


BMJ Open Association between same day discharge total knee and total hip arthroplasty and risks of cardiac/pulmonary complications and readmission: a population-based observational study

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ABSTRACT

Objective To determine if same-day discharge total knee arthroplasty (TKA) or total hip arthroplasty (THA) is not associated with increased risk of unplanned readmission and adverse outcomes within 30 days of surgery.

Design This is a population-based observational study.

Setting Patients from 708 participating institutions who underwent primary TKA or primary THA between 2011 and 2017 were divided into three groups by length of stay (LOS 0, 1 and 2–3 days). All patients with LOS>3 days were excluded from the current study. Regression analysis and propensity score matching were performed.

Data sources American College of Surgeons—National Surgical Quality Improvement Programme database.

Main outcomes and measures Primary outcomes included unplanned readmission and cardiac/pulmonary complications within 30 days of surgery.

Results We identified 226 481 TKA (LOS 0=3118, LOS 1=31 404, and LOS 2–3=1 91 959) and 140 557 THA patients (LOS 0=2652, LOS 1=29 617, and LOS 2–3=1 08 288). There were no differences in 30-day mortality. After adjusting for relevant covariates, LOS 0 (compared with LOS 1) was associated with higher odds of cardiac/pulmonary complications in both TKA (OR 1.95, 95% CI 1.20 to 3.16; 0.67% vs 0.37%) and THA (OR 1.96, 95% CI 1.05 to 3.64; 0.57% vs 0.26%). There were no statistical differences in unplanned readmissions between LOS 0 and LOS 1 groups in TKA (2.41% vs 2.31%) and THA (1.62% vs 2.04%).

Conclusions LOS 0 discharge after TKA and THA was associated with higher odds of cardiac/pulmonary complications compared with LOS 1 discharge. While the overall burden of complications is relatively low, until future studies can confirm or challenge our findings, a measured approach is advisable when recommending discharge of patients on the same day of surgery.

INTRODUCTION

Joint arthroplasty is among the most commonly performed procedures in USA

Strength and limitations of this study

- Information on safety of same-day discharge after total knee arthroplasty (TKA) and total hip arthroplasty (THA) is lacking.
- This is the first comprehensive study to focus on length of stay (LOS) 0 and LOS 1 TKA and THA patients.
- This is a population-based observational study, and cannot establish causal relationships.

with projections of continuous growth in parallel with an ageing population. Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) is projected at 3.48 million procedures annually, while total hip arthroplasty (THA) at 700 000 per year by 2030.¹ Until recently, TKA and THA were listed as Inpatient Only (IPO) procedures by the Centre for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS), which requires greater than 24 hours of postoperative care. Financial necessity, advances in surgical techniques, improved pain management and early physical rehabilitation have led to a continuous reduction in total hospital length of stay (LOS) after surgery.² This trend has made ambulatory joint arthroplasty practice feasible. In fact, CMS removed TKA from the IPO list in January 2018 with the expectation of reducing healthcare cost.³ It is likely that CMS might remove THA from the IPO list in the near future, especially since the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons has also provided supportive statements for outpatient total hip arthroplasty.⁴ Such policy decisions by CMS cast significant pressure on

hospitals and healthcare providers to fast track patients, and expedite a push towards performing surgery at free-standing ambulatory surgery centres.

However, practical and logistical concerns remain regarding the safety of fast track approaches, especially the true ambulatory practice with same day discharge. While mostly focused on patient selection and optimisation of peri-operative care guided under well-defined clinical pathways, actual outcome data are scarce. Several studies found no difference in short-term complications after comparing shorter inpatient stay with LOS \geq 2 days.⁵⁻⁷ Additional studies comparing admission status of outpatient versus inpatient, and concluded that outpatient joint arthroplasty is safe and effective.⁸⁻¹¹ None of these studies focused on true ambulatory population (LOS 0) and the fast track group (LOS 1). One previous study by Otero *et al* included a small group of LOS 0 patients, and did not identify differences among TKA patients but increased complication rate in THA patients.¹² Gromov *et al* studied 116 LOS 0 patients with matching cohort of 339 patients (LOS 1-9 days), and found no readmissions within 48 hours and comparable incidence of readmission within 90 days.¹³ However, these earlier studies were limited by the small sample size to be conclusive, and study cohort included emergent procedures, bilateral arthroplasties, or mixed TKA/THA patient population.

