

Scottish Arthroplasty Project

Year Ending 31 December 2015

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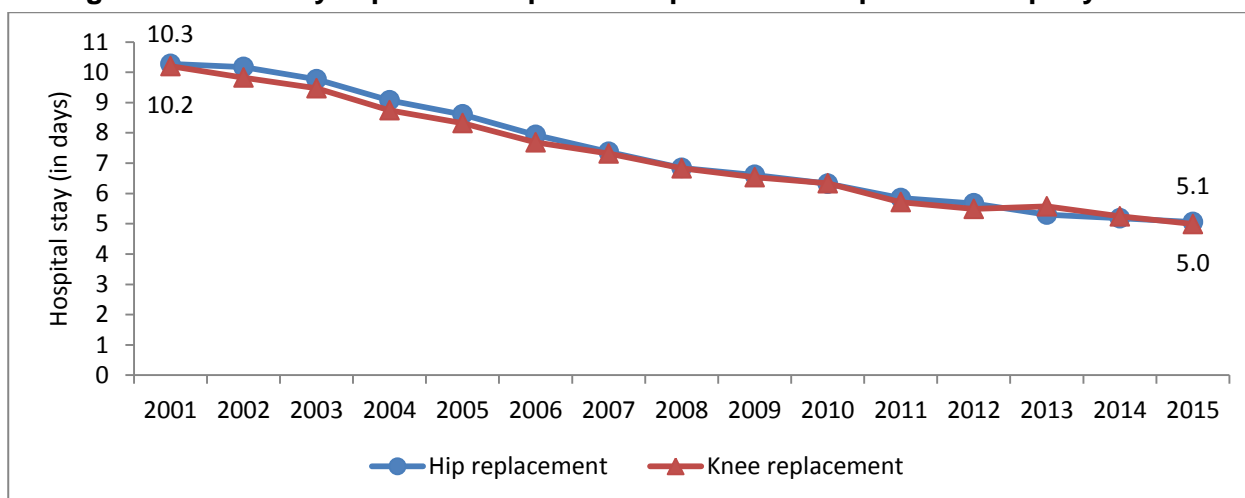
About this release

This release from the Information Services Division presents data on the number of hip and knee replacement surgeries (arthroplasties) in Scotland in 2014 and 2015, and any medical complications resulting from these operations. Hip and knee replacements are the most common type of arthroplasty carried out in Scotland.

Main points

- Over the last decade there has been a 41% increase in the number of hip and knee replacements performed in Scotland, from 11,189 in 2005 to 15,781 in 2015.
- Overall the number of complications following surgery has reduced, although the number of patients experiencing renal failure within 30 days of surgery has increased in recent years.
- The average age of patients having hip or knee replacements is 67.
- 282 patients (2.2%) who had a hip or knee replacement in 2010 had to have revision surgery within 5 years.
- 34 patients (0.2%) who had a hip or knee replacement in 2015 died within 90 days of their operation, which is similar to the mortality rate within the general population.
- Patients undergoing hip or knee replacements spend half as long in hospital as they did 15 years ago. In 2015, the average length of a hospital stay was 5 days, compared to 10 days in 2001.

Average number of days spent in hospital for hip and knee replacements per year



Background

Since 2010, the Scottish Arthroplasty Project has analysed hospital inpatient information to monitor the number of complications following hip and knee replacements in Scotland, and to ensure that surgeons performing these operations do not have a higher than expected complication rate. Any cause for concern, where there is a higher than expected number of complications following operations performed by a particular surgeon, are highlighted and the surgeon is notified. These surgeons are asked to investigate the reasons for the increased rate in complications and to develop an action plan to reduce their recurrence.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the full Scottish Arthroplasty Project Report at <http://www.arthro.scot.nhs.uk/Reports/Main.html>.

The next update of this publication will be in August 2017.