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Age, sex, race and ethnicity representativeness of randomised controlled trials in peri-operative medicine

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Summary

The applicability of the results of any clinical trial will depend to a large extent on whether the study population is representative of the population seen in clinical practice. The growing older surgical population presents challenges for peri-operative researchers to ensure there is adequate representation of patients in terms of their age, sex, race and ethnicity in clinical trials. A review of purposively sampled published randomised controlled trials was performed to establish the age, sex, race and ethnicity of study participants. These data were compared to national registry data for the relevant surgical populations. We included 224 peri-operative trials that had been cited in 469 retrieved meta-analyses. Of these, 50 (22.3%) had an upper age limit to recruitment. The median (range [IQR]) difference in study population age from the registry population age was -2.4 (-6.2 to 1.0 [-34.7 to 14.5]) years for all the randomised controlled trials identified, -6.2 (-9.4 to -2.8 [-18.6 to 4.6]) years for randomised controlled trials investigating patients undergoing hip arthroplasty and -3.4 (-9.6 to -1.1 [-34.7 to 2.9]) years for trials involving patients undergoing surgery for fractured neck of femur. In 92 (41.1%) randomised controlled trials, the proportion of each sex in the study population was more than 25% different from the proportion in the registry population. Only 5 (2.2%) published data on the race or ethnicity of participants. We conclude that peri-operative randomised controlled trials are unlikely to be representative of the age and sex of clinically treated surgical populations. Researchers must endeavour to ensure representative study populations are recruited to future clinical trials.

Introduction

The applicability of the results of any clinical trial depends to a large extent on whether the study population is representative of the population of patients treated in clinical practice. Ideally, this would at least include representation of: age; sex; race; and ethnicity. The global population is ageing, and it is predicted that by 2050, the number of people aged > 60 y will more than double to 2.1 billion [1]. Fowler et al. have shown that the population of patients having surgery in England are ageing faster than the population as a whole, and estimate that by 2030, one-fifth of those aged > 75 y will undergo surgery each year [2].

Under-representation of older patients in clinical trials [3–5] has resulted in numerous agencies producing guidance on the inclusion of older patients to improve adequate representation and hence the applicability of any findings [6,7]. Historically, there has been an under-recruitment of females to clinical trials [8]. This has been in part attributed to the discouragement of females of child-bearing age from participation, particularly following the thalidomide scandal of the 1960s [9]. Reporting on this issue together with publication of guidance on clinical trial sex-representation appears to have resulted in improved representation [9,10]. Despite this, female under-representation in clinical research continues to be reported [11,12].

The expanding and increasingly older surgical population presents challenges for peri-operative trialists to ensure there is adequate patient representation in clinical trials. We aimed to assess the adequacy of representation of: age; sex; race; and ethnicity of peri-operative research trials compared with contemporaneous national surgical populations.

Methods

We conducted a review of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) in peri-operative medicine. A purposive sampling approach was used, and we aimed to extract data on clinical trials likely to have been of greatest impact. Studies were selected that: aimed to answer a clinical question relevant to a high-volume major surgical population; examined core peri-operative domains; and were included in recent meta-analyses.

We used English surgical registry data to identify major surgical procedures frequently performed on older people [13]. Seven different surgical subgroups were chosen: colorectal resection; elective hip arthroplasty; elective knee arthroplasty; operative management of fractured neck of femur; transurethral resection of prostate and transurethral resection of bladder tumour; nephrectomy; and lung resection. Selection criteria for surgical subgroups can be found in Supplementary Appendix S1. In England, these seven operative categories account for 125,000 operations per year in patients aged > 75 y and 228,000 operations in all patients (see Supplementary Appendix S2 for frequency of each operation stratified by age). The most common procedure in older adults is cataract surgery (221,000 procedures per year in patients aged > 75 y). Trials in these patients were excluded, as it is a minor procedure and peri-operative research in this area is sparse.

Based on investigator discussions and following an initial scoping review of the literature, five domains of peri-operative interventions were chosen. These were: enhanced recovery after surgery; goal directed therapy; patient blood management; pain management; and pre-operative optimisation. Selection criteria for peri-operative domains can be found in Supplementary Appendix S1. We employed a purposive sampling strategy to identify peri-operative RCTs that have been included in meta-analyses, and are therefore likely to impact clinical practice. An initial search was performed to identify meta-analyses of the different peri-operative interventions in the specified surgical subgroups. Randomised controlled trials were then selected from these meta-analyses to be

used in our analysis. Literature searches were conducted using the electronic databases Ovid MEDLINE, Embase and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials.

We performed 35 searches across seven surgical categories and five research domains. Results were restricted to systematic reviews published during 2009 or later. A full list of the search terms used can be found in Supplementary Appendix S3. The search was conducted on 28 December 2018. The titles and abstracts of the search results were screened independently by two investigators. Any disagreement was resolved by a third investigator. Meta-analyses investigating the specified perioperative intervention in the specified surgical subgroup were selected. Studies looking specifically at paediatric populations were excluded.

