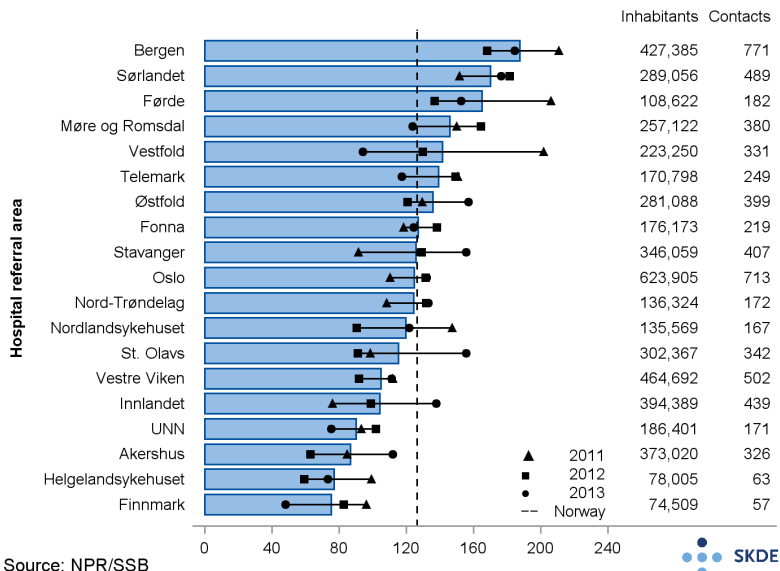
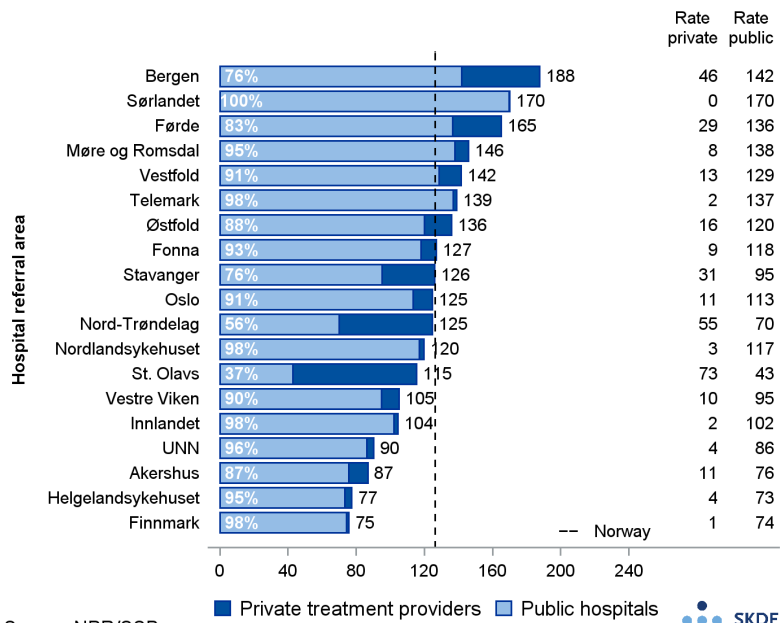


Reduced vein function in the legs creates varicose veins with pressure and heavy legs, and sometimes increased swelling, pain and leg ulcers. The size of the veins and the degree of cosmetic discomfort, swelling and leg ulcers form the basis for removing varicose veins. This is done either surgically, with laser treatment or radiofrequency ablation, or by using a local irritant.



Source: NPR/SSB

Varicose vein 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

Varicose vein 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) I87.2 or in code block I83 in combination with the procedure codes (NCSP) PHB10, PHB11, PHB12, PHD10, PHD11, PHD15, PHD99, PHV10, PHV12 or PHV99 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code 145b 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	5,481	5,335	5,605	5,474 (86%)
Private	764	752	1,198	905 (14%)
Total	6,245	6,087	6,803	6,378 (100%)

Procedures per year and average for the period 2011–2013

Comments

Most varicose vein treatment takes place in public hospitals (86%). The level of activity increased somewhat both at public hospitals and among private treatment providers in 2013 compared with the preceding years.

There is relatively high variation between hospital referral areas. This could be due to differences in indications used, lack of guidelines and differences in the use of new techniques. The degree to which varicose veins are treated with surgery also varied within each hospital referral area during the three-year observation period.