

Tonsillectomy

Tonsillectomy is one of the operations most commonly performed on children. According to the applicable guidelines, it can be performed on patients with recurring throat infections for at least two years, recurring peritonsillar abscesses or ear infections, and enlarged tonsils that cause problems with breathing or swallowing.

Sample

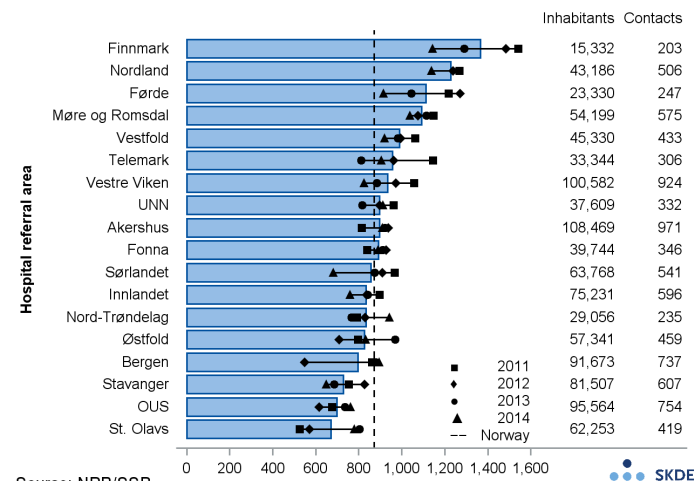
The sample consists of all contacts (admissions, outpatient consultations and day patient treatment) involving tonsillectomies for children in the somatic specialist health service, including specialists in private practice under public funding contracts.

Tonsillectomy is defined by a primary or secondary diagnosis of (ICD-10) H65.2, H65.3 or in category block J35, in combination with procedure codes (NCSP) EMB10, EMB12, EMB15, EMB20, EMB30 or EMB99 for hospitals with activity-based funding. Specialists in private practice under public funding contracts use the same diagnosis codes in combination with tariff codes K02a, K02b, K02d, K02e, K02f or K02g.

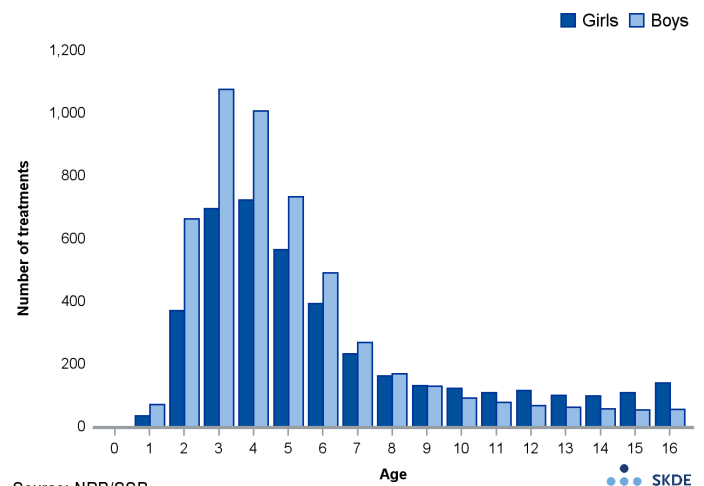
Comments

The usage rate for tonsillectomy is twice as high for children who live in Finnmark hospital referral area as for children in the St. Olavs area. On average, 9,200 procedures are performed each year. The rates vary quite a lot from year to year for most hospital referral areas. There was an overall decrease of about 400 procedures in 2014 compared with the preceding year.

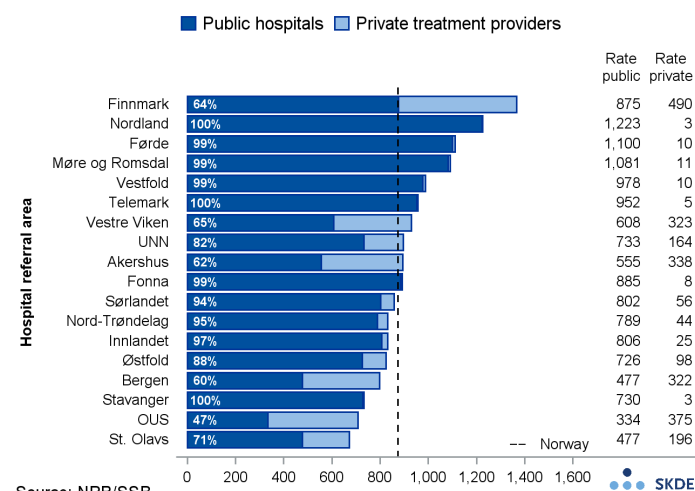
Nearly half the hospital referral areas have a division of work between private and public treatment providers. OUS hospital referral area has the highest proportion of private practice surgery (53%). There does not appear to be any connection between the proportion of private surgery and the total rate.



Source: NPR/SSB
Surgery, tonsillectomy, age-adjusted usage rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area, per year and as an average for the period 2011-2014.



Source: NPR/SSB
Surgery, tonsillectomy, number of treatments, age and gender, as an average for the period 2011-2014.



Source: NPR/SSB
Surgery, tonsillectomy, broken down by public or private treatment providers, age-adjusted usage rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area and as an average for the period 2011-2014.

Tonsillectomies are most commonly performed on children between the ages of two and six years, and more often on boys than on girls.

There is considerable variation in the tonsillectomy usage rates between hospital referral areas. However, there is no known geographical variation in the prevalence of the underlying conditions (recurrent throat and ear infections). The variation in usage rates can therefore be interpreted as expressing differences in medical practice as regards the referral, assessment and prioritisation of patients with these conditions.