Full texts of meta-analyses identified by our literature search were reviewed to ensure they met the inclusion criteria. Randomised controlled trials cited in the retrieved meta-analyses were selected. If there were 20 or more RCTs identified for any of the 35 search categories, the 10 most recent and then the 10 most cited of the remaining RCTs were used in our analysis. The full text of each of the identified RCTs was reviewed independently by two investigators. Any disagreement was resolved by a third investigator. The following data were extracted: the year of start and end of study recruitment; the country of treatment of the primary study population; the number of participants; the proportion of females; central values (mean or median) and spread (standard deviation or interquartile range); whether an age subgroup analysis was performed; whether participant race or ethnicity was reported (as defined by the primary study authors); the presence of any study population inclusion or exclusion criteria which the reviewer felt would exclude or bias against older people or a particular sex. The midpoints of the trial recruitment were used to represent the study year when making comparisons with registry data.

We extracted information regarding surgical subgroup population age and sex from the published data of three national registries: Hospital Episodes Statistics (England) [13], Federal Statistics Office of Germany [14] and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [15]. Age data from the National Hip Fracture Database [16] were used in the analysis of RCTs involving patients undergoing surgical management of a fractured neck of femur. The procedure codes used to identify each of the surgical subpopulations in each of the registries are included in Supplementary Appendix S4. Where not available, total mean age and standard deviations were calculated from the age group data provided by the registries. Where registry data was reported for financial years, the start year was used in the analysis. Where registry data was not available for certain years, data from the nearest year with data recorded was used in the analysis.

To report age representation, the mean registry age for the nearest year with available data was subtracted from the central value of the study age (mean or median). Values less than zero represent studies with average ages less than the corresponding registry population. Due to the asymmetrical sex balance in some populations (notably hip fracture), the sex representation was reported as the ratio of the proportion of male participants in the study compared to the proportion in the registry population. Values less than one represent under-representation of males, and greater than one, over-representation. Due to the lack of reported data on race and ethnicity, these data are reported narratively.

Data analysis was performed with Stata version 15 (Stata Corp, College Station, TX, USA). Data are presented descriptively. There is no inferential statistical analysis as this was felt to be inappropriate given the nature of our non-random sample.

Results

We identified 469 meta-analyses from which we screened 1158 RCTs and included 366 (31.6%). Of these, 224 (61.2%) met the eligibility criteria and were included in the final analysis (Fig. 1). A definitive list of included studies is provided in Supplementary Appendix S5. Of the 224 RCTs: 63 (28.1%) studied patients undergoing colorectal resection; 46 (20.5%) studied patients undergoing elective knee arthroplasty; 39 (17.4%) studied patients undergoing elective hip arthroplasty; 41 (18.3%) studied patients undergoing surgical management of a fractured neck of femur; 4 (1.8%) investigated patients undergoing transurethral resection of prostate or transurethral resection of bladder tumour; 1 (0.4%) studied patients undergoing nephrectomy; and 34 (15.2%) investigated patients undergoing lung resection. Given the limited number of RCTs identified studying nephrectomy, transurethral resection of prostate and transurethral resection of bladder tumour populations, we did not perform individual analyses of these data.

There was a total of 22,404 participants in all included RCTs. The median (IQR [range]) number of participants was 66 (45–110 [15–2016]). Of the 224 analysed RCTs, 114 (50.9%) were conducted in Europe, 34 (15.2%) in North America, 11 (4.9%) in Australasia, 64 (28.6%) in Asia, and 1 (0.4%) in South America. Registry data were qualitatively similar between all the included national registries. Data are therefore presented using the Hospital Episodes Statistics (England) database unless otherwise specified. For data on the age of patients undergoing operative management of fractured neck of femur, we used the National Hip Fracture Database. Additional analyses using German and Australian data are included in Supplementary Appendix S6.

The median (IQR [range]) difference between the study population age (mean or median) and the registry population age (mean) was: -2.4 (-6.2 to 1.0 [-34.7 to 14.5]) years for all RCTs identified; 0.3 (-4.3 to 3.0 [-28.2 to 9.8]) years for colorectal resection RCTs; -6.2 (-9.4 to -2.8 [-18.6 to 4.6]) years for elective hip arthroplasty RCTs; -1.7 (-3.2 to 0.3 [-8.8 to 6.2]) years for elective knee arthroplasty RCTs; -3.4 (-9.5 to -1.1 [-34.7 to 2.9]) years for surgery for fractured neck of femur RCTs; and -0.6 (-6.6 to 3 [-23.5 to 14.5]) years for lung resection RCTs (Fig. 2).

We made a judgement that 77 (34.4%) RCTs had exclusion criteria which might have unnecessarily excluded or biased against the inclusion of older people. Of these, 50 (22.3%) RCTs had an upper age limit to recruitment and 18 (7.4%) excluded patients with specified comorbidities, even though these participants were appropriate candidates for the study intervention. Eleven (4.5%) RCTs excluded patients based on ASA grade, despite this not being a clinical contra-indication to the study intervention. Thirteen (5.3%) RCTs excluded patients with cognitive impairment rather than on a formal assessment of capacity.

