

INVESTIGATION OF FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE IN HIP REPLACEMENT PATIENTS IN DIFFERENT HEALTH CARE SECTORS

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OBJECTIVES

The aim of our study was to compare functional outcomes related to hospital discharge of hip arthroplasty patients operated in the public and private health care in Hungary.

METHODS

Patients were selected from the Department of Orthopedics, Clinical Centre of the University of Pécs and at the Da Vinci Private Clinic in Pécs. They completed a questionnaire during hospital discharge, which included questions on functional outcomes.

RESULTS

The research involved 208 people, 96 patients in the public and 112 in the private health care. Patients in the public sector were discharged on the 6th day and private patients on the 2nd day after surgery ($p<0.001$) (Figure 1.). Public patients had their first staircase on the 4th day and private patients on the 1st day after surgery ($p<0.001$) (Figure 2.). 27.68% of private patients left without a walking aid, while all state patients left with them. 53.57% of patients on the private care left with one elbow crutch ($p<0.001$) and 87.50% of patients on the state care left with two elbow crutches ($p<0.001$). While state sector patients strode step by step, private patients strode with alternating legs ($p<0.001$) (Table 1.). The difference in lower limb length was significantly improved for both care systems (public care: from 1.18 cm to 0.26 cm, private care: from 0.96 cm to 0.10 cm) ($p<0.001$), and the difference between the limbs of private patients was significantly lower after surgery ($p=0.023$) (Figure 3.).

CONCLUSIONS

Patients undergoing hip replacement surgery in the public and private health sectors showed different outcomes in hospital discharge data, which may be related to the different surgical techniques used in the two sectors. Patients in the private sector were therefore able to stair and leave the clinic earlier, and also used walking aids at a lower rate. The difference in lower limb length was significantly improved in both groups.