Given the current push towards same-day discharge after lower extremity joint arthroplasty surgery and lack of large-scale data on crucial comparisons, we therefore sought to study the safety of ambulatory surgical practice of TKA and THA with the access of several folds of more subjects to hopefully draw more convincing conclusion. For this purpose, we studied and compared complications and readmission rate and risk in patients discharged on the day of surgery (LOS 0) to those with a LOS of 1 day (LOS 1). We also included the standard practice group with LOS 2-3 days as a reference group. We hypothesised that there would be no difference in complications and readmission rates and risks among patients discharged same day of TKA or THA surgery.

METHODS

The population-based observational study follows the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology statement (second paragraph of the 'Patient and Public Involvement' section).

Cohort description

We acquired the data from the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) from 2011 to 2017 (<http://site.acsnqip.org>). NSQIP prospectively collects data on over 200 variables, including demographic information, comorbidities, intraoperative variables, 30-day postoperative complications and readmission. NSQIP conducted independent follow-ups of all registered patients for 30 days even after discharged from hospital, therefore NSQIP was

able to capture postsurgical events for 30 days no matter whether patients were still in hospital or were discharged to other destination. NSQIP database does not include surgical procedures performed at ambulatory surgical centre as of 2017. To define our study cohort, we only included patients with the principal Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code for primary TKA (CPT 27447) or primary THA (CPT 27130). We only included patients from 2011 to 2017, as the NSQIP dataset provides information on the readmission incidence within 30 days of surgery during this time frame.

There were a total of n=2 322 18 and n=1 417 677 entries for TKA and THA with LOS from 0 to 3 calendar days, respectively. We first excluded patients categorised as 'emergency' to establish a more homogeneous study cohort (n=193 and 435 respectively). We then excluded patients who received bilateral arthroplasty as defined by the relevant concurrent CPT code (n=5544 and 775 respectively). The final cohort included 226 481 and 140 557 subjects for TKA and THA, respectively.

Study variables

Patients were separated into three groups based on LOS calculated based on calendar days (LOS 0 for same day discharge; LOS 1 for patients with next day discharge; and LOS 2-3 for patients with a traditional LOS of 2 to 3 days). The outcomes of interest were readmission within 30 days and six composite complication variables, including: wound infection, systemic infection, cardiac/pulmonary complications (including cardiac arrest requiring CPR, myocardial infarction, pulmonary embolism, unplanned intubation and/or on ventilator >48 hours), major complications (including any cardiac, pulmonary, central nerve system, renal, or systemic infection complications), any complication (including any complications enlisted in the NSQIP database), and any complication excluding blood transfusion.

Statistical analysis

Data analysis was executed using STATA V.14.2 statistical software (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX). Analysis of variance was used to analyse continuous variables.

Pearson χ^2 tests were applied for categorical variables. After applying Bonferroni correction, p value less than 0.0036 (0.05/14 variables) was used as the cut-off for statistical significance.

We next conducted single variable and multi-variable regression analysis to examine the impact of LOS on readmission and complications. The confounding variables included age, sex, race, body mass index (BMI), surgical duration, year of surgery and American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) classification. In the regression analysis we treated the LOS 1 group as the reference. The OR and 95% CI were reported. We elected to report output from the multi-variable regression analysis in the result section. To further evaluate robustness of our results, we also performed a propensity score matched analysis where the significant covariates were entered to calculate

the propensity score to receive either same day (LOS 0) or fast track (LOS 1) surgery. We employed the Kernel matching algorithm based on the weighted average of all controls, and the weights are inversely proportional to the distance between the propensity scores.

Patient and public involvement

The current study involved prospectively collected patient information without any identifiable patient specific information. None of these included study subjects would benefit from the current study. However, future patients may benefit from the knowledge highlighted in the current study once it is publicly available. Patients were not involved in the design and conduct of current study. All patient related information was de-identified from the database to preserve privacy.

