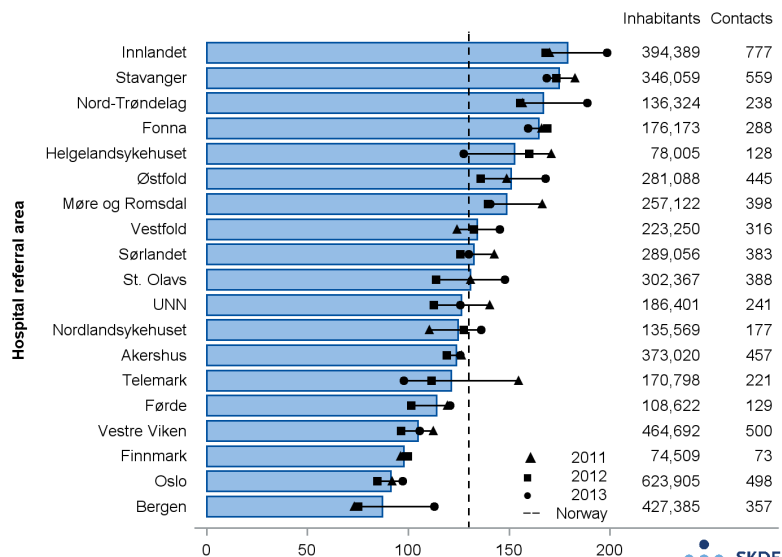
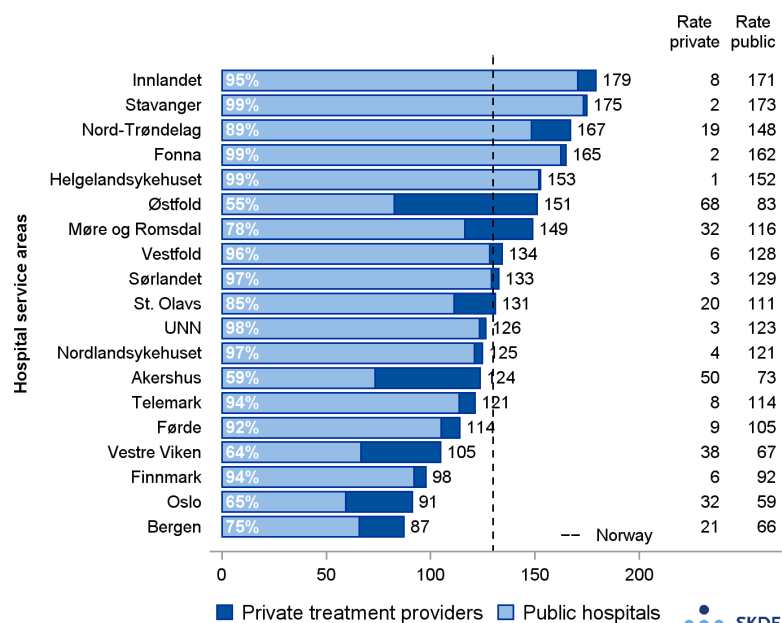


Carpal tunnel syndrome is the result of pressure on a nerve in the wrist caused by repetitive hand movements that create swelling in the tendons surrounding the nerve. Typical symptoms include pain, numbness and tingling in the palm and fingers. Surgery consists of partly or completely cutting the ligament that arches over the carpal tunnel to release pressure on the nerve.



Source: NPR/SSB

Carpal tunnel syndrome surgery, rates adjusted for gender and age per 100,000 population per hospital referral area, per year and as an average for the period 2011–2013



Source: NPR/SSB

Carpal tunnel syndrome surgery, rates adjusted for gender and age per 100,000 population per hospital referral area, broken down by public or private treatment providers, average for the period 2011–2013

Definitions

The following combinations of codes define this patient group:

Primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-10) G56.0 in combination with the procedure codes ACC51, NDE11, NDE12, NDL50, NDM19 or NDM49 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code 140i for specialists in private practice under a funding contract with the regional health authorities.

Private treatment providers include private hospitals and specialists under contracts with the public specialist health service.

	2011	2012	2013	Aver. (%)
Public	5,545	5,368	5,492	5,468 (83%)
Private	1,022	824	1,472	1,106 (17%)
Total	6,567	6,192	6,964	6,574 (100%)

Procedures per year and average for the period 2011–2013

Comments

The surgery frequency is relatively stable within each hospital referral area during the three-year period. The total rates and proportions carried out by private treatment providers vary greatly between the areas, however.

The analyses show that the ratio between the hospital referral area with the highest rate (Innlandet) and the one with the lowest (Bergen) is approx. 2.1. Since these differences are unlikely to be due to differences in morbidity or to coincidence, the findings suggest that the indications for this procedure vary between hospital referral areas.