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Linking Patient-Reported Outcome Measure Scores to Adverse Event Data to Gain Insight into Overestimation of Postoperative Patient-Reported Outcome Measure Improvement After Total Hip Arthroplasty and Total Knee Arthroplasty Due to Selective Nonresponse



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ABSTRACT

Background: The purpose of the study was to gain insight into how clinically relevant improvement in patient-reported outcome measure scores after total hip arthroplasty (THA) and total knee arthroplasty (TKA) may be underestimated or overestimated, we compared patient-reported outcome measure respondents and nonrespondents on their adverse event rates and assessed whether adverse event occurrence was associated with clinically relevant patient-reported outcome measure improvement from those without adverse events.

Methods: All primary THAs and TKAs performed in 19 Dutch hospitals between January 2017 and December 2019 were included. The hip disability and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form (HOOS-PS) and knee injury and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form (KOOS-PS) were used to assess the physical function after THA and TKA, respectively. Adverse events included 1-year revision, 30-day readmission, 30-day complications, and long (ie, >75th percentile) length of stay. A clinically relevant improvement was defined as at least a 10-point decrease in HOOS-PS and 9 points in KOOS-PS scores. Associations between adverse events and clinically relevant HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS improvement were assessed using binary logistic regression models adjusted for patient characteristics and clustering of patients within hospitals.

Results: There were 20,338 THA and 18,082 TKA procedures included. Adverse events occurred more frequently in HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS nonrespondents than in respondents. The THA patients experiencing revision, complications, or long length of stay were less likely to experience clinically relevant HOOS-PS improvements (odds ratios of 0.11 [0.06 to 0.20], 0.44 [0.30 to 0.63], and 0.66 [0.50 to 0.88], respectively). The TKA patients experiencing revision or long length of stay were less likely to experience clinically relevant KOOS-PS improvements (odds ratios of 0.26 [0.12 to 0.55] and 0.63 [0.50 to 0.80], respectively).

Conclusions: Clinically relevant HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS improvements are likely overestimated, as non-respondents had higher adverse event rates which were associated with lower likelihood to achieve clinically relevant HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS improvements.

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Clinical performance outcomes such as revision, readmission, complications, and long length of stay (LOS) are unintended adverse events for patients and generally occur with low frequency after total hip and total knee arthroplasties (THA and TKA, respectively) [1]. However, up to 10% and 20% of patients following THA and TKA, respectively, are dissatisfied with the results, mainly related to continued pain and disability [2,3]. Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) measure the intended outcomes such as pain reduction, functionality improvement, and health-related quality-of-life gain, thereby complementing information provided by adverse events on possible areas for improvement [4–8].

Similar to the need for high data completeness regarding adverse events to ensure no selection bias is at play, we also need high response rates of patients completing both preoperative and postoperative questionnaires to calculate the improvement in PROMs. Similar to other national and regional arthroplasty registries, Dutch PROM response rates are low, with approximately 60% of patients completing the preoperative questionnaire for THA and TKA patients [9,10]. In the absence of better response rates, we should at least gain insight into how those who complete questionnaires are a selection of all patients and in what direction this may cause bias (ie, underestimation or overestimation of PROM improvement). Nonresponse bias is challenging to assess because, by definition, nonrespondent data are unavailable and these nonrespondents may differ systematically from respondents, which would introduce bias. Previous studies have shown differences in patient characteristics, such as patients completing questionnaires being healthier, more likely to be white, having higher literacy rates, and having lower rates of cognitive impairment, including dementia [11–15]. However, these may still provide only a partial view by representing baseline patient characteristics rather than outcomes and not showing the direction of the bias.

Unintended adverse events such as revisions or complications may help to provide insights into the direction of any selection bias, as these data are available for both PROM respondents and nonrespondents and likely related to improvement in PROMs. We can assess whether PROM nonrespondents are a selection of patients who had, for example, a higher occurrence of revision or complications, and assess the relationship between adverse event occurrence and the likelihood of achieving an improvement in PROM scores [4,7,16]. Assuming such relationships will be the same regardless of whether respondents fill in PROM questionnaires or not, combining these results will indicate the direction of any selection bias, that is, whether PROM improvements as estimated among respondents will likely provide an overestimation or underestimation of the PROM improvements in the total population.

This study, therefore, aimed to provide insight into how improvement in PROM scores may be underestimated or overestimated relative to all patients who received a THA or TKA by (1) comparing PROM questionnaire respondents and nonrespondents on their adverse event rates (ie, revision, readmission, complications, and long LOS) after THA and TKA; and (2) examining the relationship between the occurrence of these adverse events and clinically relevant improvement in PROM scores.