RESULTS

We identified $n=226\,481$ primary TKA (LOS 0=3118, LOS 1=31404, and LOS 2–3=191959) and 140557 primary THA patients (LOS 0=2652, LOS 1=29617, and LOS 2–3=108288), respectively. There were no major clinically significant differences in the comorbidity burden between LOS 0 and LOS 1 groups, while LOS 2–3 group carried a higher comorbidity burden (table 1). Between 2011 and 2017, LOS trended downwards, with an increasing number of patients being discharged on the day of surgery or the next day (TKA 1.04% in 2011, and 26.55% in 2017; THA 3.44% in 2011, and 34.91% in 2017, respectively). The discharge destination was most frequently to home among the various TKA groups (LOS 0 group 89.48%, LOS 1 group 97.62% and 76.39% in LOS 2–3 group). Home discharge was the most prominent disposition in THA as well (LOS 0 group 94.72%, LOS 1 group 97.92% and 78.37% in LOS 2–3 group). There were no differences in 30-day mortality in either TKA (table 2) or THA groups (table 3). The incidences of 30-day major complications and unplanned readmissions were low in the LOS 1 discharge group (0.53% and 2.31% in TKA; 0.43% and 2.04% in THA respectively). There were no statistically significant differences in unplanned readmission between LOS 0 and LOS 1 group in TKA patients (2.41% vs 2.31% in TKA, OR 1.10, 95% CI 0.86 to 1.42, table 2), nor among THA patients (1.62% vs 2.04% in THA, OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.60 to 1.16, table 3). LOS 2–3 group otherwise carried the highest incidence of unplanned readmission (tables 2 and 3).

Tables 2 and 3 also provide results from the univariable regression, multivariable regression and the propensity score matching analysis comparing the LOS 0 to the LOS 1 groups. The LOS 0 group was associated with higher odds of cardiac/pulmonary complications in both TKA (OR 1.95, 95% CI 1.20–3.16; unadjusted prevalence 0.67% vs 0.37%, table 2) and THA (OR 1.96, 95% CI 1.05 to 3.64; unadjusted prevalence 0.57% vs 0.26%, table 3) when compared with the LOS 1 group. Propensity score matching analysis confirmed such increased incidence

of cardiac/pulmonary complications in LOS 0 group (tables 2 and 3). The incidence was even higher when compared with the LOS 2–3 group (tables 2 and 3).

LOS 0 group was associated with higher odds of major complications in TKA recipients (OR 1.94, 95% CI 1.29 to 2.92, table 2), but not in THA patients (OR 1.55, 95% CI 0.90 to 2.67, table 3) compared with LOS 1 patients. Similar patterns of differences were also observed in the outcomes for any complications, and any complications excluding transfusion. These differences were statistically significant only in TKA (table 2) but not in THA (table 3). Propensity score matching analysis further confirmed all significances (tables 2 and 3). There were no differences in wound infection and systemic infection between LOS 0 and LOS 1 groups in either TKA or THA.

DISCUSSION

In this analysis of data collected by NSQIP, we present data using population data that challenge the assumed safety of same day discharge after TKA or THA surgery. Our analysis showed somewhat surprising results that LOS 0 group had higher risks of cardiac/pulmonary complications within 30 days after surgery in both TKA and THA, compared with patients in the LOS 1 group. Our study also identified significantly increased odds for major complications with LOS 0 discharge status compared with LOS 1 group among TKA recipients.

The average LOS after TKA decreased from 3.42 days in 2011 to 2.38 days in 2017, and from 3.54 days in 2011 to 2.31 days in 2017 after THA surgery (NSQIP data). Accordingly, more patients received fast-track care in more recent years. Previous studies have not shown a difference in readmission rates and complications among fast-track TKA and THA patients.^{14–19} Definition of fast-track practice has also been evolving, from previously LOS 2–3 days to as short as LOS 1 day. It is foreseeable that fast-track practice will gear towards LOS 0 day status in the future. Otero *et al* studied patients from 2011 and 2013, which they concluded that there were no differences in readmission and 30-day complication in TKA between LOS 0 and LOS 1 status, while THA patients with LOS 0 status were associated with a higher 30-day complication rate.¹² However, this study is limited by the small number of patients in the LOS 0 and LOS 1 groups. In addition, the authors did not exclude patients with emergent admission status and patients who received bilateral arthroplasty procedures. Lately, Gromov *et al* studied LOS 0 patients with a matching cohort of controls with LOS 1–9 days.¹³ The authors concluded that readmission rates were comparable. However, such comparison might not be fair since LOS 1–9 patients, especially patients with longer LOS usually have indications for hospitalisation. The staying in hospital would decrease chances of readmission, nor with recorded diagnosis for readmission. Other researchers have attempted to study the difference in complications in arthroplasty based on the admission status either as outpatient or inpatient.²⁰ However, such



