

Scottish Arthroplasty Project

Year ending 31 December 2017

A Management Information publication for Scotland

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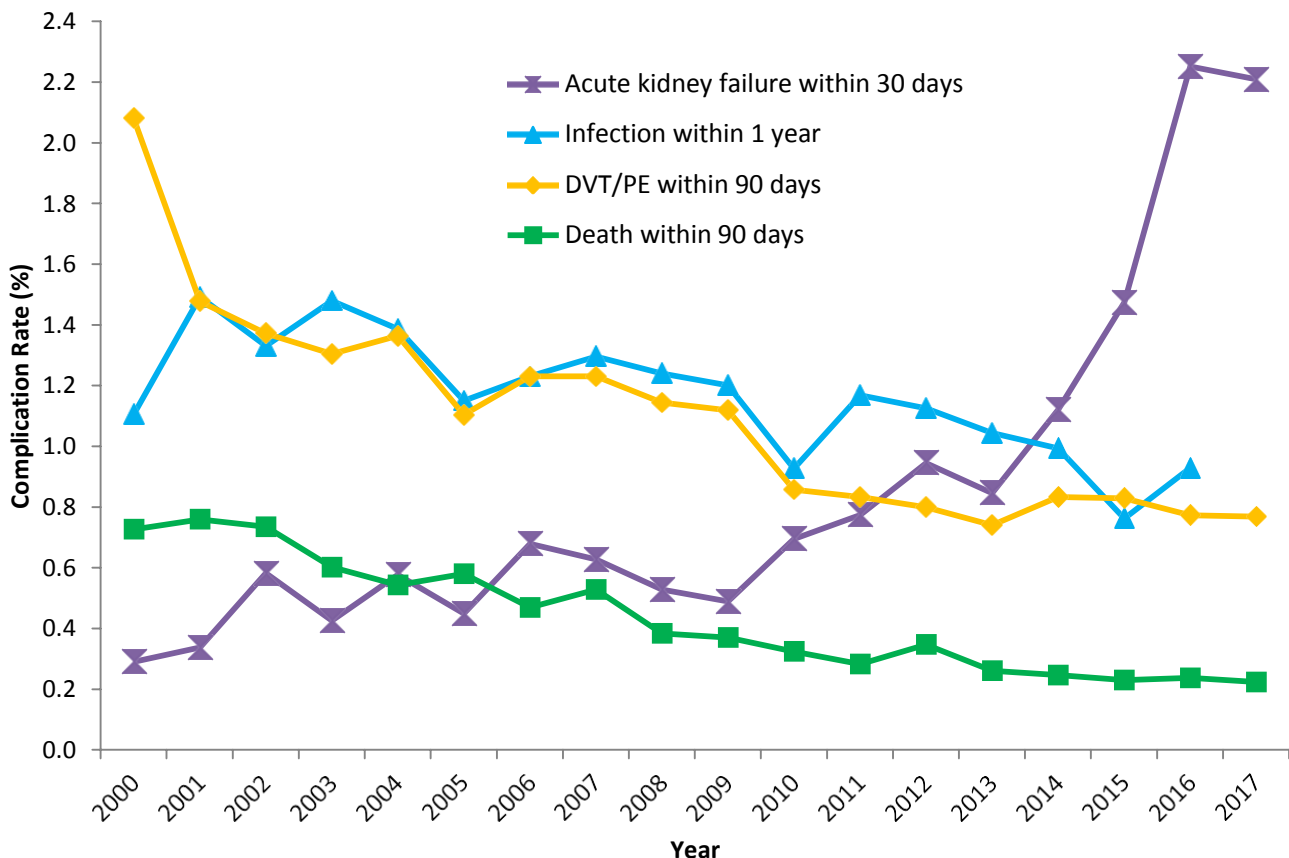
About this release

This release by Information Services Division presents data on the number of arthroplasty (joint replacement) operations in Scotland during 2016 and 2017. Medical complications (such as infection or revision surgery) resulting from the most common type of arthroplasty operations (hip and knee) are also analysed within the report.

Main Points

- Over the last decade there has been a 14.50% increase in the number of hip or knee replacements performed in Scotland, from 12,493 in 2008 to 14,300 in 2017.
- The percentage of patients readmitted due to a deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism (DVT/PE) within 90 days of surgery continues to fall from 2.08% in 2000 to 0.77% in 2017.
- The percentage of patients experiencing temporary kidney failure has risen over recent years from 0.29% in 2000 to 2.21% in 2017.

Combined complication rates for primary hip and primary knee procedures in Scotland



- The percentage of patients readmitted due to an infection within 1 year of surgery has increased from 0.76% in 2016 to 0.93% in 2017 but is still an improvement over previous years.
- 32 patients (0.22%) who had a hip or knee replacement in 2017 died within 90 days of their operation, which is similar to the mortality rate within the general population.
- Revision rate within 5 years of surgery is 2.12% for primary hip procedures and 2.51% for primary knee procedures.

Background

The Scottish Arthroplasty Project remains one of the oldest arthroplasty registry organisations in the world. It is now a member of the International Society of Arthroplasty Registries and in comparison to many other countries are able to produce good quality data for a very modest outlay with the principal aim of providing quality assurance and adverse outcome monitoring of major joint replacement surgery in Scotland.

The Scottish Arthroplasty Project analyses 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. Where there is a higher than expected number of complications following operations performed by a particular surgeon, the surgeon is notified and asked to investigate the reasons for the increased rate in complications and to develop an action plan to reduce their recurrence.

Deep venous thrombosis occurs when a blood clot forms in the veins of the leg. Pulmonary embolus results when this clot passes through the circulation to lodge in the lung. These two conditions are uncommon but serious complications of surgery.

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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>.

The next update of this publication will be in August 2019.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Further information about our statistics.](#)