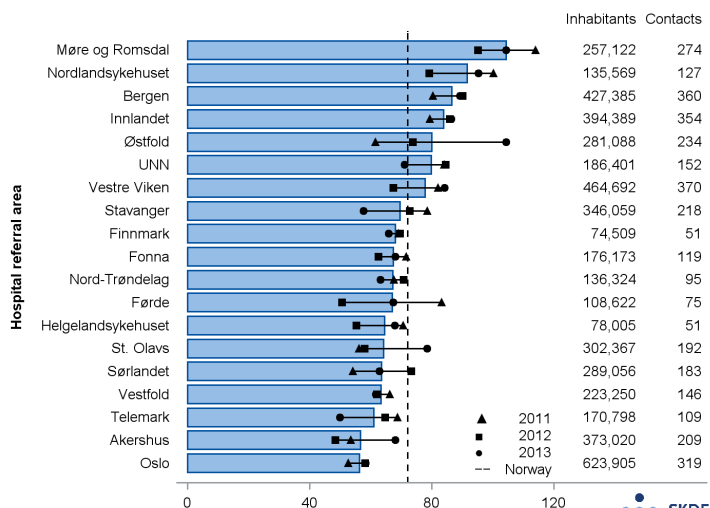
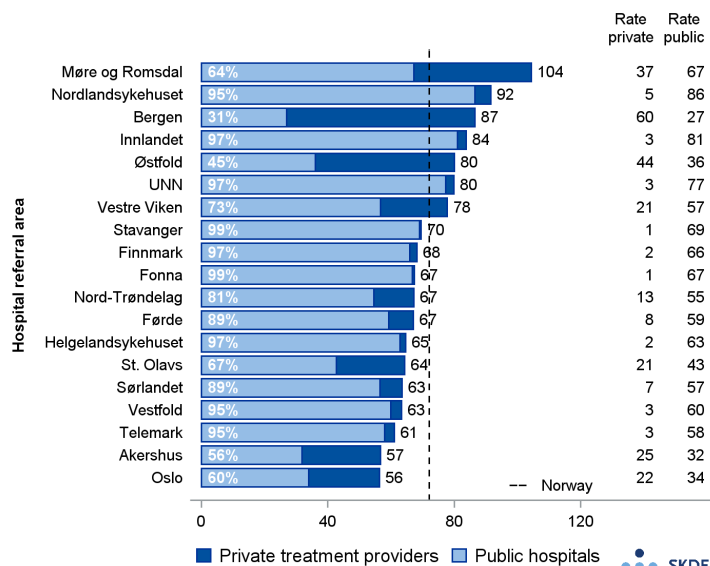


In this context, the term hand surgery is used to cover four conditions: Dupuytren's contracture, which is a connective tissue formation (thickening) of the palmar fascia; trigger finger, which results in a finger becoming 'stuck' in a bent position; ganglion, which is a tender swelling or lump, usually at the wrist; and DeQuervain, which is tenosynovitis of the thumb.



Source: NPR/SSB

Hand 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

Hand 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

	2011	2012	2013	Aver. (%)
Public hospitals	2,777	2,635	2,658	2,690 (74%)
Private treatment providers	773	901	1,174	949 (26%)
Total	3,550	3,536	3,832	3,639 (100%)

Procedures per year and average for the period 2011–2013



Definitions

The following combinations of codes define this patient group:

Trigger finger: Primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-10) M65.3 in combination with the procedure codes (NCSP) NDE12 or NDM49 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code 140k for specialists in private practice under a funding contract with the regional health authorities.

Ganglion: Primary or secondary diagnosis M67.4 in combination with the procedure codes NDM39 or NDR09 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code 140a for specialists in private practice under a funding contract with the regional health authorities.

Dupuytren's contracture: Primary or secondary diagnosis M72.0 in combination with the procedure codes NDM09, NDM19 or NDM49 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code 140c for specialists in private practice under a funding contract with the regional health authorities.

DeQuervain: Primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-10) M65.4 in combination with the procedure codes NDM49 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code 140k for specialists in private practice under a funding contract with the regional health authorities.

These four procedures are merged into one group in all the analyses.

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

Comments

The scope of hand surgery is relatively small, stable and evenly distributed between the hospital referral areas. The ratio between procedures performed by public and private treatment providers vary a great deal between areas, however.

No national and very few international guidelines exist for these procedures and, as a rule, these conditions do not entitle patients to prioritised health care pursuant to the national Prioritisation Regulations.