Table 1 Patient demographic information and comorbidity

	Total hip arthroplasty																		
	Total knee arthroplasty				LOS 0				LOS 1				LOS 2-3						
	Mean/N	Std/%	Mean/N	Std/%	P value†	Mean/N	Std/%	Mean/N	Std/%	Mean/N	Std/%	Mean/N	Std/%	Mean/N	Std/%	P value*	Mean/N	Std/%	P value†
Age (year)	65.18	9.67	65.40	8.98	0.194	66.61	9.49	61.46	10.67	<0.001	62.13	10.68	65.07	11.33	0.002	65.07	11.33	<0.001	
Sex																			
Female	1682	53.94	16363	52.10	0.050	120447	62.77	1214	45.78	<0.001	13254	44.75	61006	56.37	0.309	61006	56.37	<0.001	
Male	1436	46.06	15041	47.90		71427	37.23	1438	54.22		16363	55.25	47225	43.63		47225	43.63		
Race																			
White	2512	88.98	26698	89.60	0.354	148875	88.45	2213	90.40	<0.001	25540	90.76	83651	89.17	0.217	83651	89.17	<0.001	
Black	200	7.08	2080	6.98		14103	8.38	162	6.62		1920	6.82	8108	8.64		8108	8.64		
Others	111	3.93	1020	3.42		5330	3.17	73	2.98		681	2.42	2054	2.19		2054	2.19		
BMI	32.09	6.39	32.18	6.17	0.419	33.06	6.91	29.16	5.39	<0.001	29.69	5.73	30.33	6.41	<0.001	30.33	6.41	<0.001	
OR time (min)	84.58	33.48	86.24	29.24	0.003	90.23	34.88	82.60	33.49	<0.001	87.67	32.02	91.43	38.26	0.002	91.43	38.26	<0.001	
ASA classification																			
I/II	1882	60.42	17957	57.21	0.001	99497	51.87	1958	73.83	<0.001	20148	68.07	62496	57.76	<0.001	62496	57.76	<0.001	
≥III	1233	39.58	13432	42.79		92336	48.13	694	26.17		9451	31.93	45696	42.24		45696	42.24		
Diabetes																			
Type II	367	11.77	3699	11.78	0.983	25932	13.51	182	6.86	<0.001	2152	7.27	9967	9.20	0.707	9967	9.20	<0.001	
Type I	93	2.98	955	3.04		7901	4.12	46	1.73		537	1.81	2892	2.67		2892	2.67		
Smoker	234	7.50	2565	8.17	0.196	16263	8.47	294	11.09	0.036	3696	12.48	14317	13.22	0.037	14317	13.22	<0.001	
Function status	11	0.35	139	0.45	0.647	1932	1.01	14	0.53	<0.001	211	0.71	1885	1.75	0.454	1885	1.75	<0.001	
CHF	4	0.13	43	0.14	0.901	483	0.25	2	0.08	<0.001	25	0.08	272	0.25	0.878	272	0.25	<0.001	
HTN	1811	58.08	19187	61.10	0.001	124958	65.10	1185	44.68	<0.001	14516	49.01	61084	56.41	<0.001	61084	56.41	<0.001	
COPD	82	2.63	732	2.33	0.294	6404	3.34	67	2.53	<0.001	660	2.23	4108	3.79	0.322	4108	3.79	<0.001	
Liver disease	0		4	0.01	0.529	27	0.01	1	0.04	0.792	2	0.01	22	0.02	0.113	22	0.02	0.222	
Renal insufficiency	3	0.10	28	0.09	0.900	242	0.13	3	0.11	0.201	22	0.07	191	0.18	0.491	191	0.18	<0.001	
Cancer	1	0.03	21	0.07	0.463	190	0.10	3	0.11	0.119	41	0.14	254	0.23	0.735	254	0.23	0.003	
Bleeding disorder	49	1.57	445	1.42	0.488	3987	2.08	19	0.72	<0.001	354	1.20	2168	2.00	0.027	2168	2.00	<0.001	

*P value analysis between LOS 0 and LOS 1 groups.

†P value analysis among LOS 0, LOS 1 and LOS 2-3 groups.

