

Insights from the NHS England Hospital Episode Statistics on  
Hospital Admissions for Patients with Chronic Limb Ischemia in  
Superficial Femoral and Popliteal Arteries

RWD138

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OBJECTIVE

Chronic limb ischemia (CLI) is the most severe stage of peripheral arterial disease and is characterized by chronic pain at rest, tissue loss and a high risk of amputation<sup>1</sup> and death.<sup>2</sup> CLI is a major burden for patients and health care systems,<sup>3</sup> necessitating costly interventions to restore blood flow and prevent limb loss.

This study aimed to provide an overview of inpatient characteristics and the cost of treating patients with CLI in the superficial femoral and popliteal arteries (SFA/PA).

METHODS

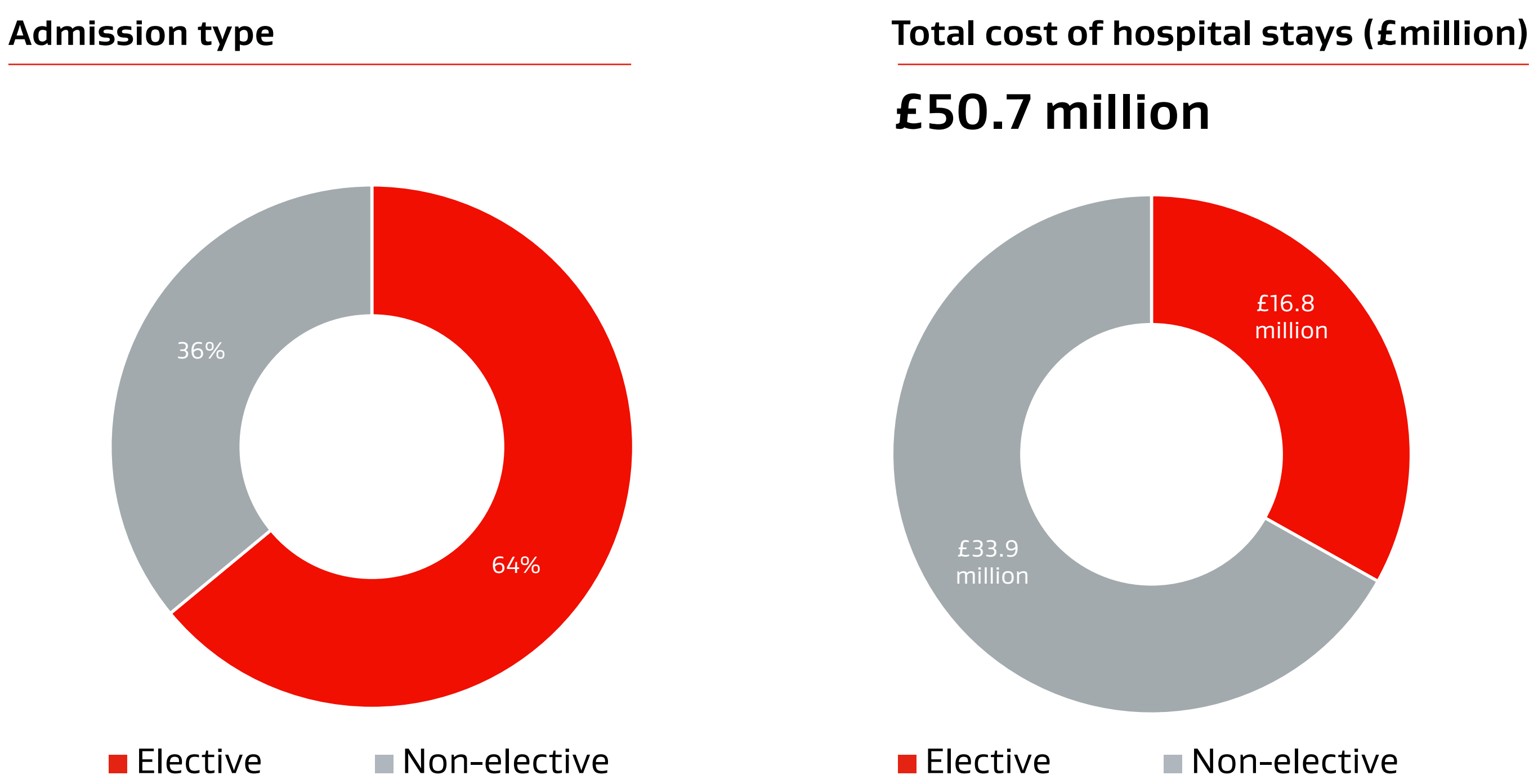
Patients diagnosed with CLI between April 2022 and March 2023 were identified from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset\* based on specific diagnosis (ICD) and procedure (OPSC) codes. Age, gender, treatment cost, type of admission and return to care were analyzed.

