

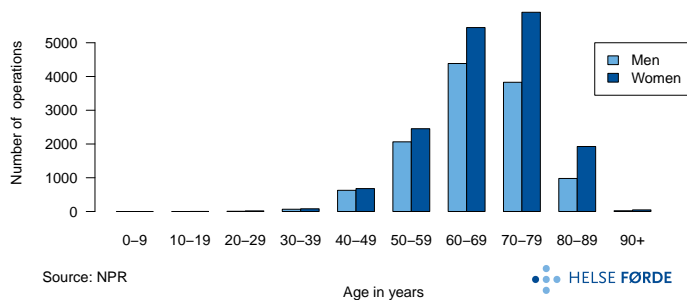
Osteoarthritis of the knee

Osteoarthritis of the knee develops as a result of wear and tear on cartilage surfaces and other age related changes of the joint. More than 30 % of people over 65 years of age suffer from osteoarthritis of the knee, and it affects twice as many women as men. Pain and loss of function often increase over time. Most patients achieve good results with simple treatment measures like physical training and pain relieving medication. Prosthetic replacement is an option that can provide good pain relief and improve the patient's functioning and quality of life in the later stage of the disease, and many patients achieve good pain relief, improved function and quality of life.

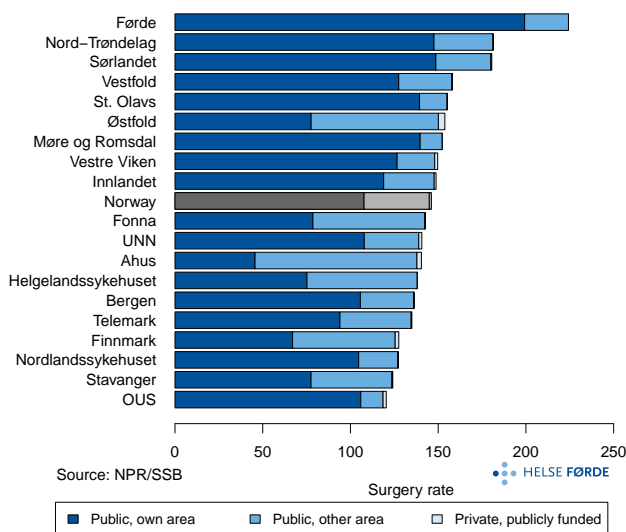
Background

Osteoarthritis of the knee is defined by a primary or secondary diagnosis of M17 (ICD-10). Surgical treatment is defined by diagnosed osteoarthritis of the knee in combination with one or more of the procedure codes NGB01, NGB02, NGB03, NGB04, NGB11, NGB12, NGB13, NGB14, NGB20, NGB30, NGB40, NGB99, NGK59, NGK69 (NCSP). Patients aged 18 years or older are included in the sample, except in the figure that shows gender and age distribution of patients who have been operated (all ages).

Each year an average of about 5,500 patients are operated with prosthetic replacement or osteotomy for osteoarthritis of the knee. This accounts for one fourth of all patients with osteoarthritis of the knee in contact with the specialist health service.



Source: NPR
Total number of operations for osteoarthritis of the knee during the period 2012–2016, for Norway as a whole. The patients have been broken down by gender and age group.



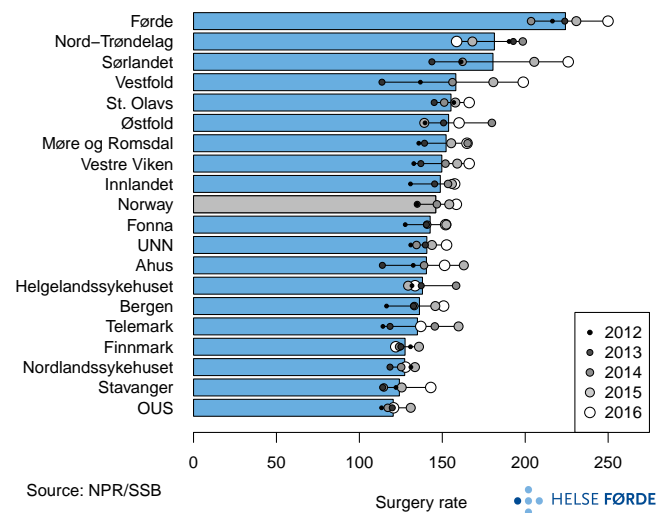
Source: NPR/SSB
Surgery rate: Number of operations for osteoarthritis of the knee per 100,000 population (18 years and older), broken down by hospital referral area. The rates have been adjusted for gender and age. The bars show the average value per year for the period 2012–2016, with the percentage distribution broken down by where the patients had surgery.

Results

Knee surgery for osteoarthritis of the knee, by means of prosthetic replacement and osteotomy, is almost twice as common in the Førde area as in the OUS area. Percentage operated is lowest in the Finnmark area (20 %) and highest in the Vestfold area (31 %). The surgery rate seems to increase in many areas, as well as for the country as a whole.

Nearly all patients are operated at public hospitals, but some hospital referral areas have a significant proportion of patients operated at public hospitals in other hospital referral areas.

Total prosthetic replacement accounts for 85 % of operations, partial prosthetic replacement 11 % and osteotomy 4 %.



Source: NPR/SSB
Surgery rate: Number of operations for osteoarthritis of the knee per 100,000 population (18 years and older), broken down by hospital referral area and for Norway as a whole. The bars show the average value per year during the period 2012–2016, and the dots represent the rates for each year. The rates have been adjusted for gender and age.

Comments

The variation in surgery rates for osteoarthritis of the knee is moderate. The Førde area, in particular, stands out with high surgery rates, while variation between other hospital referral areas is relatively small. There is no known corresponding geographical variation in the prevalence of osteoarthritis of the knee in Norway, and the variation is therefore characterised as unwarranted.

Surgical treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee increased somewhat during the period. This is consistent with trends found in the other Nordic countries and with previous recommendations in Norway.