Regarding the 41 RCTs on patients undergoing surgery for fractured neck of femur: 7 (17.1%) had exclusion criteria felt to unnecessarily exclude older patients; 5 (12.2%) had upper age limits to recruitment; 15 (36.6%) had a lower age limit to recruitment; and two (4.9%) published an age subgroup analysis.

In 92 (41.1%) RCTs, the proportion of each sex in the study population was more than 25% different from the proportion in registry population. In 32 (14.3%) RCTs, the proportion of each sex in the study population was more than 50% different from the proportion in registry population (Fig. 3).

Five (2.2%) RCTs published data on the race or ethnicity of participants.

Discussion

We found that our sample of peri-operative RCTs were insufficiently representative of the age of surgical populations treated in clinical practice. While there was often misrepresentation of sex in individual RCTs, we did not find evidence of a systematic misrepresentation of one sex over another.

Race and ethnicity of RCT participants are rarely reported. We found that 25% of RCTs we identified had a population that was younger than the surgical population of England by 6.2 years or more, with individual RCTs under-representing the national surgical age by up to 33 years. Under-representation of older people was most consistently seen in RCTs investigating patients undergoing hip arthroplasty or surgical management of a fractured neck of femur. The proportion of males and females in 41% of the RCTs in our sample was at least 25% higher or lower than in the overall surgical population of England. While historically there has been under recruitment of females to clinical trials [8], we found no convincing evidence of a consistent sex recruitment bias in our sample.

Lack of representation is likely multi-factorial. Individual RCTs are, in theory, a random sample from the whole population, so some variation is to be expected, more so with smaller studies. Indeed, if such variation was not present, questions might be raised about data integrity [17]. Our study reports data from a non-random, purposively sampled range of studies. It is possible, though we suggest unlikely, that our selection of studies was biased. We nevertheless found clear evidence that study inclusion and exclusion criteria systematically biased against the involvement of older people. We did not observe any evidence of criteria that bias for or against males or females.

Older people are often more likely to trigger exclusion criteria regardless of the appropriateness of the intervention under investigation. We found evidence of this with 34% of the sample RCTs having selection criteria felt to unnecessarily exclude older people and 22% having an upper age limit to recruitment. Several other barriers to the recruitment of older people, which could result in a selection bias, have been identified [18–20]. Older people may be less likely to consent due to: sensory and cognitive limitations; frailty; a reluctance to take on something onerous; or reluctance of a family member or caregiver to support an older person in a research project [18]. Investigators may be less likely to recruit older people due to apprehension about the impact of enrolling patients with multiple comorbidities on dropout rates and adverse events, and logistical concerns regarding the inclusion of frailer, older patients [19].

Fewer RCTs involving patients undergoing surgical management of a fractured neck of femur had recruitment age limits or other potentially age discriminatory exclusion criteria, and many had a lower age limit to recruitment. This likely represents a deliberate effort by researchers to increase recruitment of older people. Despite this, the mean or median age of the population in over 75% of these RCTs remains below the registry population mean age, highlighting the difficulty in achieving age representative recruitment. The extent to which sampling error or selection bias contribute to a difference in age between an RCT population and the treated surgical population may not matter in terms of the generalisability of any findings. Whether a study is non-representative of the treated surgical population by chance, or by design, it still creates a problem with interpretation.

Race or ethnicity of RCT participants was only reported in five RCTs. The relationship between race, ethnicity and health outcomes is complex. It has been argued that race and ethnicity serve as proxies for a mix of genetic, disease, social, behavioural, or clinical characteristics, that should be considered individually rather than under the umbrella of a racial or ethnic group [21]. While it may not be appropriate to stratify research by race or ethnicity, awareness of the race and ethnicities of research participants is clearly important if researchers are going to consider their potential implications and ensure equal opportunities are provided for participation in clinical research.

This analysis has a number of strengths. The purposive sampling strategy resulted in the identification of RCTs that were likely to have impacted on clinical practice, and it is therefore of importance that their study populations were representative. We sampled 224 RCTs for analysis. Randomised controlled trials were only selected if they investigated specific surgical populations for

which registry data were available, allowing reliable comparisons to be made between the study and registry populations. The availability of annualised English registry data from 1998 to 2017 for all the surgical categories, except the surgical management of a fractured neck of femur, allowed these RCT populations to be matched by year for comparisons with registry data.

There are several limitations to our analysis. Limited registry data were available for patients undergoing surgery for fractured neck of femur. Data on age from the National Hip Fracture Database from 2017 and English registry data on sex from 2012 to 2017 were used in the analysis, and these RCT populations were, therefore, not matched by year to registry data. Due to a lack of openly available international surgical registry data, we were unable to compare RCT population age and sex to geographically matched registry populations. Age and sex differences between RCT and registry populations will influence the generalisability of RCT findings to the surgical population of the country of the registry, but will not necessarily reflect age and sex differences in other countries due to geographical variation in the surgical population. We were unable to include RCTs studying the effect of a peri-operative intervention on more than one surgical group, as we would have been unable to compare the study population age to specific registry data. This resulted in a number of potentially influential peri-operative RCTs being excluded from our analysis.

