

QUALITY OF LIFE ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS UNDERGOING HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

Kajos LF¹, Molics B², Pónusz-Kovács D¹, Kovács B¹, Csákvári T³, Pónusz R¹, Bódis J⁴, Boncz I¹

1. Institute for Health Insurance, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

2. Institute of Physiotherapy and Sports Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

3. Institute for Health Insurance, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary

4. National Laboratory on Human Reproduction, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

OBJECTIVES

The quality of life is an important indicator of the surgery’s effectiveness and the success of the postoperative period. The aim of this study was to evaluate the quality of life of patients undergoing hip replacement surgery through a three-month follow-up, comparing the public and private healthcare systems in Pécs, Hungary.

METHODS

Patients were selected by a simple convenience sampling method from a private and a public hospital in Pécs (Hungary). Quality of life was assessed at three months follow-up using the Oxford Hip Score (OHS) disease-specific questionnaire and the SF-36 general health questionnaire. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software, with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, paired T-test, Wilcoxon test, ANOVA, and mixed ANOVA (p<0.05).

RESULTS

A total of 318 participants were included in the study (161 public and 157 private patients), with a mean age of 66.19 years (67.68 years for public patients and 64.65 years for private patients) (Table 1). Both the Oxford Hip Score and the SF-36 Physical and Mental Health scores showed significant improvement by the third month postoperatively for public and private patients (p<0.001) (OHS: 18.55 to 37.93, SF-36 Physical Health: 31.31 to 65.47, SF-36 Mental Health: 68.47 to 80.82) (Figure 1-3). Except for the preoperative SF-36 Mental Health score, results were better for the private patients. Regarding the extent of improvement during the follow-up period, the OHS score improved similarly in both groups (p=0.181), but the SF-36 results showed a greater improvement in the private patients (Physical Health: p=0.001, Mental Health: p=0.007).

CONCLUSIONS

Significant improvements in patients' quality of life were observed in public and private patients following hip replacement surgery, with those in the private healthcare system showing superior outcomes in both physical and mental health. These differences suggest that the type of healthcare provision may influence postoperative outcomes.

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	Public Health Sector	Private Health Sector	All Patients
Number of patients	161	157	318
Number of patients (%)	50,6	49,4	100
Mean age	67,68	64,65	66,19