ASA, American Society of Anesthesiologists; BMI, Body Mass Index; CHF, congestive heart failure; COPD, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; HTN, hypertension; LOS, length of stay (days); OR, Operating Room.

Table 2 Incidence of complications with various LOS (per 100 patients), OR analysis, and propensity score matching (PM) analysis of complications in total knee arthroplasty (TKA)

	TKA/Single variable regression				TKA/Multi-variable regression				TKA/PM/Incidence (%)*				
	LOS 0	LOS 1	LOS 2-3	LOS 2-3	OR	P value	95% CI	OR	P value	95% CI	LOS 0	LOS 1	P value
Mortality	0.16	0.08	0.123	0.1	2.10	0.132	0.80 to 5.51	1.78	0.295	0.60 to 5.27	0.14	0.00	0.045
Unplanned readmission	2.41	2.31	0.749	2.89	1.04	0.749	0.82 to 1.32	1.10	0.445	0.86 to 1.42	2.53	2.03	0.211
Major complication	0.96	0.53	0.003	0.64	1.81	0.003	1.22 to 2.67	1.94	0.001	1.29 to 2.92	0.96	0.32	0.003
Any complication excluding transfusion	2.98	1.99	<0.001	2.74	1.51	<0.001	1.21 to 1.89	1.55	<0.001	1.22 to 1.96	2.92	1.53	<0.001
Any complication	4.49	2.16	<0.001	6.95	2.13	<0.001	1.77 to 2.57	2.03	<0.001	1.66 to 2.47	4.42	1.85	<0.001
Systemic infection	1.67	1.28	0.070	1.73	1.31	0.071	0.98 to 1.75	1.30	0.098	0.95 to 1.79	1.60	1.03	0.061
Wound infection	0.77	0.72	0.753	0.88	1.07	0.753	0.70 to 1.63	0.99	0.963	0.61 to 1.59	0.68	0.43	0.207
Cardiac/pulmonary complications	0.67	0.37	0.009	0.44	1.84	0.010	1.16 to 2.94	1.95	0.007	1.20 to 3.16	0.68	0.25	0.018

*Propensity score matched 2796 patients per group.

†Indicates significance. LOS, length of stay.

categorisation among arthroplasty recipients was arbitrary which was most likely influenced by the type of patients' insurance. Nonetheless, concerns remained among clinicians regarding the balance of safe clinical practice and fast-track efficiency.

In order to achieve these goals, clinicians have attempted to identify patients at risk of readmission or complications, and thus triage them accordingly. Many independent risk factors have been identified, including advanced age, gender, high BMI, increased ASA classification, the presence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, cirrhosis and chronic kidney disease.^{5 12 21-25} In addition, poor living conditions, use of mobility aids and social economic factors are also likely to influence LOS and outcomes.^{6 22 26} Clinicians further developed prediction models to determine a patient's candidacy for fast-track surgical care with moderate success.^{5 6 27} It should be mentioned, however, that some data suggest that the majority of patients suffering from a complication after joint arthroplasty may not have any identifiable risk factors,²¹ thus putting strategies currently being used to identify patients at risk into question.

The majority of major complications, such as cardiac/pulmonary complications, likely occur past 24 hours, and more likely peak on postoperative day 2 to 3.^{5 28 29} This timeframe may therefore fall outside the in-hospital observation period as it relates to fast-track patients. It also has been shown that over 50% of patients with major complications do not carry any of these predisposing risk factors.²¹ Therefore, identifying risk factors and risk stratification of patient populations may be of limited use in predicting successful fast-track patients without risk of readmission or complications. The current approach seeks to identify higher risk patients and subsequently exclude them from the fast track pathway. This is supported by our findings that patients in the LOS2-3 group have higher comorbidity burden and are older than those in the LOS 0 and LOS 1 groups.

Many institutions have established enhanced recovery after surgery pathways for TKA and THA. These pathways seek to improve outcomes by standardising the routine use of potentially beneficial interventions that improve outcomes and by employing patient selection strategies. Consequently they include younger and healthier patients with sufficient social support to facilitate early discharge. However, such approaches may not be sufficient to reconcile them with unaltered or lower level of complications while gearing towards true ambulatory surgical model.