A key issue facing clinical research is an understanding of the impact of ageing, multi-morbidity and frailty on outcomes following medical and surgical interventions. This is amplified in the 'old-old', however this is defined. Neither the RCTs nor the registries provide consistent data on this population (e.g. aged > 80 y or identified as being frail) which leaves a clear gap in our understanding of this high-risk population. Advances in peri-operative care and a changing national and global demographic mean that surgery is being offered to an increasingly diverse population. The evidence of non-representative RCT populations in this analysis highlights the importance of endeavouring to recruit representative research population, sex representativeness seems to be adequate. A better understanding and awareness of barriers to recruitment of older people when planning clinical trials may improve representative recruitment and help ensure research is following patient need. Unnecessary age discriminatory exclusion criteria including age limits should clearly be avoided.

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Legends for figures

Figure 1 – Randomised controlled trial selection flowchart.

Figure 2 – Bubble plots for each surgical category showing the difference between the mean or median age of the randomised controlled studies and the mean age of the equivalent populations in the English hospital registry according to the middle year of study recruitment. Marker radius is proportional to the number of study participants.

Figure 3 – Bubble plots for each surgical category showing the ratio of the proportion of male participants in the randomised controlled studies compared with the proportion in the English hospital registry according to the middle year of study recruitment. Values less than one represent under-representation of males, and greater than one, over-representation. Marker radius is proportional to the number of study participants.















Age difference between RCT and registry population (Years)



Age difference between RCT and registry population (Years)









Males in RCT population:Males in registry population



Males in RCT population:Males in registry population

S1 - Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

META-ANALYSIS SELECTION CRITERIA

- -Meta-analysis
- -Not solely studying a paediatric population
- -Published since 2008
- -Review includes but not necessarily limited to the defined surgical population
- -English language

-Surgical subgroups

-Colorectal

Colorectal resection Open or laparoscopic

-Elective Arthroplasty

Elective patients Hip arthroplasty Knee arthroplasty Primary

-#NOF

Hip fracture patients undergoing operative management

-TURP/TURBT

TURP TURBT

-Nephrectomy

Nephrectomy – total or partial Open or laparoscopic

-Lung resection

Pneumonectomy/lobectomy/segmentectomy VATS or thoracotomy

-Research subgroups

-ERAS

Study assessing ERAS pathway: Not study of isolated components of ERAS

-GDT

Study related to perioperative goal directed fluid therapy Effect of GDT

-Perioperative blood management

Study related to perioperative blood management: iron (oral/IV) EPO transfusion cell salvage transfusion thresholds tranexamic acid

-Pain

Study related to perioperative pain management: Medications Regional techniques

-Pre-operative optimisation

CPET Prehabilitation

STUDY SELECTION CRITERIA

-RCT

-Study specific to the defined surgical population

-Surgical and research categories as defined above

-English language

S2 – Frequency of procedure stratified by age using 2016-2017 HES data

Procedure	No. of HES Primary Procedures 2016-2017					
	Age >65	Age >70	Age >75	Age >80	Age >85	Age >90
	years	years	years	years	years	years
TURBT	31879	26349	19292	12068	5622	1539
TURP	3379	2546	1615	839	276	50
Nephrectomy	3601	2480	1466	621	145	17
Colorectal resection	19784	15021	9894	5540	1978	342
Primary hip	65760	49824	32668	17165	6515	1554
Primary Knee	64533	46792	28145	13154	4018	564
Hip Fracture	34591	33000	30231	25551	17736	8352
Lung	5735	3896	2086	799	148	9
Cataract	336787	288660	220909	137896	60599	14933

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S3 – Search Terms for Surgical Categories and Perioperative Domains

-TURP and TURBT

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Transurethral Resection of Prostate/
- 2. Transurethral resection of prostate.mp. or TURP.mp.
- 3. Transurethral resection of bladder tumour.mp. or TURBT.mp.
- 4. Transurethral resection.mp.
- 5. Urinary Bladder Neoplasms/ or Prostate/
- 6. 4 and 5
- 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 6

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Transurethral resection of prostate.mp. or TURP.mp.
- 2. Transurethral resection of bladder tumour.mp. or TURBT.mp.
- 3. transurethral resection/
- 4. 1 or 2 or 3

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Transurethral Resection of Prostate] explode all trees
- 2. Transurethral resection
- 3. TURP
- 4. TURBT
- 5. #1 or #2 or #3 or #4

-NEPHRECTOMY

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. NEPHRECTOMY/ or nephrectom*.mp.
- 2. renal resection.mp or kidney resection.mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Nephrectomy/ or radical nephrectomy/ or bilateral nephrectomy/ or partial nephrectomy/ or nephrectom*.mp.
- 2. renal resection.mp or kidney resection.mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Nephrectomy] explode all trees
- 2. Nephrectomy
- 3. Renal resection or kidney resection
- 4. #1 or #2 or #3