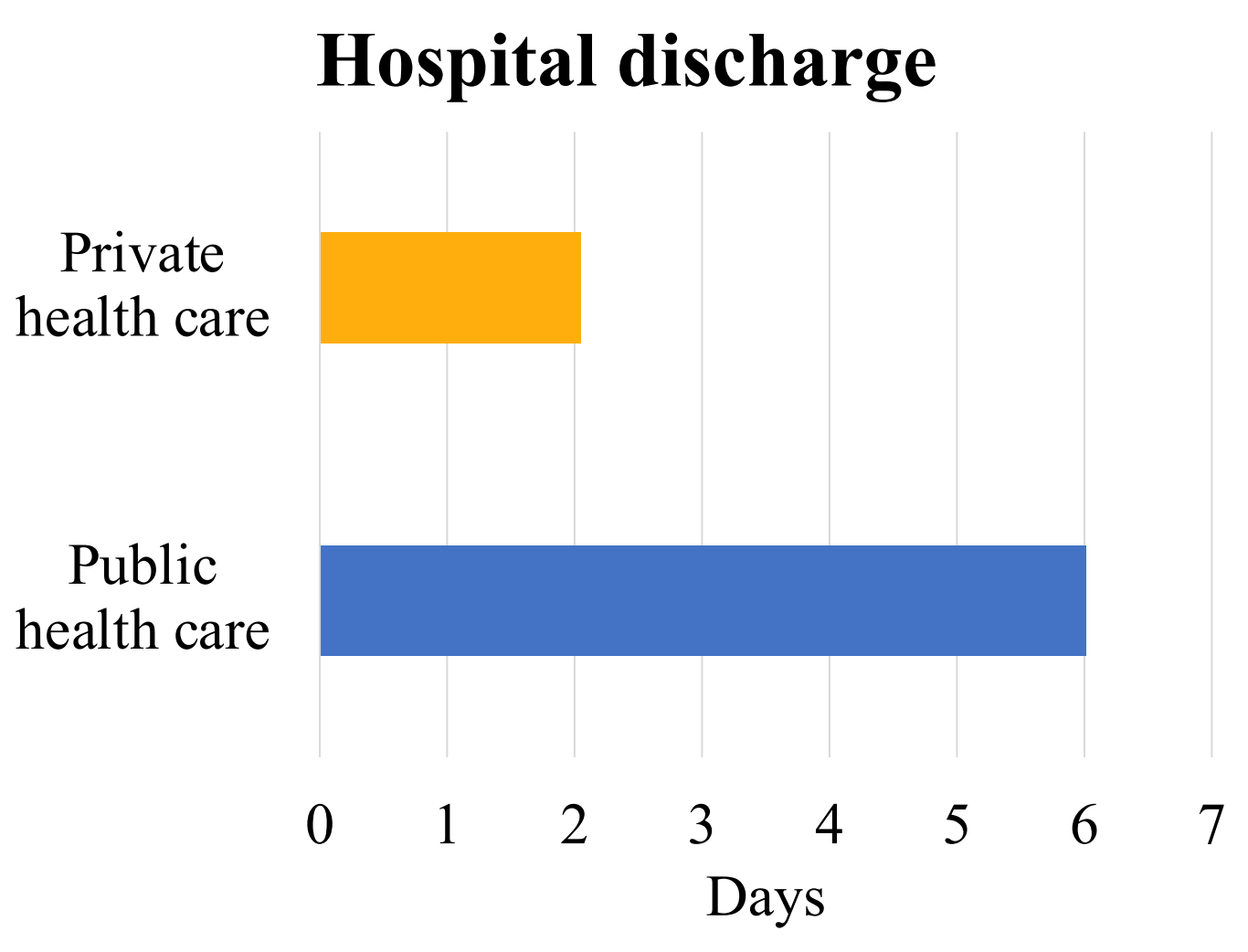


Figure 1. Hospital discharge in public and private health care

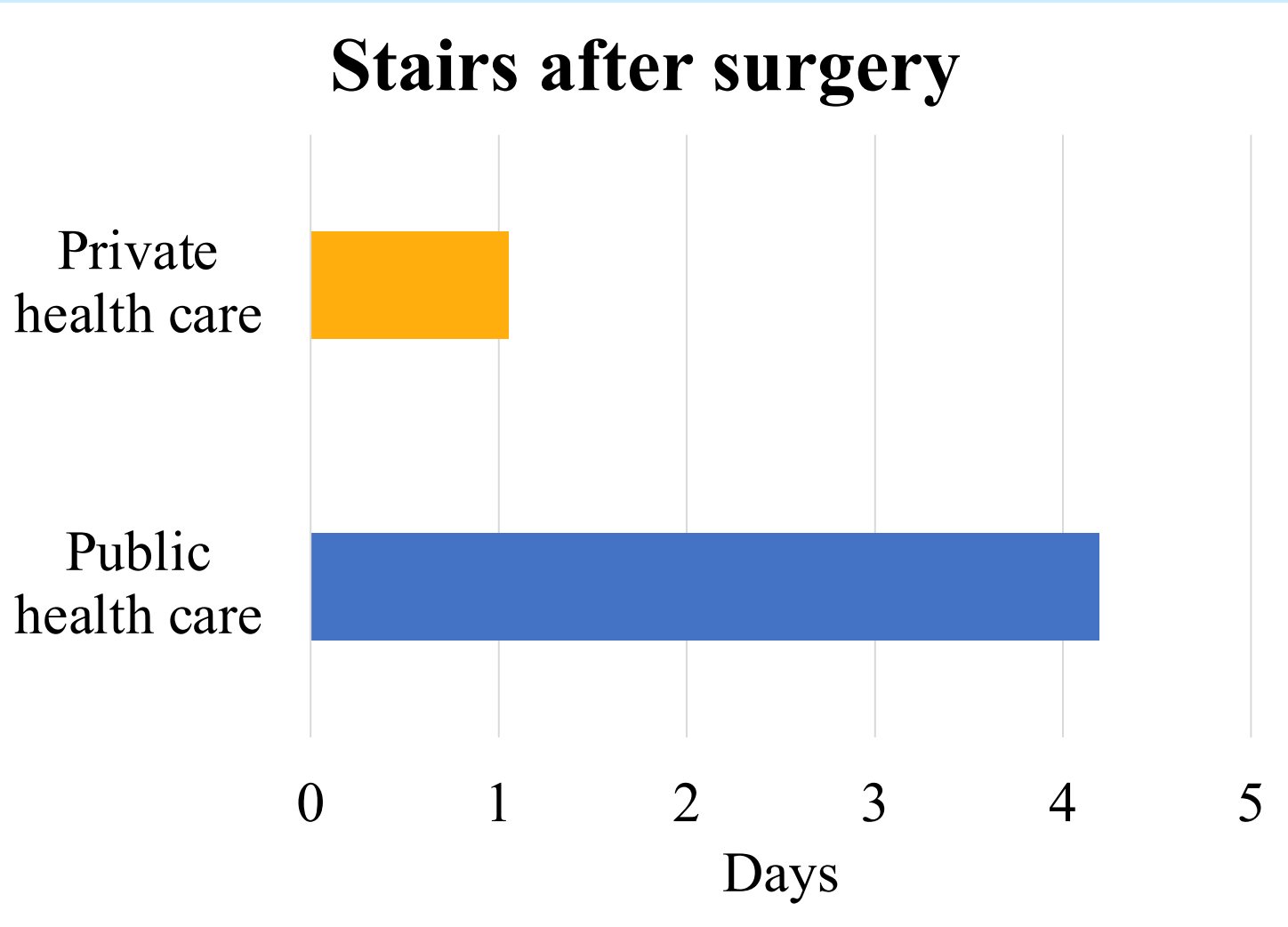


Figure 2. Date of patients' first staircase

		PUBLIC HEALTH CARE	PRIVATE HEALTH CARE
TYPE OF WALKING AID	WITHOUT WALKING AID	0 %	27.68 %
	ONE ELBOW CRUTCH	2.08 %	53.57 %
	TWO ELBOW CRUTCHES	87.50 %	16.07 %
	WALKING FRAME	8.33 %	1.79 %
	OTHER	2.08 %	0.89 %
WALKING UP THE STAIRS	STEP BY STEP	72.92 %	35.71 %
	WITH ALTERNATING LEGS	0 %	57.14 %