Materials and Methods

Study Design and Setting

This observational study was performed in 19 hospitals (2 university, 4 teaching, 7 general, and 6 private clinics), reflecting the distribution across the Netherlands, using routinely registry collected data (ie, data on revision and PROMs as well as patient characteristics) from the Dutch Arthroplasty Register (LROI) [1].

These were linked to routinely collected hospital data on readmissions, complications, and LOS. These hospitals participated in a cluster randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of a prospective multifaceted quality improvement intervention on patient outcomes after THA and TKA [17,18]. The Leiden University Medical Center Medical Ethical Committee waived the need for ethical approval under Dutch law (CME, G18.140). This study was funded by the Van Rens Foundation (VRF-2018-001).

Participants

Anonymous data of all patients undergoing a primary THA or TKA between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2019, were included from the 20 Dutch hospitals participating in the aforementioned trial. One general hospital did not provide PROMs data to the LROI and was therefore excluded, leaving data from 19 hospitals eligible for this study. Participating hospitals were comparable to all other Dutch hospitals in the distribution of median revision rates (1.7 versus 1.7% for THA, $P = 1.00$ and 1.4 versus 0.9% for TKA, $P = .62$), suggesting a representative Dutch sample [18].

Data Source

Routinely collected LROI data regarding patient characteristics, revision, and PROMs were used, which were linked for each patient to hospital data on readmission, complications, and LOS. The following data were provided by the LROI for each patient: (1) patient characteristics; age at surgery, sex, body mass index, current smoking status (yes/no), American Society of Anaesthesiologists classification (I to IV), Charnley score (A/B1/B2/C/n/a), and indication for surgery (osteoarthritis/nonosteoarthritis); (2) whether a revision had taken place within 1 year after surgery; and (3) preoperative, 3-month postoperative (for THA), 6-month postoperative (for TKA), and 12-month postoperative PROM outcomes. The LROI procedure completeness is checked against Hospital Electronic Health Records and currently exceeds 99% for primary procedures and 97% for revisions [19]. Completeness is lower for PROM data, currently 63%, for preoperative PROMs for THA and 58% for TKA, and lower for postoperative PROM questionnaires [9,10]. The Landelijke Registratie Orthopedisch Interventies (LROI) data were linked to hospital data by an information and technology specialist from each hospital. A clear definition for each adverse event was provided below to avoid measurement variability.

Adverse Events

The occurrence of a revision within 1 year was calculated using LROI data based on the dates of primary and revision surgery. Other adverse events were calculated using the index hospitalization during which the primary THA or TKA was performed. The outcomes were defined as:

- Revision: Any change, removal, or addition of any component within 1 year after primary surgery;
- Readmission: An admission within 30 days after discharge of the index hospitalization;
- Complication: An adverse event other than revision during the index hospitalization or within 30 days after discharge;
- Long LOS: LOS of the index hospitalization is longer than the 75th percentile, based on all patients in the 19 hospitals, which was included because of possible hospital differences in sensitivity to report complications and because it is a deviation from the expected discharge data communicated to patients [19].

Patient-Reported Outcome Measures

The LROI routinely collects the Hip disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score-Physical function Short form (HOOS-PS) and Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score-Physical function Short form (KOOS-PS), which are joint-specific PROMs and the most frequently collected PROMs in arthroplasty registries [16,20,21]. The PROMs were collected preoperatively at the time of indication for surgery (with a maximum of 182 days before surgery), 3 months (for THA), 6 months (for TKA), and 12 months postoperatively. The LROI does not compute an overall score when one or more questions are incomplete. The HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS contain 5 and 7 questions to measure physical function, respectively [20,21]. Despite their brevity, these questionnaires have sufficient internal consistency and reliability and have been included in the standard set of outcome measures for hip and knee osteoarthritis of the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement [22,23]. The scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores reflecting more effort to perform activities (and thus worse function). Since patients are unlikely to notice a small improvement in PROM scores, a 10-point difference with the baseline PROM score was taken as a clinically relevant improvement or worsening for the 3 months or 12 months postoperative HOOS-PS score and a 9-point difference for the KOOS-PS, as approximately half an SD has been shown to reflect the minimal clinically relevant improvement in health-related quality of life for chronic diseases [24].

