pain (associated with removal of non-absorbable sutures) favours the use of absorbable sutures in the elective-hand-surgery. Further RCTs are required.

0687: READMISSION AUDIT IN A SINGLE PLASTIC SURGERY UNIT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY ON NON-PAYMENT FOR EMERGENCY READMISSIONS

John Martin, Adnan Tahir, Haroo Siddiqui. Department of Plastic Surgery, James’s Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, UK

Introduction: In April 2011 a Department of Health policy came into effect stating that no tariffs would be paid for readmission of patients to hospital within 30 days of discharge. The purpose of this audit was to determine the reasons behind readmissions in our unit.

Methods: We evaluated readmissions over a one-year period from October 2009 to October 2010. A total of 140 patients were identified. 50 patients were randomly selected to conduct this audit. We also compared the readmission rate in plastic surgery to other specialties in our hospital.

Results: Readmission to plastic surgery made up one per cent of the total readmissions in our hospital over a one-year period. Of the patients readmitted in plastic surgery, 34/50 (68 per cent) were emergencies and 16/50 (32 per cent) were elective. 18 per cent of readmissions were planned as part of ongoing treatment, for example delayed grafting of a wound bed, but were wrongly coded as readmissions. 8 per cent of readmissions were unrelated to the original admission.

Conclusions: This audit has shown that this rule is difficult to apply in surgical practice and coding entries for planned or unplanned admissions are complex and inaccurate in the NHS.

0744: RE-RUPTURE RATE FOLLOWING PRIMARY FLEXOR TENDON REPAIR OF THE HAND WITH POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING RISK FACTORS: CASE SERIES

Mazin Ibrahim, Mai Rostom, Mohamed Asim Khan, Alastair James Platt. Castle hill hospital, Cottingham, UK

Aim: Flexor tendon injuries of the hand are common with over 3,105 per annum in the UK. This study was aimed to investigate re-rupture rate following primary flexor tendon repair at our institution and to identify potential risk factors.

Method: 51 patients with 101 flexor tendons’ injuries who underwent primary repair over one year period were reviewed. Data was collected on age, gender, occupation, co morbidities, injured fingers, hand dominance, smoking status, time to surgery, surgeon grade, type of repair and suture, and antibiotic use. Causes of re-rupture were examined.

Results: Re-rupture rate was 10.9%. Mean age was 35.8. Primary tendon repairs with re-rupture were compared to those without re-rupture. Univariate and multivariate analysis was undertaken to identify significant risk factors. Significantly higher rate was noted when the repair was performed on the dominant hand (p-value = 0.009), in zone 2 (0.001), and when a delay more than 72 hours occurred (0.01). Multivariate regression analysis identified repair in zone 2 injuries to be the most significant predictor of re-rupture.

Conclusions: Re-rupture rate of 10.9% was associated with delay in surgery, repair on dominant hand, and zone 2 repairs. Careful consideration for these factors is crucial to reduce this rate.

0803: PLASTIC SURGERY "TOURISM" COMPLICATIONS PRESENTING TO AN NHS HOSPITAL – A ONE YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Nicholas Segaren, Kumaran Shanmugarajah, Sheraz Markar, Neil Segaren, Onur Gillarde, Kalpesh Vaghela. 1 Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, UK; 2 Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, UK; 3 Royal Derby Hospital, Derby, UK; 4 Kingston General Hospital, London, UK

Aim: The advent of cosmetic surgery “tourism” packages has led to an increase in the number of people from the UK flying to foreign destinations to undertake procedures by plastic surgeons that may not have any affiliation to a regulatory body. Any complications from these operations are dealt with in NHS funded units back in the United Kingdom. We wanted to investigate the potential impact that these presentations had on our department.

Method: We conducted a retrospective study examining all presentations to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital for complications following plastic surgery procedures undertaken abroad. The data was collected from January 2011 to the end of December 2011.

Results: There were 21 patients in total, nineteen females and two males, the mean age was 38.6. Fourteen patients presented with complications from craniofacial procedures, and six following breast augmentation procedures. One patient was admitted with an infected buttock implant. The average in-patient stay was 2.6 days.

Conclusions: The popularity of cosmetic surgery abroad is increasing and therefore the complication rates will rise in the future. The recent scandal regarding the PIP breast implants has further highlighted the potential dangers of cut price cosmetic surgery abroad.