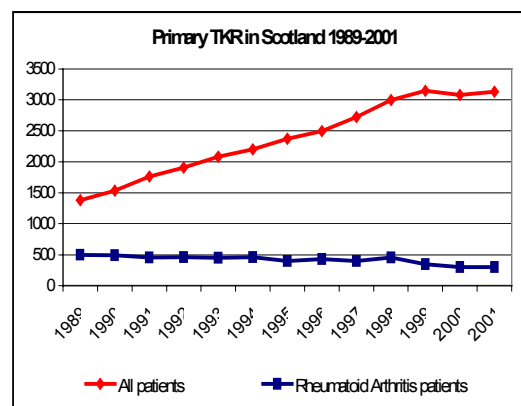
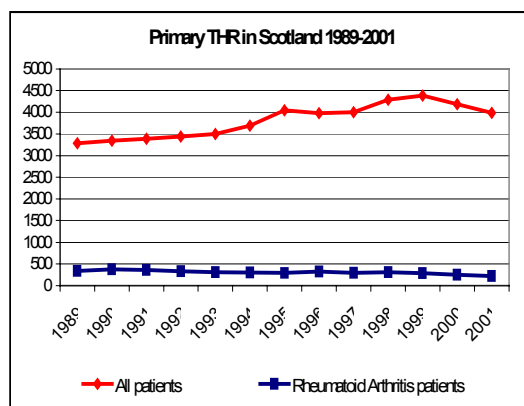


Primary Hip and Knee Replacements in Scotland

Analysis of NHS rheumatoid arthritis patients



The trend in numbers of primary hip replacements carried out by year in the general population has been generally increasing, whilst the trend in numbers of primary hip replacements carried out in the rheumatoid arthritis population has been generally decreasing. The average time between a patient presenting with rheumatoid arthritis and having a primary hip replacement is 5 years.

The trends in primary knee replacements are more marked than those for primary hip replacement, but have the same increasing trends in the general population and decreasing trends in the rheumatoid arthritis population.

The table below shows the reduction in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients having total hip and knee replacements. This reduction is far greater than the reduction in patients with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis being admitted to hospital generally.

	1990	2000	% change
First Diag RA*	1722	1601	-8%
THR	378	254	-33%
TKR	489	299	-39%

* First hospital episode where rheumatoid arthritis diagnosed

Source: National SMR01 linked database