-COLORECTAL

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Colorectal Surgery/
- 2. ((colorectal or rect* or colon or sigmoid) and (surgery or surgical or procedure or resection)).mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. colorectal surgery/
- 2. ((colorectal or rect\$ or colon or sigmoid) and (surgery or surgical or procedure or resection)).mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor:[Colorectal Surgery] explode all trees
- ((colorectal or rect* or colon or sigmoid) and (surgery or surgical or procedure or resection))
- 3. #1 or #2

-ELECTIVE LOWER LIMB ARTHROPLASTY

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Arthroplasty, Replacement, Hip/
- 2. (hip* adj5 (replac* or operat* or surg* or arthroplast*)).mp.
- 3. Arthroplasty, Replacement, Knee/
- 4. (knee* adj5 (replac* or operat* or surg* or arthroplasty*)).mp.
- 5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. hip arthroplasty/
- 2. (hip\$ adj5 (replac\$ or operat\$ or surg\$ or arthroplast\$)).mp.
- 3. Knee arthroplasty/
- 4. (knee\$ adj5 (replac\$ or operat\$ or surg\$ or arthroplasty\$))
- 5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Arthoplasty, Replacement, Hip] explode all trees
- 2. (hip* NEAR (replac* or operat* or surg* or arthroplast*))
- 3. MeSH descriptor: [Arthoplasty, Replacement, Knee] explode all trees
- 4. (knee* NEAR (replac* or operat* or surg* or arthroplasty*))
- 5. #1 or #2 or #3 or #4

-#NOF

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Hip Fractures/
- 2. ((hip* or femur* or femoral* or trochant* or pertrochant* or subtrochant* or extracapsular*) adj5 fracture*).mp.

3. 1 or 2

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. hip fracture/
- 2. ((hip\$ or femur\$ or femoral\$ or trochant\$ or pertrochant\$ or subtrochant\$ or extracapsular\$) adj5 fracture\$).mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Hip Fractures] explode all trees
- 2. ((hip* or femur* or femoral* or trochant* or pertrochant* or subtrochant* or extracapsular*) NEAR fracture*)
- 3. #1 or #2

-LUNG RESECTION

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. PNEUMONECTOMY/ or pneumonectomy.mp.
- 2. Thoracic Surgery/ or Thoracotomy/ or thoracic surgery.mp. or thoracotomy.mp.
- 3. (pulmonary or lung) and (resection or lobectomy or excision).mp.
- 4. 1 or 2 or 3

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Lung resection/
- 2. Pneumonectomy.mp.
- 3. thoracic surgery.mp or thoracotomy.mp. or thorax surgery/ or thoracotomy/
- 4. ((pulmonary or lung) and (resection or lobectomy or excision).mp.
- 5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Pneumonectomy] explode all trees
- 2. MeSH descriptor: [Thoracotomy] explode all trees
- 3. MeSH descriptor: [Thoracic Surgery] explode all trees
- 4. (pulmonary or lung) and (resection or lobectomy or excision)
- 5. #1 or #2 or #3 or #4

-ERAS

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. ((enhanced or early) and (rehabilitation* or recovery* or convalesce*)).mp.
- 2. Fast track.mp.
- 3. ERAS.mp.
- 4. 1 or 2 or 3

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. ((enhanced or early) and (rehabilitation\$ or recovery\$ or convalesce\$)).mp.
- 2. Fast track.mp.
- 3. ERAS.mp.
- 4. 1 or 2 or 3

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. ((enhanced or early) and (rehabilitation* or recovery* or convalesce*))
- 2. Fast track
- 3. ERAS
- 4. #1 or #2 or #3

-GDT

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. (goal directed or goal orientated or goal target* or goal-directed).mp.
- 2. Cardiac Volume/ or (cardiac output or cardiac index or cardiac volume).mp.
- 3. Stroke Volume/ or stoke volume.mp.
- 4. (oxygen delivery or oxygen consumption).mp.
- 5. Fluid Therapy/ or (fluid therapy or fluid loading or fluid administration).mp.
- 6. (pulse pressure variation or pleth index variation or systolic pressure variation).mp.
- 7. (optimisation or optimization).mp.
- 8. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 $\,$

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. (goal directed or goal orientated or goal target\$ or goal-directed).mp.
- 2. heart volume/
- 3. (cardiac output or cardiac index or cardiac volume).mp.
- 4. fluid therapy/ or (fluid therapy or fluid loading or fluid administration).mp.
- 5. heart stroke volume/ or stoke volume.mp.
- 6. (pulse pressure variation or pleth index variation or systolic pressure variation).mp.
- 7. (oxygen delivery or oxygen consumption).mp.
- 8. (optimisation or optimization).mp.