RESULTS

- The study identified 7,325 CLI patients who had undergone revascularization of the SFA/PA.
- Most were men (67%) over 65 years old (73%). Tissue loss had occurred in 36% of patients.
- Overall, 64% of admissions were elective (planned) and 36% non-elective (emergency).

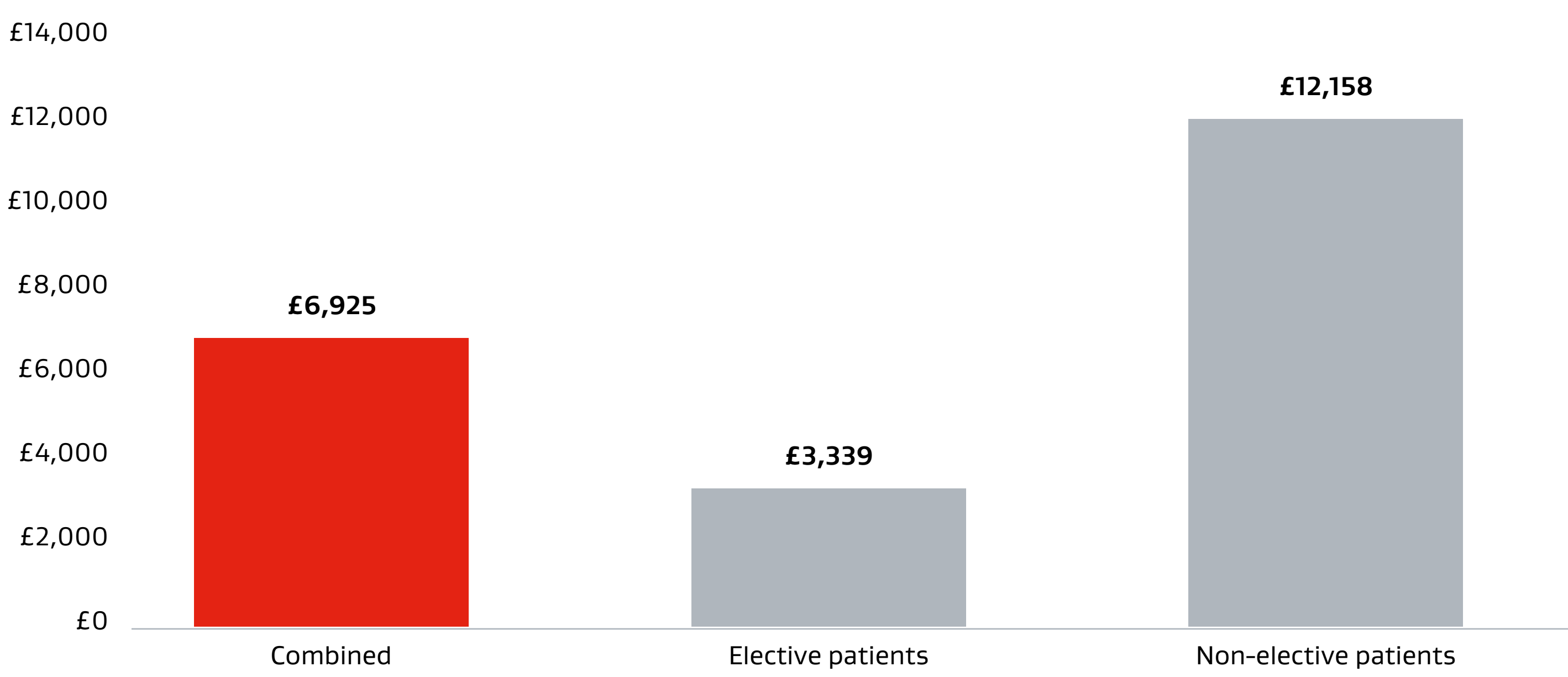
The total cost of the hospital stays was £50.7 million, of which 67% (£33.9 million) was spent on non-elective procedures and 33% (£16.8 million) on elective procedures (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Admission type and total cost of hospital stays



