

DRAFT - 9.9.85

CARDIAC SURGERY - THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION OF DEVON AND CORNWALL

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern technology provides the means of improving the quality of life and often of prolonging it in an estimated 500-600 people in a million population every year through heart surgery.

The Joint Cardiology Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England recommended in February 1985 in its Third Report that in every million population the following operations would be needed every year:

400-500 coronary artery bypass operations or angioplasties

100 valve operations

40 paediatric heart operations

Thus, in the Devon and Cornwall population of 1,412,000 (see Appendix 1), we could expect between 700 and 850 adult operations to be performed each year.

In 1984 a total of 404 heart operations was performed on patients from Devon and Cornwall. 64 people went to Bristol for their operations and 340 went outside the South Western Region.

This paper considers the following questions:

- (a) Is the estimate of the number of heart operations likely to be right:
 - (i) as applied to our population in 1985;
 - (ii) in view of changes in types of treatment for heart conditions reducing the need for surgery;
 - (iii) in view of the expectation that successful health promotion will reduce the incidence of heart disease?
- (b) Should patients from Devon and Cornwall have to continue to go to Bristol or outside the region for their heart operations?
- (c) If a second cardiac surgery unit is provided in the South Western Region, where should it be?
- (d) What are the options for providing cardiac surgery in Plymouth?