We conducted this NSQIP data analysis with the hypothesis that ambulatory patients were not at increased risk comparing to other fast track surgical patients after TKA or THA. It is reasonable to assume that these fast-tracked patients were carefully selected without major comorbidity concerns. Further, it is reasonable to assume that these patients met the discharge criteria established across various institutions. Assuming such safe practice model were established and applied, our findings raise



Table 3 Incidence of complications with various LOS (per 100 patients), OR analysis and propensity score matching (PM) analysis of complications in total hip arthroplasty (THA)

	P				THA/Single variable regression				THA/Multi-variable regression				THA/PM/Incidence(%)*							
	LOS 0		LOS 1		LOS 2-3		P value*		OR		P value		95% CI		LOS 0		LOS 1		P value	
	LOS 0	LOS 1	LOS 1	LOS 2-3	P value*	OR	P value	95% CI	OR	P value	95% CI	LOS 0	LOS 1	P value	95% CI	LOS 0	LOS 1	P value		
Mortality	0.11	0.11	0.939	0.11	0.978	1.05	0.939	0.32 to 3.42	0.84	0.786	0.24 to 2.99	0.12	0.04	0.317						
Unplanned readmission	1.62	2.04	0.144	3.26	<0.001	0.79	0.145	0.58 to 1.08	0.84	0.292	0.60 to 1.16	1.64	2.05	0.287						
Major complication	0.72	0.43	0.034	0.65	<0.001	1.68	0.036	1.03 to 2.72	1.55	0.112	0.90 to 2.67	0.61	0.20	0.025						
Any complication excluding transfusion	1.73	1.68	0.849	2.67	<0.001	1.03	0.849	0.76 to 1.4	1.00	0.979	0.72 to 1.41	1.51	1.19	0.321						
Any complication	3.13	2.86	0.420	9.76	<0.001	1.1	0.420	0.87 to 1.38	1.12	0.363	0.87 to 1.44	2.91	2.17	0.102						
Systemic infection	1.06	1.26	0.372	2.03	<0.001	0.84	0.373	0.57 to 1.23	0.77	0.259	0.49 to 1.20	0.86	1.02	0.553						
Wound infection	0.49	0.77	0.113	1.11	<0.001	0.64	0.116	0.36 to 1.12	0.75	0.334	0.42 to 1.35	0.49	0.53	0.841						
Cardiac/pulmonary complications	0.57	0.26	0.005	0.39	0.002	2.15	0.007	1.24 to 3.75 †	1.96	0.034	1.05 to 3.64	†	0.49	0.020	†					

*Propensity score matched 2423 patients per group.

†Indicates significance.

LOS, length of stay.

concern regarding the safety of same day discharge after TKA or THA surgery. This is especially problematic if the increased risk of complications among this group is related to gaps in continuity of care and lack of necessary early intervention when indicated. However, despite this possibility, our data is not able to establish this causal relationship at this time, and future studies are needed to identify the aetiology and mechanism by which complications may develop.

Our study has several limitations. First, this is a retrospective cohort study and related limitations in respect to establishing causality apply. Although NSQIP has rigorous quality measures to ensure high quality data collection, there was still missing information on several interesting pre-existing comorbidity variables, such as stroke and myocardial infarction. Our study is therefore limited by the accuracy and completeness of data collection, inclusion of available variables and recorded information only. Second, patients were categorised retrospectively based on their actual LOS determined by calendar days. Future research is indicated to prospectively assign clinical pathways and compare readmission and complications. Third, NSQIP only contains outcome information within 30 days, thus outcomes beyond this point but still related to the index procedure remain elusive. Fourth, NSQIP prohibits identifying hospital and surgeon, while studying surgical volume, inpatient hospital versus free-standing surgical centre, and other practice pattern might be insightful. Last, readmission indicator in NSQIP database only included inpatient readmission. Information on emergency department visit would also be important. However, it is beyond the scope of our analysis.

CONCLUSION

Our study is the first comprehensive study to focus on LOS 0 TKA and THA patients. Although same day discharge after TKA and THA surgery is not associated with increased risk of unplanned readmission, these patients carry increased risk of complications. Therefore, the current trend towards increasing discharges on the same day of surgery after TKA and THA should be approached with caution and requires reconsideration. Future prospective studies are needed to confirm our finding and identify if ambulatory joint arthroplasty is associated with acceptable risk for complications and readmissions, as well as its financial impact on our health-care system.

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