

Scottish Arthroplasty Project

Year ending 31 December 2018

A Management Information publication for Scotland

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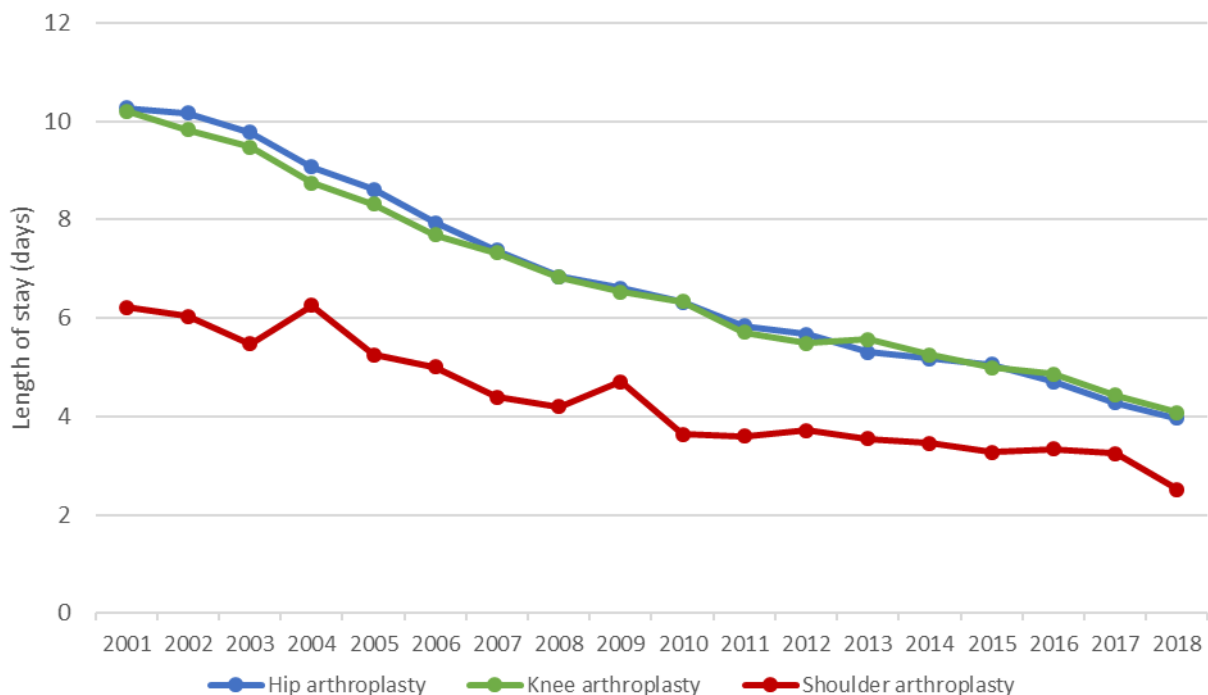
About this release

This release by Information Services Division presents data on the number of arthroplasty (joint replacement) operations in Scotland between 2001 and 2018 and on the frequency of medical complications such as infection or revision surgery following hip and knee replacements.

Main Points

- Since 2001 the number of primary hip or knee replacements performed in Scotland have almost doubled, from 7,562 in 2001 to 15,091 in 2018.
- Acute kidney failure, an important complication following primary hip or knee replacement, has fallen in the past two years from 2.3% in 2016 to 1.5% in 2018.
- Patients are continuing to spend less time in hospital following primary hip, knee or shoulder replacement. In 2018 the mean length of stay for primary hip or knee replacement was 4 days and for primary shoulder replacement 2.5 days.

Average overall length of stay for hip, knee and shoulder arthroplasty patients in Scotland



- Approximately 1 in 50 primary hip and knee replacements require revision surgery within 5 years.

Background

The Scottish Arthroplasty Project remains one of the oldest arthroplasty registry organisations in the world. It is 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.

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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 2020.

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.](#)