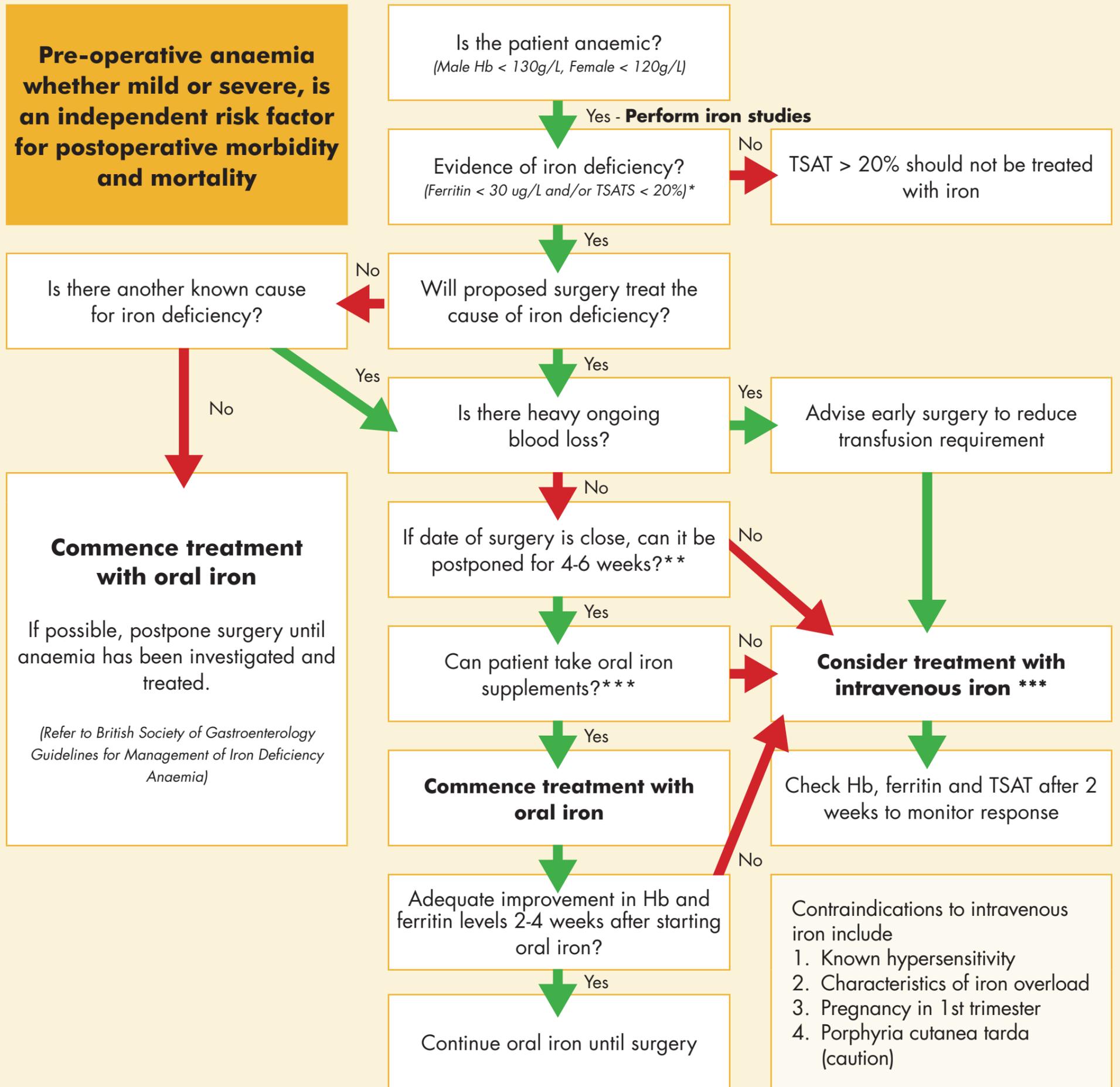


Guidance on the Management of Iron Deficiency Anaemia prior to Surgery

Northern Ireland Transfusion Committee



Pre-operative anaemia whether mild or severe, is an independent risk factor for postoperative morbidity and mortality

Is there another known cause for iron deficiency?

Commence treatment with oral iron

If possible, postpone surgery until anaemia has been investigated and treated.

(Refer to British Society of Gastroenterology Guidelines for Management of Iron Deficiency Anaemia)

* Ferritin may be elevated in acute inflammation (e.g. 30-100 ug/L) and can mask iron deficiency

In these cases a TSAT < 20% and a low serum iron identifies iron deficiency

** As per Chief Medical Officer Guidance HSS-MD-22-2012 **"Management of the Anaemic Adult Patient Prior to Scheduled Major Surgery"**

*** Intravenous iron is indicated for patients with malabsorption, inflammatory bowel disease, non-compliance with oral iron and intolerance of its side effects

N.B. intravenous iron is a Red-listed drug www.ipnsm.hscni.net