

Length of hospital stay after major surgical resection for colorectal cancer

Background

Through the introduction of the Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) pathway, effort is being made to try and cut the length of hospital stay for patients following major surgery, whilst also ensuring that they still receive effective treatment and high quality care.

This study looked at a patient's length of stay following major surgical resection for a colorectal cancer between 2015 and 2016 in the English NHS. Patterns were then investigated to identify what factors might influence the length of stay of a patient following major surgery for colorectal cancer.

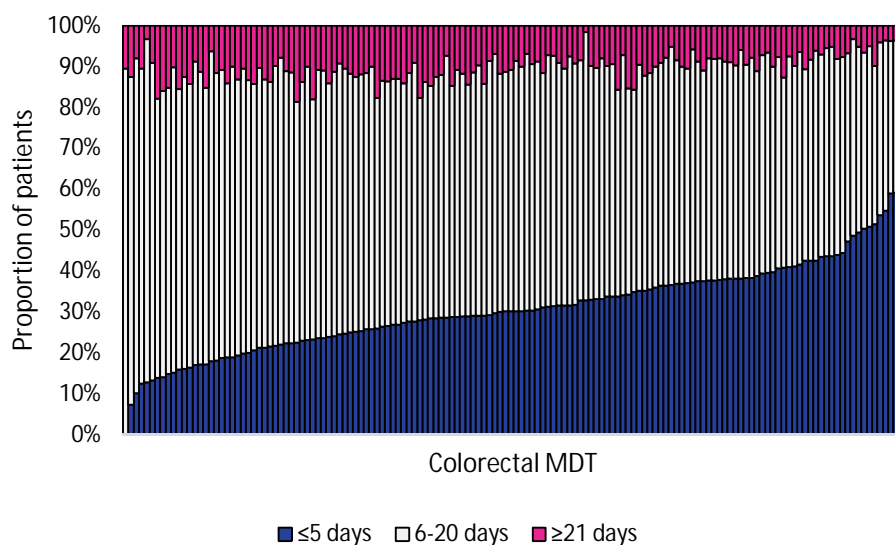
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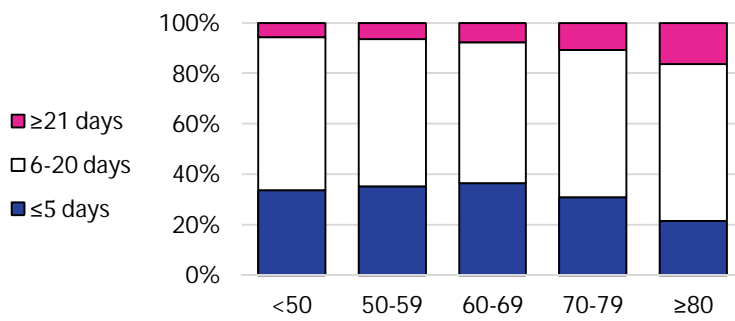
The average length of hospital stay for a patient after colorectal cancer surgery in England is 7 days.

There is a wide variation between Trusts in the number of patients with an ideal length of stay which should be addressed.

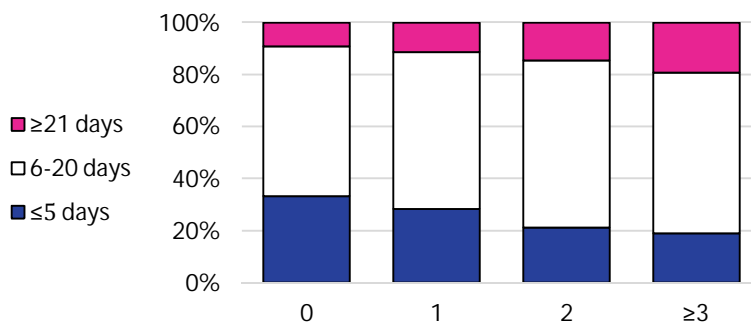
Results

The average length of stay in hospital for a patient is 7 days. The number of patients with a hospital stay of 5 days or less ranged from 0% to 75% across colorectal Multi-Disciplinary Teams in the English NHS Trusts.

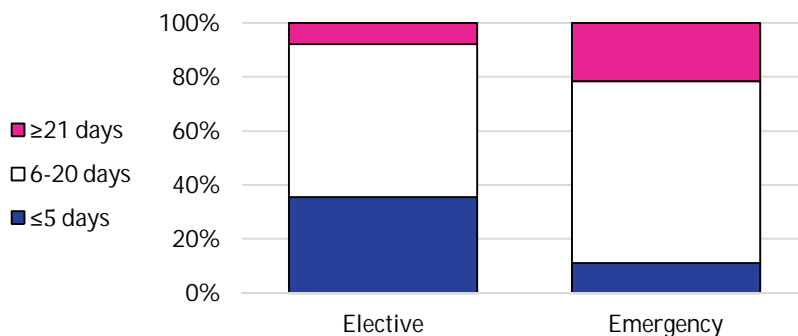




The number of individuals who had a length of stay of 21 days and over increased with age.



Patients with higher levels of comorbidity were more likely to have a "prolonged" length of hospital stay.



Patients admitted to hospital as an emergency for their surgery were more likely to have an increased length of stay.

Conclusions

Despite the introduction of the Enhanced Recover after Surgery pathway, there is still huge variation between the NHS Trusts in a patients' length of stay following major surgery for colorectal cancer. It is important to understand why this variation occurs so improvement measures can be made to enable Trusts to discharge patients within the ideal length of time. Discharging patients earlier not only decreases costs to the NHS, but it could also decrease the risk of patients developing hospital acquired infections.

The UK Colorectal Cancer Intelligence Hub is a UK wide collaboration, aiming to use intelligence to drive improvements in the diagnosis, treatment and outcomes of patients with colorectal cancer. CORECT-R has been established by the Hub as a single repository for colorectal cancer data. If you wish to make use of the data within the resource, please visit <http://bci.leeds.ac.uk> to find out how. This work involves patient-level information collected by the NHS that has either been provided by, or derived from, patients as part of their care and support.