



Publication Summary

Scottish Arthroplasty Project Biennial Report 2012

A summary of procedures and outcomes for patients undergoing arthroplasty operations during 2010 & 2011

13/11/2012

About this Release

This report presents the numbers of arthroplasties (joint replacements) in Scotland for 2010 and 2011, and complications for these patients.

Key Points

- Since 2006, the number of NHS hip and knee replacement operations in Scottish hospitals has remained relatively steady. There were 6,956 primary hip NHS replacements and 6,552 primary knee NHS replacements in Scotland in 2011.
- Relatively high numbers of hip and knee arthroplasties were carried out by consultants who performed these operations relatively infrequently, increasing the risk of subsequent complication.
- The average length of inpatient stay when undergoing hip or knee surgery continued to decrease; from 10 days in 2001 to six in 2011.
- Scottish rates of death following hip or knee arthroplasty were less than 0.5% (the lowest ever for hip arthroplasty).
- Scottish rates of major orthopaedic complications were all less than 1.5%.
- Scottish rates of revision within one year of hip or knee arthroplasty were less than 1% .
- Scottish rates of revision within five years of hip or knee arthroplasty were less than 2.5%.

Background

The Scottish Arthroplasty Project (SAP) analyses hospital inpatient information to link joint replacement surgery (arthroplasty) patients with subsequent medical complications resulting from each operation.

Operations and subsequent complications are routinely monitored and any causes for concern (where the rate of incidence of complications rises above an agreed level) are

notified to the care team involved. They then review each complication involved, and submit their review and proposed remedial action (if required) for appraisal.

The SAP is administrated by the Information Services Division (ISD) of National Services Scotland (NSS), a special NHS Health Board which provides national strategic support services and expert advice to NHS Scotland. The SAP is managed by the Scottish Arthroplasty Project Steering Committee (SAPSC), and clinical members of the SAPSC carry out appraisal on submitted reviews and remedial action plans. The SAP is overseen by the Scottish Committee for Orthopaedics and Trauma (SCOT).

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [full report](#)  [3Kb], on the [Audit/Registry website](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves. www.isdscotland.org/