Table 1

Characteristics of the patients in the public and private health care sector

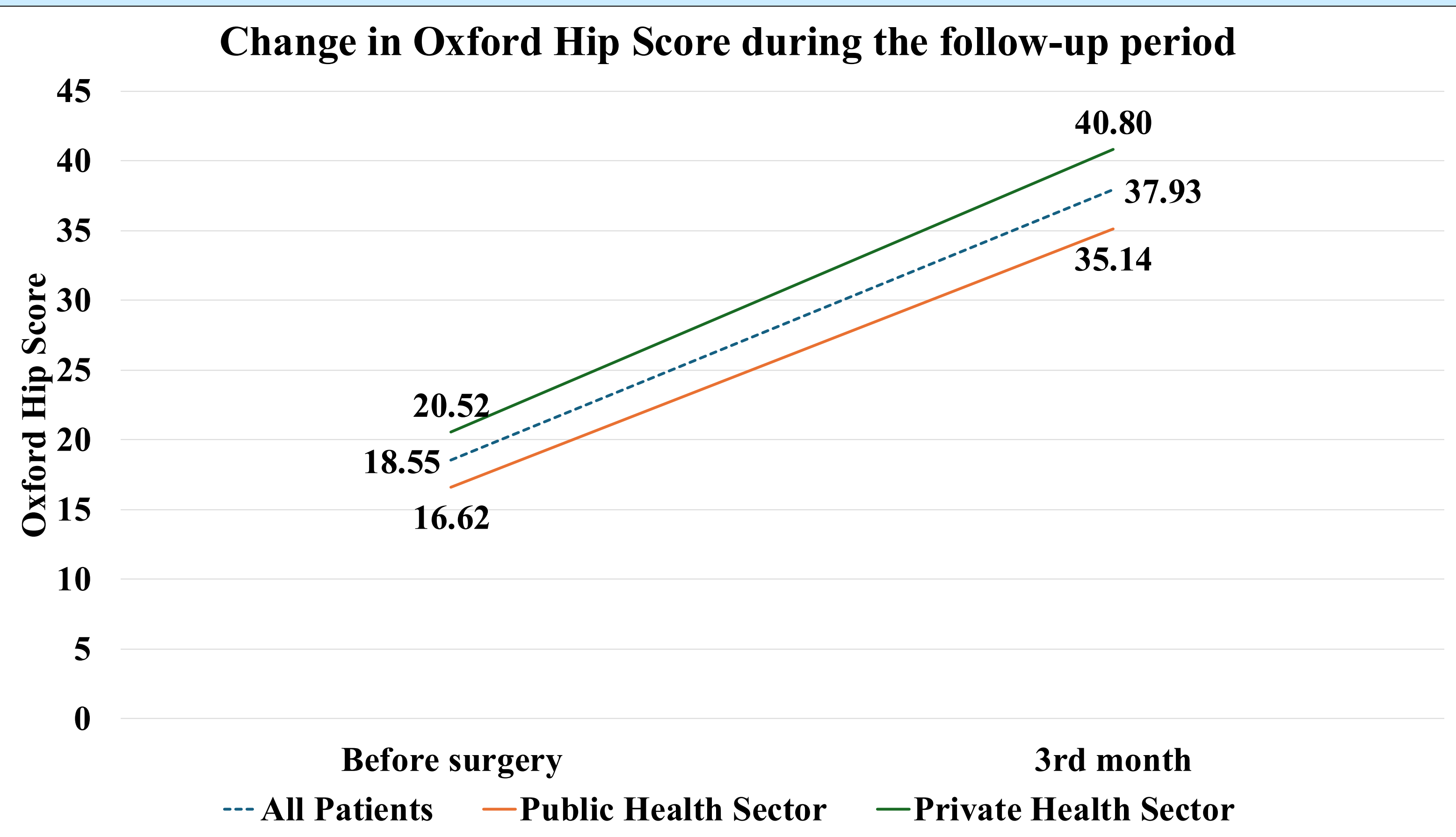


Figure 1

Change in Oxford Hip Score during the follow-up period

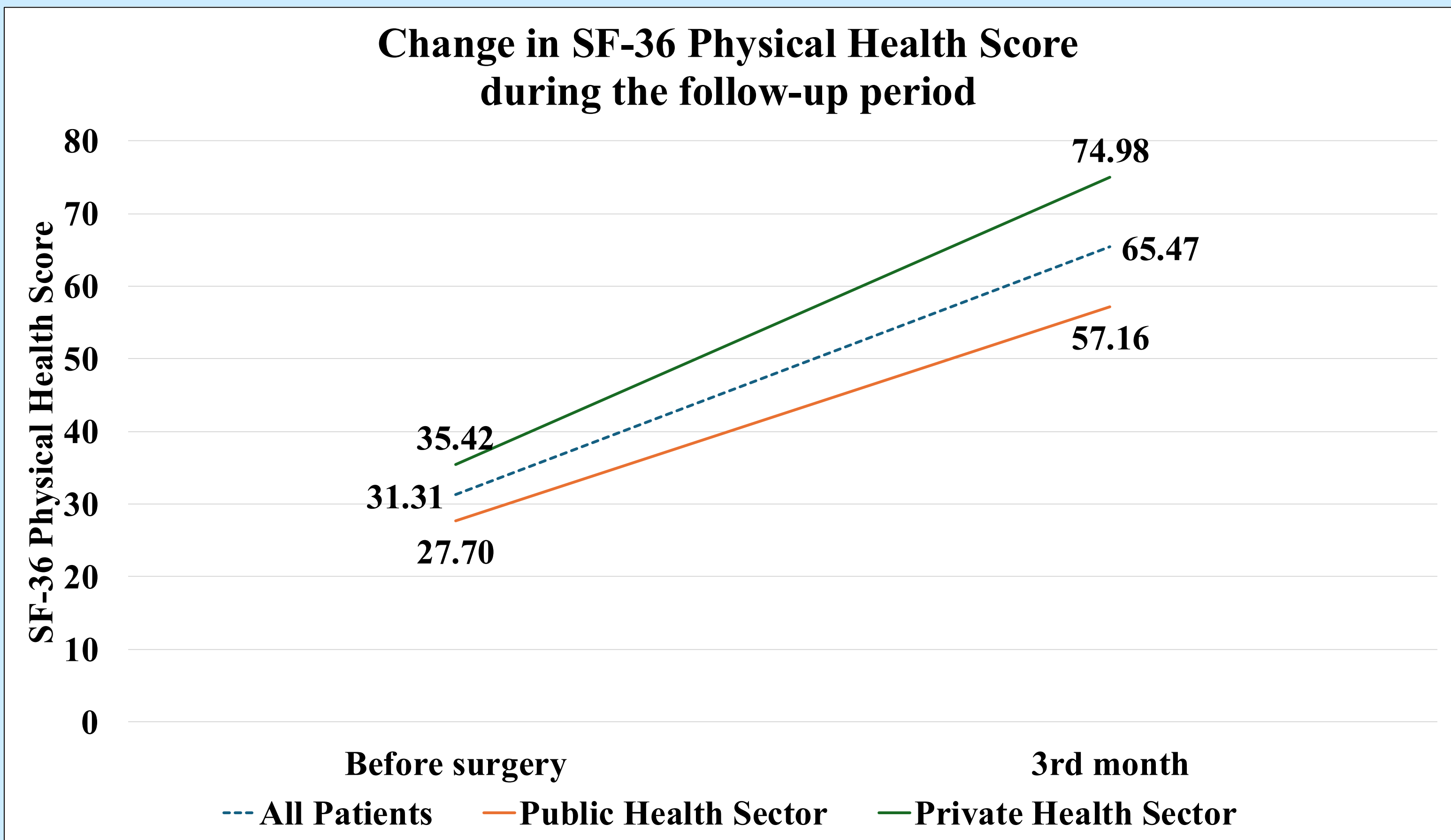


Figure 2

Change in SF-36 Physical Health Score during the follow-up period