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Fluid Therapy] explode all trees
- 2. MeSH descriptor: [Stroke Volume] explode all trees
- 3. MeSH descriptor: [Cardiac Output] explode all trees
- 4. goal directed or goal orientated or goal target* or goal-directed
- 5. cardiac output or cardiac index or cardiac volume
- 6. oxygen delivery or oxygen consumption
- 7. fluid therapy or fluid loading or fluid administration
- 8. pulse pressure variation or pleth index variation or systolic pressure variation
- 9. optimisation or optimization
- 10. #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9

-PERI-OPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. IRON/ or iron.mp.
- (Ferric compounds/ or FERROUS COMPOUNDS/) or ((ferric or ferrous) adj5 compound*)
- 3. (Blood Transfusion/ or Erythrocyte Transfusion/)

- 4. ((transfus* or red cell* or red blood cell* or RBC* or PRBC*) adj5 (trigger* or threshold* or target* or restrict* or liberal* or aggressive* or conservative* or prophylactic* or limit* or protocol* or policy or policies or practic* or indicat* or strateg* or regimen* or criteri* or standard* or management or program*)).mp.
- ((h*emoglobin or h*ematocrit or HB or HCT) adj5 (polic* or practic* or protocol* or trigger* or threshold* or maintain* or indicator* or strateg* or criteri* or standard*)).mp.
- 6. (transfu* or posttransfus* or retransfus* or hypertansfus* or h*emotranfus* or red cell* or red blood cell* or RBC* or erythrocyte*).mp.
- ((allogen*ic adj2 blood) or (blood adj2 exposure) or (unit* adj2 blood) or (blood adj3 management) or (blood adj product*) or (blood adj component*) or (donor* adj2 blood) or (donat* adj2 blood)).mp.
- (blood sparing or cell salvage or cell saver* or (blood adj2 salvag*) or blood support or (blood adj2 requir*) or (blood adj2 replac*) or autotransfus*).mp.
- 9. Tranexamic Acid/
- (tranexamic acid or amchafibrin or anvitoff or cyklokapron or Sepercil or exacyl or lysteda or spotof or t*amcha or tranhexamic acid or transamin or Transcam or ugurol).mp.
- 11. Perioperative Period/
- 12. Perioperative Care/
- 13. (Preoperative or perioperative or postoperative).mp.
- 14. ((prior or before or post or after) adj3 (surg* or operat*)).mp.
- 15.1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10
- 16.11 or 12 or 13 or 14
- 17.15 and 16

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Iron/ or iron.mp.
- 2. ((ferrous or ferric) adj5 compound\$).mp.
- 3. (Blood Transfusion/ or Erythrocyte Transfusion/)
- 4. ((transfus\$ or red cell\$ or red blood cell\$ or RBC\$ or PRBC\$) adj5 (trigger\$ or threshold\$ or target\$ or restrict\$ or liberal\$ or aggressive\$ or conservative\$ or prophylactic\$ or limit\$ or protocol\$ or policy or policies or practic\$ or indicat\$ or strateg\$ or regimen\$ or criteri\$ or standard\$ or management or program\$)).mp.
- ((h?emoglobin or h?ematocrit or HB or HCT) adj5 (polic\$ or practic\$ or protocol\$ or trigger\$ or threshold\$ or maintain\$ or indicator\$ or strateg\$ or criteri\$ or standard\$)).mp.
- 6. (transfu\$ or posttransfus\$ or retransfus\$ or hypertansfus\$ or h?emotranfus\$ or red cell\$ or red blood cell\$ or RBC\$ or erythrocyte\$).mp.
- ((allogen?ic adj2 blood) or (blood adj2 exposure) or (unit\$ adj2 blood) or (blood adj3 management) or (blood adj product\$) or (blood adj component\$) or (donor\$ adj2 blood) or (donat\$ adj2 blood)).mp.
- 8. (blood sparing or cell salvage or cell saver\$ or (blood adj2 salvag\$) or blood support or (blood adj2 requir\$) or (blood adj2 replac\$) or autotransfus\$).mp.
- 9. tranexamic acid/
- (tranexamic acid or amchafibrin or anvitoff or cyklokapron or Sepercil or exacyl or lysteda or spotof or t?amcha or tranhexamic acid or transamin or Transcam or ugurol).mp.
- 11. preoperative care/ or preoperative treatment/ or preoperative period/ or perioperative period/
- 12. (Preoperative or perioperative or postoperative).mp.

13. ((prior or before or post or after) adj3 (surg\$ or operat\$)).mp.
14. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8
15. 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13
16. 14 and 15

