

Table 6

**MORBIDITY RATES**

ANAESTHESIA		MEDICAL	
General anaesthesia	1:1,103 <sup>174</sup>	Venipuncture	1:25,000 <sup>1</sup>
Anaphylactoid anaesthetic reactions (restricted to life-threatening or operation-disrupting)	1:1,000 to 1:10,000 <sup>148</sup>	Epidural (Depo-Medrol)	1:40 - 1:200 <sup>154</sup>
SURGERY		HOSPITAL	
'Atherosclerotic procedure-related complications'	1:6 <sup>123</sup>	Hospital iatrogenesis	1:2.78 <sup>114</sup>
Idiopathic scoliosis surgery (adult)	1:2.44 minor <sup>149</sup> [1:4.4 serious]	18%-30% of all hospitalised patients have a drug reaction...resulting in doubling of hospital duration. <sup>115</sup>	
'Cardiac surgery'	1:1.64 (51%) <sup>150</sup>	Iatrogenic paediatric admissions to intensive care	1.22 <sup>131</sup>
Chemoneucleolysis <sup>121</sup>		Drug complications	1.68
Cauda equina	1:2,911	Surgical complication	1:77
New root deficits	1:257	Iatrogenic adult admissions to intensive care 1:7.9 <sup>132</sup>	
Paraplegia	1:21,831	Drug complications	1:14
Allergic reaction to anaesthesia	1:49	Therapeutic error	1:23
Discectomy	1:27 <sup>120</sup>	Drug reactions	1:20-1:33 <sup>115</sup>
Cauda equina	1:200 <sup>120</sup>	(30% of these have a second drug reaction)	
Sciatic surgery		DISEASES/CONDITIONS—INCIDENCE <sup>156</sup>	
'Wrong level'	1:45 <sup>121</sup>	Measles	
Total complications	1:4	Pneumonia	1.25
Lumbar disc re-operation		Encephalitis	1:2,000
Successful (28%)	1:3.6 <sup>151</sup>	Measles-encephalitis—mortality	1:20,000
Repeat surgery for failed lumbar disc surgery	1:5.6 <sup>152</sup>	Brain damage	1:5,000
Percentage successful result of repeat:		Breast cancer by age 70	1:14 <sup>157</sup>
Discectomy	75.0%	After 5 or more years on HRT	1:10 <sup>157</sup>
Decompression	27.8%	VACCINATION	
Stabilisation	33.0%	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whole cell pertussis	
Decompression & stabilisation	50.0%	Anaphylactic reaction	1:50,000 <sup>4</sup>
Repair of pseudoarthrosis & decompression	14.3%	Severe reaction	1:2,000 <sup>4</sup>
DRUGS		Measles—encephalitis (expected recovery)	1:1,000,000 <sup>4</sup>
Drug reactions	1.67 <sup>147</sup>	SPINAL MANIPULATION	
Daily use of aspirin 6% more likely to experience a stroke <sup>111</sup>		VBA (non-fatal) — 'as low as'	1:1,000,000 <sup>64</sup>
25% of all reported drug reactions in the UK are associated with NSAIDs, yet they comprise 5% of prescriptions. <sup>153</sup>		SMT-related cauda equina syndrome	1:100,000,000 <sup>22</sup>

It is noted that while some of these interventions do not necessarily compare directly with manipulative therapies, they reflect the risk factors which exist with all procedures.