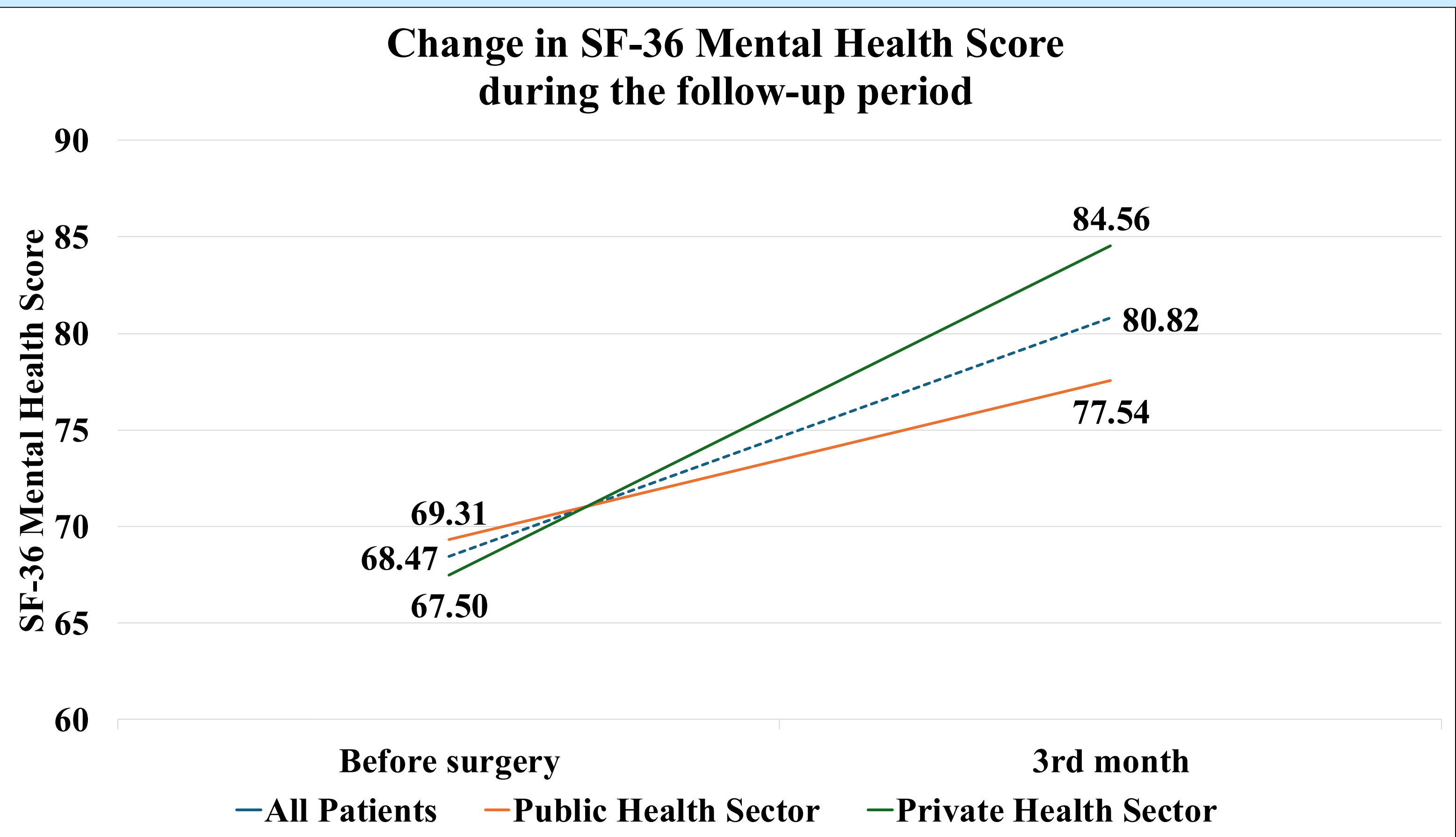
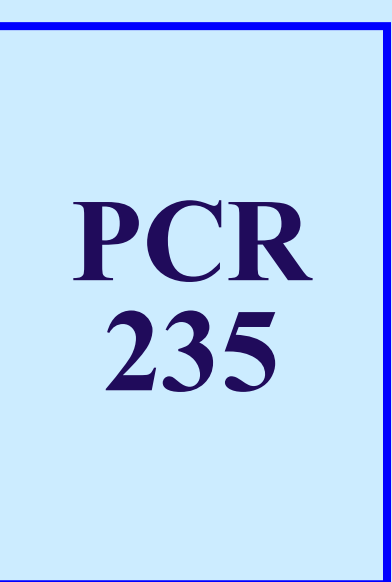


Figure 3

Change in SF-36 Mental Health Score during the follow-up period



Corresponding author:

Dr. Luca Fanni SÁNTICS-KAJOS, PhD
University of Pécs, Faculty of Health Sciences, Hungary
Institute for Health Insurance
E-mail: kajos.luca@pte.hu