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Iron] in all MeSH products
- 2. MeSh descriptor: [Ferric Compounds] explode all trees
- 3. ((ferric or ferrous) near compound*)
- 4. MeSH descriptor [Blood Transfusion] explode all trees
- 5. MeSH descriptor [Erythrocyte Transfusion] explode all trees
- 6. ((transfus* or red cell* or red blood cell* or RBC* or PRBC*) near (trigger* or threshold* or target* or restrict* or liberal* or aggressive* or conservative* or prophylactic* or limit* or protocol* or policy or policies or practic* or indicat* or strateg* or regimen* or criteri* or standard* or management or program*))
- ((h*emoglobin or h*ematocrit or HB or HCT) near (polic* or practic* or protocol* or trigger* or threshold* or maintain* or indicator* or strateg* or criteri* or standard*))
- 8. (transfu* or posttransfus* or retransfus* or hypertansfus* or h*emotranfus* or red cell* or red blood cell* or RBC* or erythrocyte*)
- ((allogen*ic near blood) or (blood near exposure) or (unit* near blood) or (blood near management) or (blood near product*) or (blood near component*) or (donor* near blood) or (donat* near blood))
- 10. (blood sparing or cell salvage or cell saver* or (blood near salvag*) or blood support or (blood near requir*) or (blood near replac*) or autotransfus*)
- 11. MeSH descriptor: [Tranexamic Acid] explode all trees
- 12. (tranexamic acid or amchafibrin or anvitoff or cyklokapron or Sepercil or exacyl or lysteda or spotof or t*amcha or tranhexamic acid or transamin or Transcam or ugurol)
- 13. MeSH descriptor: [Preopeative Care] explode all trees
- 14. MeSH descriptor: [Preoperative Period] explode all trees
- 15. MeSH descriptor: [Perioperative Period] explode all trees
- 16. (Preoperative or perioperative or postoperative)
- 17. ((prior or before or post or after) near (surg* or operat*))
- 18. #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or # or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12
- 19. #13 or #14 or #15 or #16 or #17
- 20. #18 and #19

-PAIN

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. postoperative pain/
- 2. (pain* and (postoperative or post operative or surg*)).mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. postoperative pain/
- 2. (pain\$ and (postoperative or post operative or surg\$)).mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Pain, Postoperative] explode all trees
- 2. (pain* and (postoperative or post operative or surg*)).mp.
- 3. 1 or 2

-PRE-OP OPTIMISATION

MEDLINE (Ovid interface)

- 1. Exercise Test/ or (exercise test or exercise capacity or cardiopulmonary exercise or cardiopulmonary reserve).mp.
- 2. Anaerobic Threshold/ or (anaerobic threshold, aerobic capacity or aerobic fitness).mp.
- 3. Oxygen Consumption/ or (oxygen consumption or peak oxygen).mp.
- 4. (CPET or CPEX or VO2).mp.
- 5. PREOPERATIVE PERIOD/ or PREOPERATIVE CARE/
- 6. (preoperative or pre-operative or pre-surgery).mp.
- 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5
- 8. 5 or 6
- 9. 7 and 8
- 10. (prehab* or (preoperative and (rehabilitation or exercise or training or physiotherapy or physical therapy or exercise training))).mp.
- 11. EXERCISE/ and 8
- 12.9 or 10 or 11

EMBASE (Ovid interface)

- 1. exercise test/ or (exercise test or exercise capacity or cardiopulmonary exercise or cardiopulmonary reserve).mp.
- 2. (anaerobic threshold, aerobic capacity or aerobic fitness).mp.
- 3. oxygen consumption/ or (oxygen consumption or peak oxygen).mp.
- 4. (CPET or CPEX or VO2).mp.
- 5. Preoperative care/ or preoperative period/
- 6. (preoperative or pre-operative or pre-surgery).mp.
- 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5
- 8. 5 or 6
- 9. 7 or 8
- 10. (prehab\$ or (preoperative and (rehabilitation or exercise or training or physiotherapy or physical therapy or exercise training))).mp.
- 11. exercise/ and 8
- 12.9 or 10 or 11

CENTRAL (Wiley Online Library)

- 1. MeSH descriptor: [Exercise Test] explode all trees
- 2. MeSH descriptor: [Anaerobic Threshold] explode all trees
- 3. MeSH descriptor: [Oxygen Consumption] explode all trees
- 4. exercise test or exercise capacity or cardiopulmonary exercise or cardiopulmonary reserve
- 5. anaerobic threshold, aerobic capacity or aerobic fitness
- 6. oxygen consumption or peak oxygen
- 7. CPET or CPEX or VO2
- 8. MeSH descriptor: [Preoperative Care] explode all trees

- 9. MeSH descriptor: [Preoperative Period] explode all trees
- 10. Preoperative or pre-operatice or pre-surgery
- 11. #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7
- 12. #8 or #9 or #10
- 13. #11 and #12
- 14. prehab* or (preoperative and (rehabilitation or exercise or training or physiotherapy or physical therapy or exercise training))
- 15. MeSH descriptor: [Exercise] explode all trees
- 16. #15 and #12
- 17. #13 or #14 or #16

