About the small bowel program

Since this time, we have conducted 36 small bowel transplants with many of these patients having other organs transplanted at the same time, this is also known as multi visceral or multi organ transplantation.

Small bowel or multi visceral transplantation is a relatively new and exciting development within the world of transplantation and at Addenbrooke’s we feel extremely privileged to be the only transplant centre in the UK to perform full multi visceral transplantation which includes the liver and other organs such as stomach, pancreas and kidney. We have also recently started transplanting the large bowel routinely which we have found improves fluid balance within our group of patients.

Where we might differ from other teams is that we are obsessive in our checks on the patient at all stages of the process, from assessment, operation, post operative care and follow up.

As we have a small cohort of patients we tend to form close working relationships to achieve the best outcomes for both pre and post transplant patients. We are a small team of surgeons, gastroenterologists, specialised registrars, specialist nurses and a transplant coordinator and also work very closely with the wider multi disciplinary team e.g. nutrition team, stoma specialist nurses, dieticians as well as physiotherapy and ward staff both pre and post transplant.

As small bowel and multi visceral transplantation is such a new development, we are very keen to work with our gastroenterology, surgical and registrar colleagues to carry out research to help improve and expand our programme, this is a continual process and often involves working with both national and international transplant centres as well as intestinal failure centres in the UK. We work closely as a national Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) with the other centres and have regular national cases conferences to discuss all of our patients; this is at the National Adult Small Intestinal Transplant forum (NASIT).