

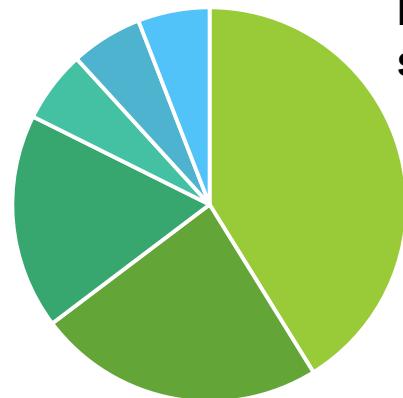
Reducing the cost of managing difficult airways

Dr Katie Preston, Dr Maqbool Jaffer

Background

- Sugammadex has revolutionised managing difficult airways as it can reverse deep neuromuscular block
- However its use is often rationed due to cost
- This project looked at safe methods to reduce the cost of using sugammadex

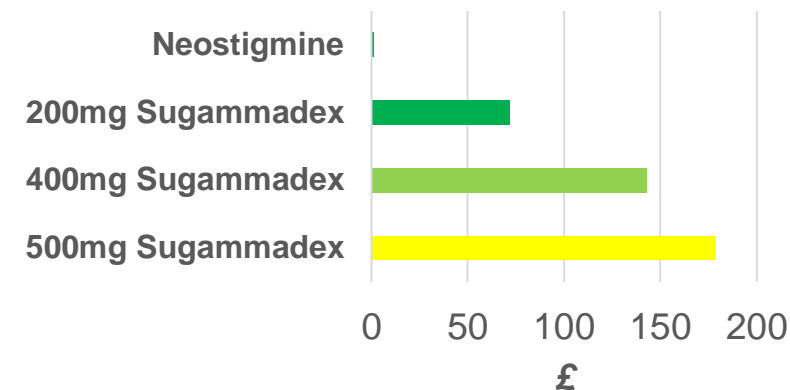
Understanding



Indications for sugammadex use

- High BMI (41%)
- Difficult airway (24%)
- Post op resp failure (18%)
- Failed intubation (6%)
- RSI for short case (6%)
- Frail patient (6%)

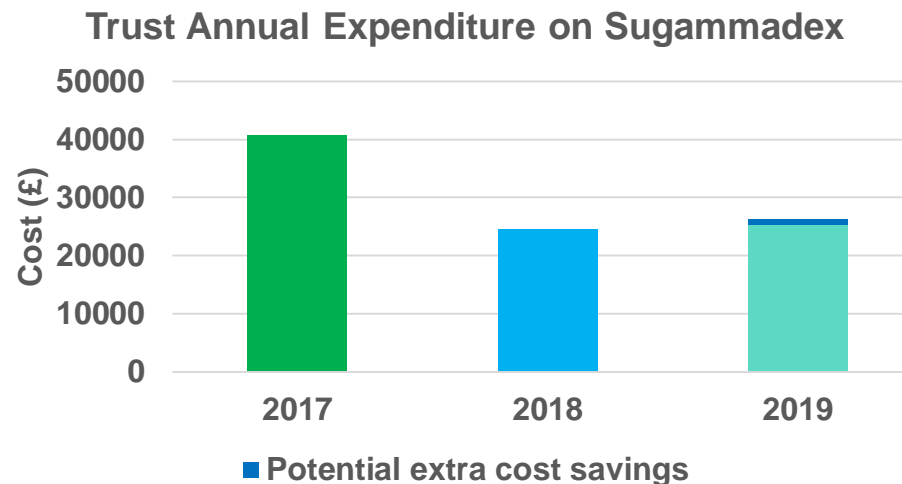
Cost of reversal



Changes

- Smaller 200mg vials were procured in 2018, leading to a £15,000 saving
- Using two small 200mg ampules instead of one 500mg ampule saves £36 per dose
- The trust could save a further £1000 per year if the smallest possible vials are used (4% saving)

Results



Conclusions

- Using the smallest combination of sugammadex vials saves money
- 2mg/kg dose can be given safely from 1-2 twitches on TOF (Bailey CR, Anaesthesia, 2017)
- Be grateful that sugammadex comes off patent in 2023!