

NJR

Explaining this data

The National Joint Registry (NJR) is mandatory and records all joint replacement activity in the UK which for me includes both Unicompartmental (UKR) and Total Knee Replacements (TKR).

It does allow an overview of the numbers of patients a surgeon has operated on, where the surgery was done and the patient demographics (age/sex/weight). In terms of outcome of surgery, the only measure recorded by the NJR is revision or further surgery on that joint which has significant limitations. Unless revised that patient would be considered a success which we know is not always true. Functional patient outcomes are recorded by the National PROMs programme. This is not mandatory for all patients and so is therefore biased. It is available to view (at Trust activity level) at NHS Digital although it is stated that “the national PROMs data can be difficult to interpret”.

My data

p 2 My activity is approx. 60:40 (NHS:private)

p 4 The graph on the top left shows that I am doing an increasing number of UKRs over the last 3 years

p 5 My patient characteristics seem similar to the national average although slightly more ‘fitter’ (ASA 1) patients

p 6 My revision rates are all on the “better than expected” side of (national) average

p 7-11 Funnel plots

These graphs are initially difficult to interpret but reflect the revision rates compared to annual activity for all UK surgeons. An “average” revision rate for UK surgeons is reflected by the solid line at 1. Any dots (surgeons) below this line reflect a better than average revision rate. You can see that my black and blue dots are all below the line

Sean O’Leary