

# 2024 Air entrainment (Venous line)

Permission to print: Yes

Category: Air in circuit

Severity: Good Catch No Harm Incident

Description: It was a VSD repair. CPB was initiated with only a SVC venous cannula with the IVC cannula clamped off. We (Qualified Perfusionist and trainee Perfusionist) were on CPB for 30 seconds before the Surgical Trainee (who had cannulated), accidentally opened up the clamp on the IVC. The Consultant was in the room but not scrubbed. The venous line filled up with air. We clamped the venous line and started transfusing and then stopped once BP was re-established. The surgical trainee filled the venous line with 50ml aliquots of saline and CPB was re-established. During the 3 minutes that we were off bypass, the patient's mean BP was never below 81mmHg and the heart was still in sinus rhythm. CPB was restabilised with no harm to the patient.

**GOOD CATCH - what went well** Clamping the venous line quickly

**What could we do better** We don't currently have a tap on the venous line near the reservoir to enable retro filling the venous line but we have spoken about it in the past, and it could be used for VAP as well.

Preventive actions: Don't remove the IVC clamp

Type of incident: Management

Duration of incident: minutes

Hospital incident filed: No

Ext Authority Advised: No

Discussed with team: Yes

Rule issue: No

Skill issue: Yes

Protocol issue: No

Team Issue: No

Violation: No

Patient outcome variance: Nil