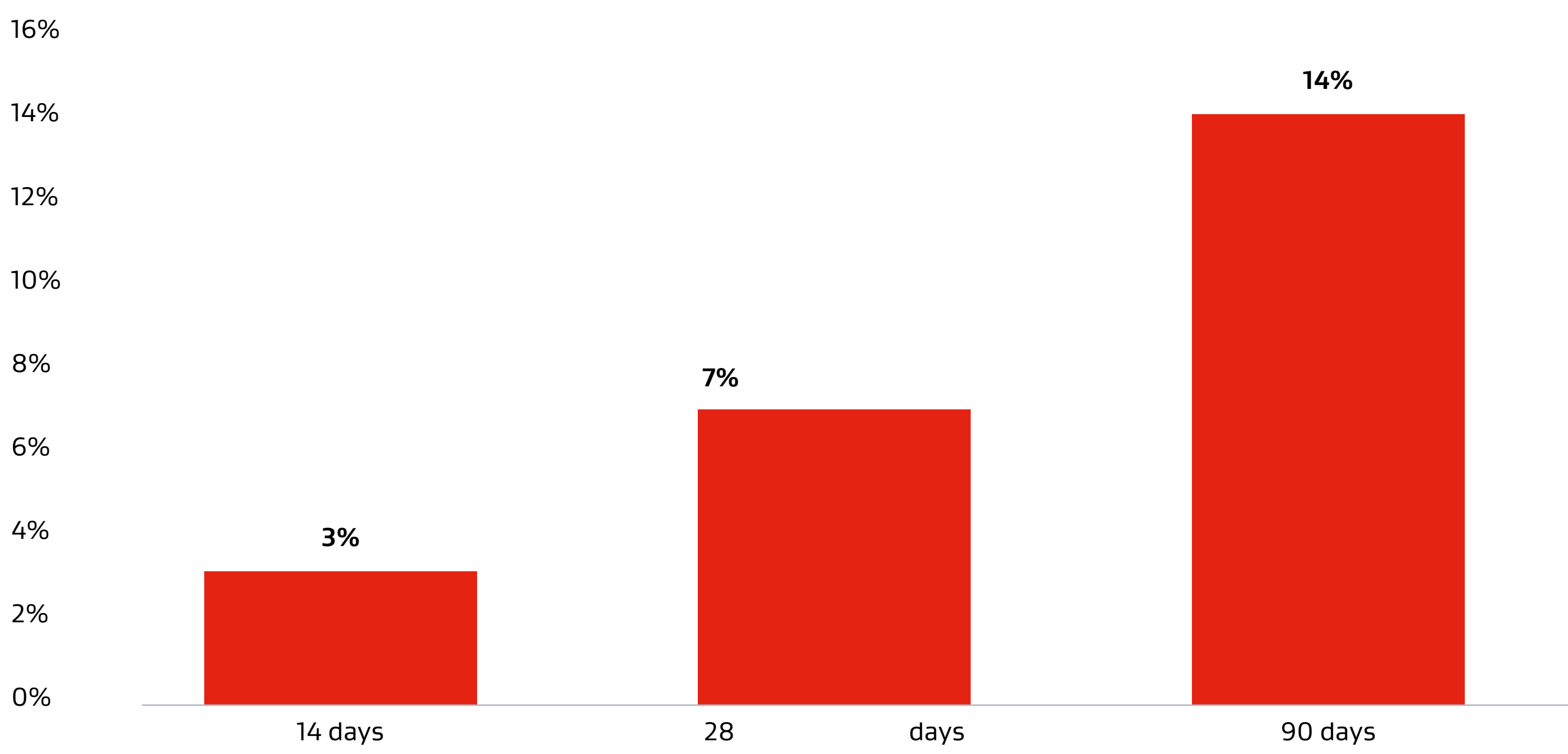
Overall, the average hospital cost per patient was £6,925. The average hospital cost per patient for non-elective admissions was £12,158, over 3.5 times higher than elective admissions at £3,339 (Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Average hospital cost per patient