	DID NOT STAIR	12.50 %	2.68 %
	NO INFORMATION	14.58 %	4.46 %
WALKING DOWN THE STAIRS	STEP BY STEP	72.92 %	33.04 %
	WITH ALTERNATING LEGS	0 %	59.82 %
	DID NOT STAIR	12.50 %	2.68 %
	NO INFORMATION	14.58 %	4.46 %

Table 1. Type of walking aid and method of stair climbing after surgery

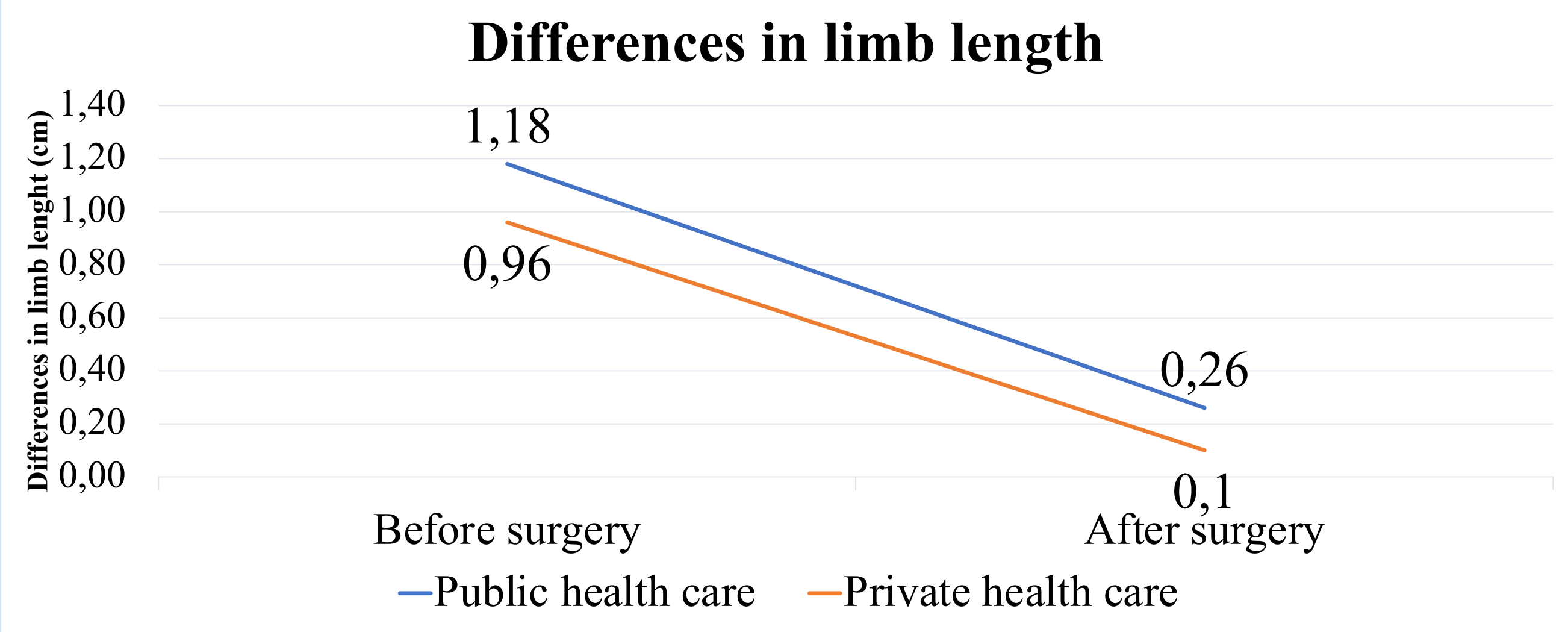


Figure 3. Differences in limb length in public and private health care before and after surgery



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