**S1 Table.** Surgical severity criteria developed on the basis of surgical opinion leaders and a literature review, adjusted for crude mortality in the study population.

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| **Surgical severity** | **Definition** | **Procedures included** |
| **Minor** | Minimal or minor risk, independent of clinical conditions or anaesthesiaMinimally to moderately invasive procedure | Minor (laparoscopic) gynaecological proceduresBreast surgeryMinor ENT proceduresMinor oral and maxillofacial proceduresUncomplicated hernia repairAppendectomyMinor genitourinary procedures (nephrostomy, cystoscopy, extracorporeal shock-wave lithotripsy, bladder biopsy)ThyroidectomyLaparoscopyCosmetic plastic surgeriesMinor orthopaedic procedures (tendon release, small-joint surgery)Haemorrhoidectomy  |
| **Moderate** | Moderately invasive procedurePotential estimated blood loss 500-1500 mlModerate risk to patient independent of clinical conditions or anaesthesia | Endovascular aortic aneurysm repair Minor orthopaedic and spinal procedures (laminectomy, anterior and posterior cervical arthrodesis, hip or knee arthrotomy, open reduction of jaw fractures).Cholecystectomy (open or laparoscopic)Ostomy procedures (gastrostomy, ileostomy, colostomy)Minor chest procedures (mediastinoscopy, sympathectomy, tracheal prosthesis, video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery)Oesophageal surgery for benign conditions (pyloromyotomy, oesophagomyotomy, fundoplication)SplenectomyHysterectomyMinimally invasive or minor neurosurgical procedures (brain biopsy, ventriculoperitoneal shunting, endoscopic intracranial surgery, endoscopic third ventriculostomy)Percutaneous or laparoscopic genitourinary tract procedures (nephrectomy, adrenalectomy, pyeloplasty, pyelolithotomy, transurethral resection of the prostate or bladder, laparoscopic radical nephroureterectomy)Pleural surgery (pleurodesis) |
| **Major** | Highly invasive procedurePotential estimated blood loss greater than 1500 mlMajor to critical risk to patient independent of clinical conditions or anaesthesia | Any heart surgeryExploratory laparotomyColorectal resections/bowel anastomoses (colectomy, rectosigmoidectomy, abdominoperineal resection)Oesophageal surgery for malignant conditions (oesophagectomy, oesophagogastrectomy) or diaphragmatic hernia repairArterial bypass procedures (femorofemoral, aortofemoral, axillofemoral, embolectomy)Amputations (above/below-elbow, above/below-knee, upper limb, lower limb)Open aneurysm repair (abdominal, thoracic, or thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm, surgical repair of aortic dissection) Hepatic or biliary tract procedures (hepatectomy, biliary tract exploration, biliary-enteric anastomosis)PancreatectomyMajor orthopaedic procedures (spinal arthrodesis, revision arthroplasty)Major chest procedures (lobectomy, pneumonectomy, decortication, exploratory thoracotomy, thymectomy)Major genitourinary tract procedures (radical cystectomy, nephrectomy, radical prostatectomy, Wertheim-Meigs operation, cystenterostomy), Manor ENT procedures (laryngectomy, mandibulectomy, tumour resections)Craniotomy for non-vascular conditions (intracranial tumours, hypophysectomy, spinal tumours)Vascular microsurgery, drainage of subdural or intracerebral hematomaRetroperitoneal resections/hemipelvectomy |