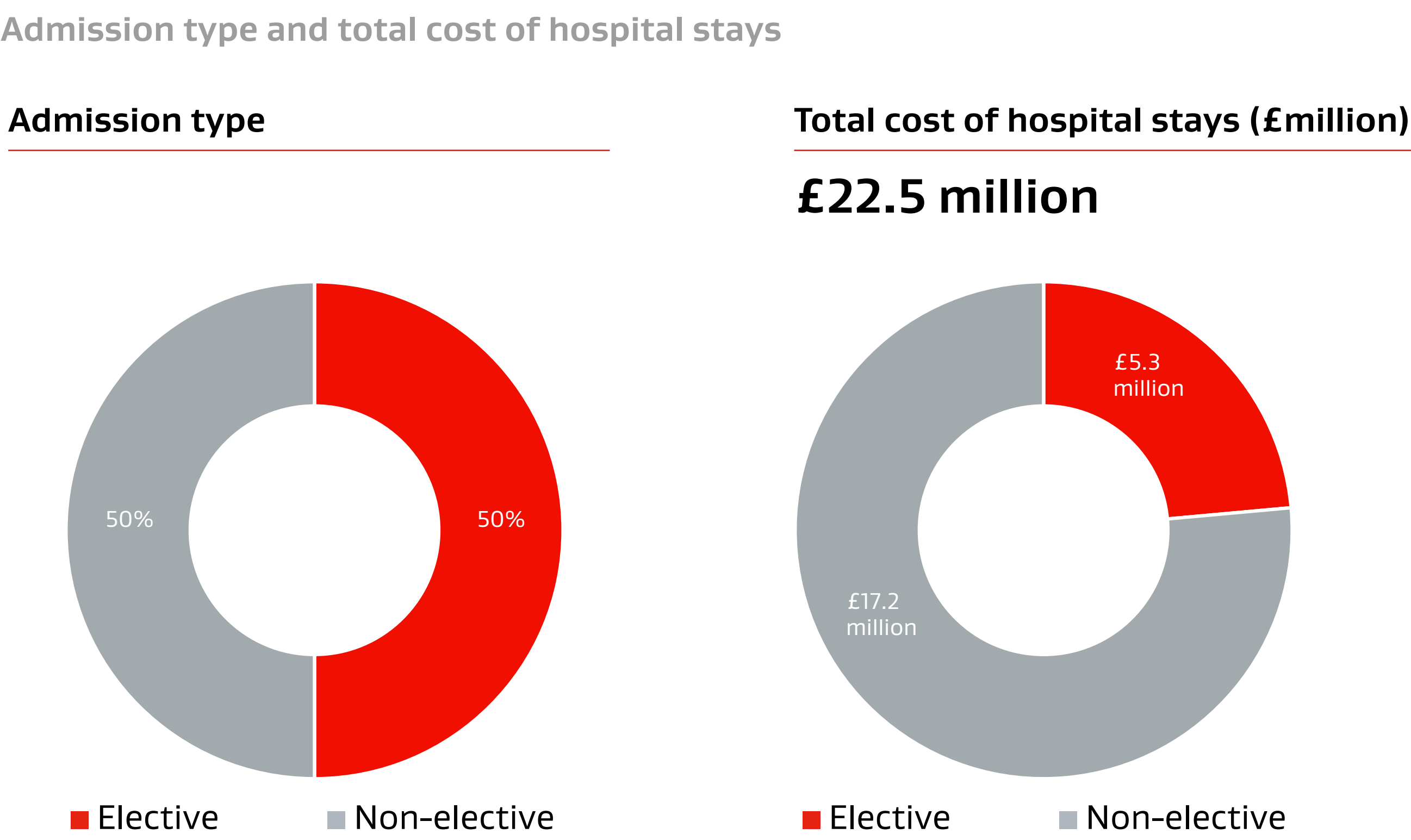
Return-to-care rates ranged from 3% at 14 days to 14% at 90 days (Figure 3). The 30-day emergency re-admission rate was 7%.

Figure 3 – Return-to-care rates



In the subgroup with tissue loss, the total cost of hospital stays was £22.5 million; the rate of non-elective admissions was higher at 50% (Figure 4). The average hospital cost per patient was higher, at £8,532.

Figure 4 – Subgroup of patients with tissue loss



CONCLUSIONS

This study provides an overview of the CLI inpatient characteristics using real-world evidence from HES.

The results show that CLI is a costly condition, with a high proportion of patients presenting with tissue loss and requiring non-elective admissions.

These findings can inform future research and decision-making on the optimal management of CLI patients in NHS England.

\* HES data sourced from: VANTAGE® UK Copyright 2024 CorEvitas LLC, all rights reserved.

REFERENCES

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