

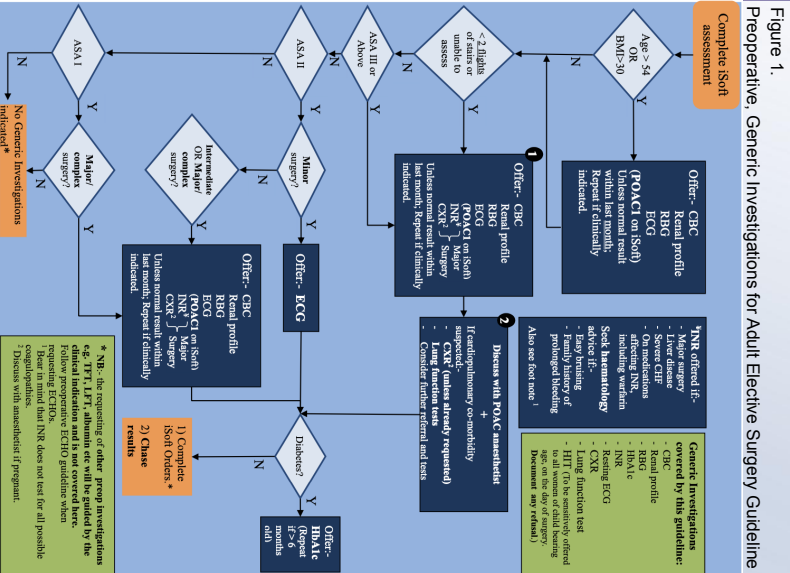
**ABSTRACT**

Pre-operative assessment is an essential aspect in preparing patients for elective procedures. It allows us to risk-stratify patients, and optimise their associated medical or surgical conditions beforehand thereby reducing the percentage of peri- and post operative complications.

Pre-operative Guidelines for optimal pre-operative assessment were established by the Anaesthesia Department to allow for a structured preoperative approach.

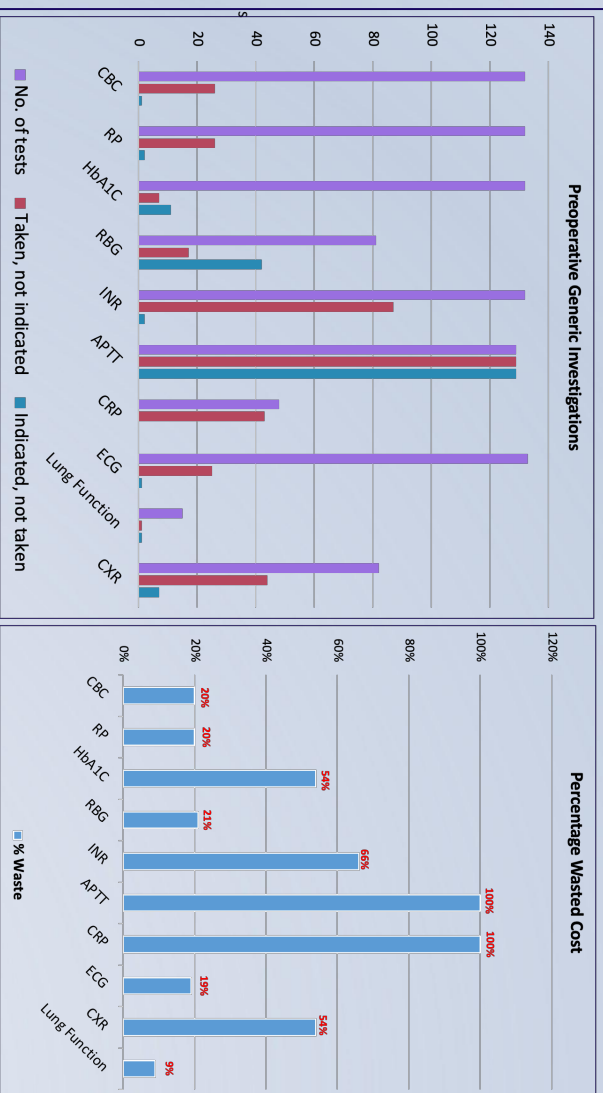
The aim of this study is to assess the adherence to the local guidelines of Preoperative Generic Investigations for Adult Elective Surgery. Implications of non-adherence to guidelines such as extra cost will be explored.

**METHODS**



- 133 Patients of one surgical team at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta were chosen.
- Data was collected retrospectively from the online database
- The local guidelines shown (Fig. 1) determine which tests are to be taken based on the ASA score, BMI and patients' age.
- Data collated was analysed comparatively against the guidelines
- Data collected:
- Number of investigations according to guidelines
- Number of investigations not according to guidelines
- Number of investigations not taken even though indicated.
- The total expenditure for each test was calculated and the amount of tests taken when not indicated were transcribed into percentage waste cost.

**RESULTS**



- Total number of patients: 133
- Investigations which were not indicated: 404
- Investigations indicated but not performed: 63
- Total cost: €6,403.47
- Wasted Cost: €3,506.09

**CONCLUSIONS**

In this study, none of the investigations ordered were according to guidelines. This poses a financial burden on the healthcare system, whilst possibly leading to inappropriate and lack of investigations prior to procedures. It may also suggest that the staff carrying out the assessments might either not be aware of the guidelines or are not inclined to use them. The introduction of electronic health records may promote cost transparency and reduce laboratory cost.

**REFERENCES**

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