnormal prion protein has been detected postmortem in adenotonsillar tissue. Prion proteins adhere strongly to smooth metal surfaces and are not removed by cleaning or autoclaving.

Standard precautions against transmission of infection should be used for all patients having tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy i.e. waterproof gown, disposable gloves and goggles/glasses/visor masks.

Laryngoscope blades must be disposable

Face masks must be disposable

Stylettes and bougies should be discarded following single patient use

Laryngeal masks must be disposable

The risk of prion transmission by anaesthetic equipment in normal use is extremely low if it exists at all. The safety and well being of the individual patient and anaesthetist is the priority in the choice and use of Anaesthetic equipment.

References:

Department of Health website: www.doh.gov.uk/cjd/cjdguidance.pdf

Royal College of Anaesthetists: Bulletin 7, May 2001

Author: Dr. V. Addison