SEARCHES

- 1. TURP and TURBT AND ERAS
- 2. TURP and TURBT **AND** GDT
- 3. TURP and TURBT AND PERIOPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT
- 4. TURP and TURBT **AND** PAIN
- 5. TURP and TURBT AND PRE-OP OPTIMISATION
- 6. NEPHRECTOMY AND ERAS
- 7. NEPHRECTOMY AND GDT
- 8. NEPHRECTOMY AND PERIOPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT
- 9. NEPHRECTOMY AND PAIN
- 10. NEPHRECTOMY AND PRE-OP OPTIMISATION
- 11. COLORECTAL AND ERAS
- 12. COLORECTAL AND GDT
- 13. COLORECTAL AND PERIOPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT
- 14. COLORECTAL AND PAIN
- 15. COLORECTAL AND PRE-OP OPTIMISATION
- 16. ELECTIVE LOWER LIMB ARTHROPLASTY **AND** ERAS
- 17. ELECTIVE LOWER LIMB ARTHROPLASTY AND GDT
- 18. ELECTIVE LOWER LIMB ARTHROPLASTY **AND** PERIOPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT
- 19. ELECTIVE LOWER LIMB ARTHROPLASTY **AND** PAIN
- 20. ELECTIVE LOWER LIMB ARTHROPLASTY AND PRE-OP OPTIMISATION
- 21. #NOF **AND** ERAS
- 22. #NOF **AND** GDT
- 23. #NOF AND PERIOPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT
- 24. #NOF **AND** PAIN
- 25. #NOF AND PRE-OP OPTIMISATION
- 26. LUNG RESECTION AND ERAS
- 27. LUNG RESECTION AND GDT
- 28. LUNG RESECTION **AND** PERIOPERATIVE BLOOD MANAGEMENT
- 29. LUNG RESECTION AND PAIN
- 30. LUNG RESECTION AND PRE-OP OPTIMISATION

S4 - Procedure Codes

Destatis/GB	E
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TURP/TURBT

5573

5601

Nephrectomy

5553

5554

Colorectal resection

5452

5455

5456

Primary Hip

5820

Primary Knee

5822

Lung resection

5322

- 5323
- 5324
- 5325
- 5327

5328

AIHW

TURP/TURBT

1100

1165

Nephrectomy

1048

1049

Colorectal resection

913

Primary Hip

1489

Primary Knee

1518

Lung resection

553

552

551

HES

TURP/TURBT

M42

M65

Nephrectomy

M02

M03

Colorectal resection

H04

H05

H06

H07	
H08	

H09

- H10
- H11
- H29
- H33

Primary Hip

W37

W38

W39

W93

W94

W95

Primary Knee

W40

W41

W42

Lung resection

E54

NOF

W19.1

W24.1

W46.1

W47.1

S5 – RCT References

Colorectal

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S6 – Analyses using HES, GBE, AIHW and NHFD data

Procedure	Registry	Min	q25	Median	q75	Max
All	HES(NHFD)	-34.6809	-6.1901	-2.35629	0.981484	14.545
	HES	-33.0917	-6.17563	-1.90461	1.096123	14.545
	GBE	-31.7238	-7.55545	-3.07469	0.048821	17.61159
	AIHW	-28.5167	-4.70708	-0.80977	2.398872	18.27774
Colorectal	HES	-28.2257	-4.26041	0.304695	3.023033	9.832649
	GBE	-31.7238	-8.40224	-3.31587	0.868568	7.269524
	AIHW	-28.5167	-4.46523	0.364212	2.826591	10.59104
Нір	HES	-18.6405	-9.42756	-6.1901	-2.86228	4.609863
	GBE	-20.9987	-11.9552	-8.33936	-5.18903	3.198608
	AIHW	-18.7561	-10.0581	-6.08201	-3.00547	4.698059
Knee	HES	-8.82103	-3.24651	-1.68695	0.288216	6.094757
	GBE	-8.46256	-3.20728	-1.71823	0.429756	6.343826
	AIHW	-7.33189	-1.73556	-0.39561	1.741684	7.548225
NOF	HES	-33.0917	-7.98681	-1.85581	0.451012	4.465836
	NHFD	-34.6809	-9.576	-3.44501	-1.13818	2.87664
Lung	HES	-23.5458	-6.57	-0.05827	3	14.545
	GBE	-20.5185	-5.33481	2.617842	5.738934	17.61159
	AIHW	-19.4637	-3.85254	4.073856	6.741352	18.27774

Summary measures of RCT/Registry age difference for each registry

Summary measures of the ratio of the proportion of male participants in the study compared to the proportion in the registry for each registry

Procedure	Registry	Min	q25	Median	q75	Max
All	HES	0.173505	0.826214	1.067265	1.243704	2.666358
	GBE	0.254528	0.871969	1.094538	1.232728	2.81669
	AIHW	0.166955	0.78645	1.046821	1.240336	2.483572
Colorectal	HES	0.557685	1.020133	1.119786	1.224439	1.411036
	GBE	0.54967	1.023178	1.111122	1.220935	1.422793
	AIHW	0.584254	1.064218	1.199177	1.300191	1.511076
Нір	HES	0.474404	1.019272	1.198132	1.393673	2.652365
	GBE	0.48771	1.073242	1.240116	1.434457	2.81669
	AIHW	0.422475	0.911814	1.083268	1.252788	2.400206
Knee	HES	0.220187	0.617954	0.772217	1.034822	1.527217
	GBE	0.254528	0.71221	0.940175	1.232892	1.942955
	AIHW	0.213959	0.591925	0.769482	1.016522	1.516606
NOF	HES	0.173505	0.7422	0.913311	1.210451	2.666358
Lung	HES	0.569181	0.91801	1.090541	1.352014	1.712668
	GBE	0.528709	0.758334	0.918951	1.147904	1.42055
	AIHW	0.566154	0.839987	1.023957	1.279466	1.586719