What are the likely harms of arthroscopic surgery?

Each figure represents one person. We can't predict whether you will be one of the people who is harmed.

100 people who do have surgery

- has serious problems
- no serious problems

Based on moderate-certainty evidence, less than 1 person per 100 that receives arthroscopic surgery will have serious (and potentially life-threatening) problems like infection, nerve injury, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, heart attack, stroke and pneumonia.

What are the likely harms of surgery?

Think of each figure as 1 person. We can't predict if you will be one of the people who is harmed. Harms are more common among people with other health conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease).

- has frozen shoulder or minor harms
- has serious problems

About 3 people per 100 that have surgery will develop frozen shoulder (which may cause shoulder pain and stiffness for up to 2 years) or minor harms with surgery.

About 1 person per 100 that has surgery will have serious (and potentially life-threatening) problems like infection, nerve injury, heart attack, stroke and pneumonia.