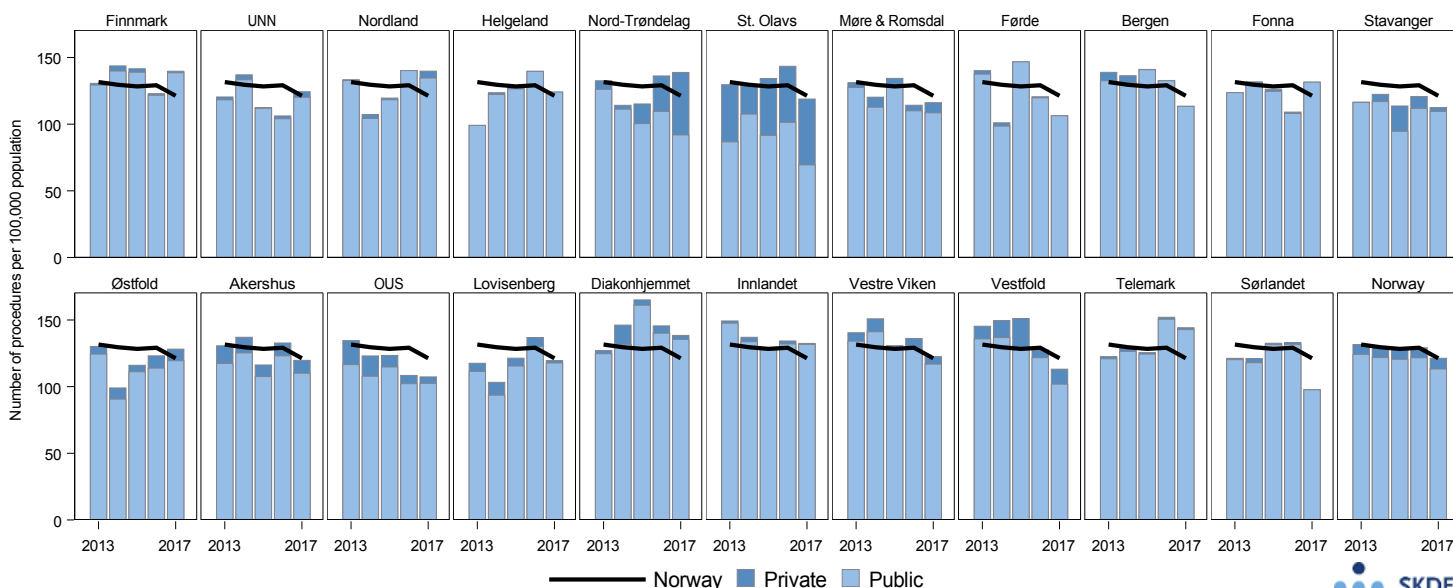


Day surgery in Norway 2013–2017

Inguinal hernia

An inguinal hernia is a protrusion in the groin where internal structures bulge through a weak point in the abdominal wall. Symptoms may include burning and discomfort, and a heavy sensation is also common. Surgery is indicated in children and young adults with inguinal hernia, but in adults only if they also experience pain. The procedure is carried out under local anaesthesia, as either open surgery or keyhole surgery.



Source: NPR/SSB

Inguinal hernia, development in the number of procedures per 100,000 population during the period 2013–2017, adjusted for gender and age. Broken down by hospital referral areas and public or private treatment providers.

Development since 2013

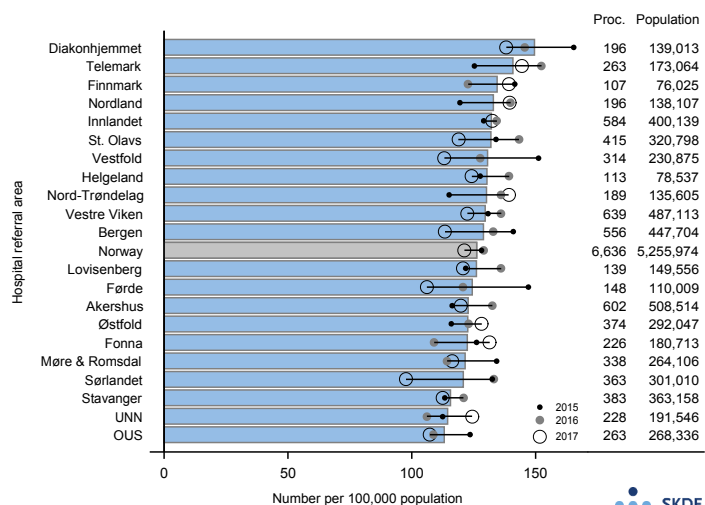
The 2015 day surgery atlas showed little variation in the number of inguinal hernia repairs per 100,000 population between the health trusts' hospital referral areas. In 2013, nearly 6,600 procedures (adjusted rate: 132 per 100,000) were performed in Norway.

The geographical variation between hospital referral areas remained very low during the period 2015–2017. The number of procedures per 100,000 population varied from 150 for inhabitants of Diakonhjemmet hospital referral area to 113 for those resident in the OUS area. For Norway as a whole, 30% of inguinal hernia repairs took place as inpatient procedures. The proportion varied from 43% in the Finnmark area to 20% in Østfold hospital referral area.

There was a small decrease in the total number of inguinal hernia operations per 100,000 population in Norway from 2013 to 2017. In most hospital referral areas, nearly all of these procedures took place at public hospitals. For Norway as a whole, only 6% of the procedures were performed at private hospitals, but the percentages for the hospital referral areas of Nord-Trøndelag and St. Olavs were significantly higher. In 2017, nearly 6,500 procedures (adjusted rate: 121 per 100,000) were performed.

For Norway as a whole, the proportion of operations performed using keyhole surgery increased steadily, from a third in 2013 to more than half in 2017.

None of the hospital referral areas had a clear increase or decrease in the number of inguinal hernia repairs per 100,000 population from 2013 to 2017, but there was some variation between years.



Source: NPR/SSB

Number of procedures for inguinal hernia per 100,000 population, adjusted for gender and age. Average per year for the period 2015–2017.

Comments

There was no significant change in the number of inguinal hernia repairs per 100,000 population or in the variation between the health trusts' hospital referral areas from the period 2011–2013 to the period 2015–2017. The variation in the rate of inguinal hernia repairs was low both between hospital referral areas and between years during both periods. This indicates that there is consensus in the medical community about the indications for the procedure. The provision of this health service is deemed to be equitably distributed in the population regardless of where people live.