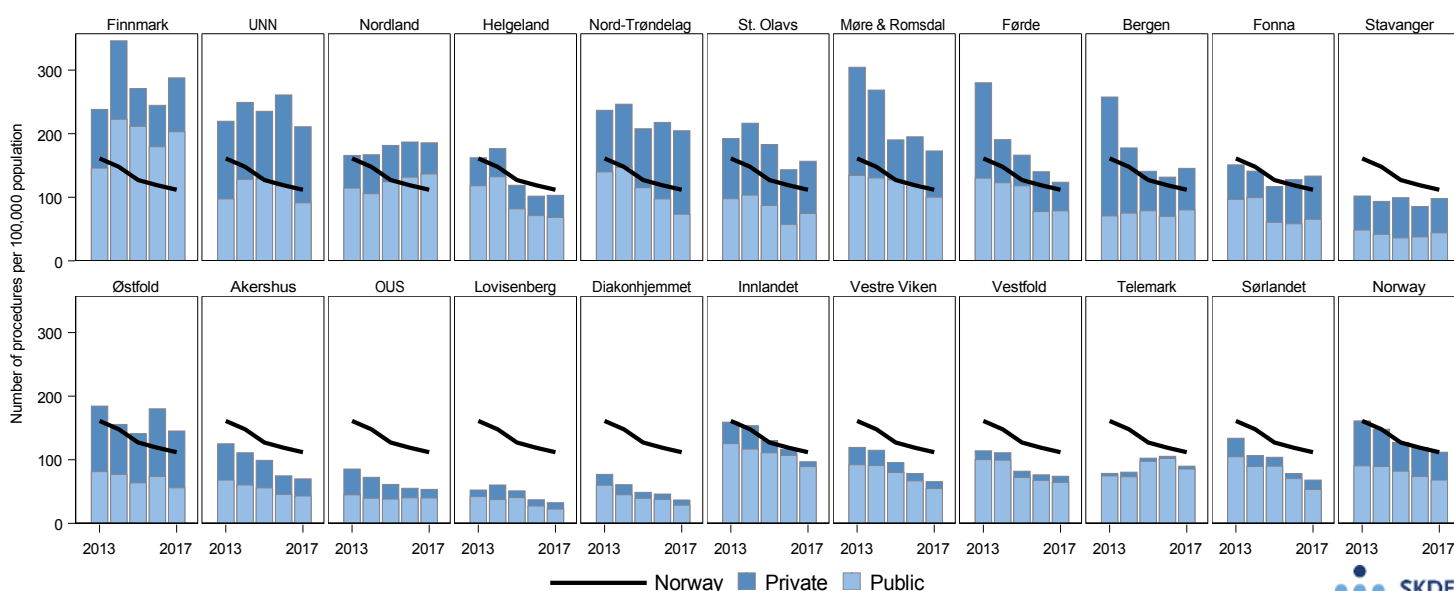


# Day surgery in Norway 2013–2017

## Shoulder surgery (acromion resection)

Strain on the muscles and tendons between the shoulder joint and the acromion (the rotator cuff) is a common complaint. Lack of space can cause acute and chronic shoulder pain and impair muscular function (impingement syndrome). It can often be challenging to make a precise diagnosis because different conditions may present with the same findings on clinical examination. The effect of surgical treatment is not scientifically well-documented, and conservative treatment can be equally effective. Some patients who have osteophytes and/or calcification of ligaments and experience mechanical symptoms may benefit from surgery.



Source: NPR/SSB

Acromion resections, development in the number of procedures per 100,000 population during the period 2013–2017, adjusted for gender and age. Broken down by hospital referral areas and public or private treatment providers.

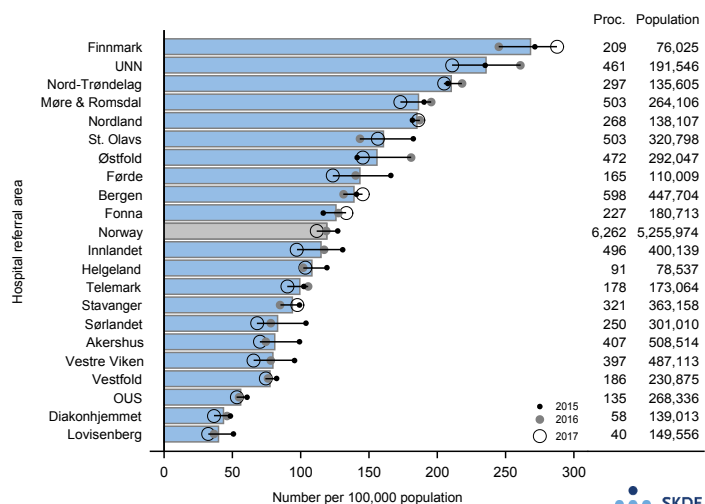
### Development since 2013

The 2015 day surgery atlas showed extensive use of shoulder surgery and considerable variation between the health trusts' hospital referral areas during 2011–2013. A total of 8,100 procedures (adjusted rate: 161 per 100,000) were performed in Norway in 2013. The number of procedures per 100,000 population was nearly four times as high for inhabitants of Møre og Romsdal hospital referral area as for those resident in the Stavanger area.

During the period 2015–2017, residents in Finnmark hospital referral area had 6.7 times as many procedures per 100,000 population as residents in the Lovisenberg area.

The number of acromion resections was reduced to 5,950 procedures (adjusted rate: 112 per 100,000) in 2017. This involved a reduction in activity at both public hospitals and publicly funded private hospitals, but the reduction was somewhat greater in the private than in the public hospitals. The reduction was particularly great for the population of the hospital referral areas that fall under the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, most of which saw a reduction of 35–50% per 100,000 population. Similar reduction rates were also found in the hospital referral areas of Bergen, Førde, Møre og Romsdal and Helgeland.

For most of the hospital referral areas, the decrease in shoulder surgery started before the day surgery atlas was published in 2015. Some specialist communities and regional health authorities had already been aware for some time of the extensive use of shoulder surgery. Also, more documentation became available to show that conservative treatment is as effective as surgical treatment.



Source: NPR/SSB

Number of acromion resections per 100,000 population, adjusted for gender and age. Average per year for the period 2015–2017.

### Comments

The South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority has successfully reduce the number of acromion resections. Despite a considerable reduction, it is clear that there is no consensus in the medical community about the indications for acromion resection. There was far greater variation between hospital referral areas in acromion resections during 2015–2017 than during 2011–2013, and this health service does not appear to be equitably distributed in the population regardless of where one lives.