Data Analyses

Because both the preoperative and postoperative PROM scores are needed to calculate an improvement in PROM scores, respondents on preoperative, 3-month (THA), 6-month (TKA), and 12-month (THA and TKA) postoperative HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS questionnaires were compared with nonrespondents on their adverse event rates and patient characteristics using *t*-tests for continuous data and *Chi*-square tests for categorical data.

Data on patient characteristics were missing for less than 2% of patients. Missing data were considered missing at random and imputed using multiple imputations for 10 rounds, with predictive mean matching as the underlying model. All patient characteristics (ie, age, sex, body mass index, smoking, American Society of Anaesthesiologists score, Charnley score, and diagnosis), adverse events, and preoperative HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS scores were used as predictors, but only patient characteristics were imputed.

Associations between adverse events, and clinically relevant improvement in HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS scores were assessed using binary logistic regression models, separately for THA and TKA. The models included clinically relevant HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS improvement (yes/no) as the dependent variable and the adverse events as independent variables. All models were adjusted for all patient characteristics mentioned previously, as these have been shown to predict postoperative PROM scores [25]. Hospital was included as a random effect to account for the clustering of patients within hospitals, as for example, treatment received by patients within a hospital will be more similar than for patients in other hospitals, and by including hospital as a random effect, we adjust for such hospital-specific factors. For 30-day readmission, 30-day complications, and long LOS, we used improvement at the first postoperative HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS measurement (ie, 3 months postoperative for THA and 6 months for TKA) as the dependent variable as this time point is more likely to reflect the impact of surgery. For revision, the 1-year postoperative HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS measurement was used because the exact revision date was unknown to us as researchers, which could occur before or after the first postoperative HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS measurement.

All *P* values were 2-sided, and values below 0.05 were considered statistically significant in all analyses. Analyses were performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (version 25; International Business Machines, Armonk, NY) and STATA (version 14; StataCorp, Lakeway, TX).

There were 20,338 primary THA procedures and 18,082 primary TKA procedures from 19 hospitals included. Less than 10% of THA and TKA patients had missing data on readmission, complications, and LOS. Revision, readmission, complications, and long LOS rates were lower for TKA than THA (Table 1). The LOS data were not normally distributed, making it challenging to create equal quartiles, so the closest integer value was chosen, which resulted in above 4 days being defined as long LOS for both THA and TKA. The mean LOS was 3.1 days (SD 2.5) for THA and 3.2 days (SD 1.9) for TKA. Revision rates were comparable to those observed among all Dutch hospitals [18].

Results

The mean HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS scores significantly improved postoperatively, regardless of whether adverse events occurred (Figure 1). However, patients undergoing revision had significantly worse postoperative HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS scores than patients who did not have a revision. Comparable results were found for readmission, complications, and long LOS. For THA patients, 86% had clinically relevant improvements in the HOOS-PS, and 2% had clinically relevant worsened scores at 3 months postoperatively. At 12 months, it was 90 and 2%, respectively. For TKA patients, 73% had clinically relevant improvement in the KOOS-PS, and 3% had clinically relevant worsened scores at 6 months postoperatively. At 12 months, it was 78 and 3%, respectively.

Preoperative and 3-month postoperative HOOS-PS questionnaires were completed by 7,731 (38%) THA patients, and 5382 (27%) completed both preoperative and 12-month postoperative questionnaires (Table 2). Adverse events occurred more frequently in patients not completing both the preoperative and postoperative HOOS-PS questionnaire compared to those completing it.

Table 1

Adverse Events and Patient Characteristics After THA and TKA in 19 Dutch Hospitals During 2017 to 2019.

	THA (n = 20,338)	TKA (n = 18,082)
Adverse events		
1-Y revision (%)	376 (1.8)	237 (1.3)
30-Ds readmission (%)	724 (3.9)	551 (3.4)
30-Ds complications (%)	735 (3.9)	417 (2.5)
Long LOS (%)	2,205 (11.8)	1,778 (10.9)
Patient characteristics		
Mean age in y (SD)	68.36 (10.3)	68.10 (8.8)
Sex, women (%)	13,029 (64.1)	11,199 (61.9)
BMI (SD)	26.94 (4.4)	29.29 (4.9)
Current Smokers (%)	2,122 (10.4)	1,524 (8.4)
ASA classification (%)		
ASA I	3,853 (18.9)	2,507 (13.9)
ASA II	12,622 (62.1)	11,997 (66.4)
ASA III-IV	3,860 (19.0)	3,575 (19.8)
Charnley score (%)		
A	8,158 (41.8)	6,587 (36.6)
B1	6,241 (32.0)	6,743 (37.5)
B2	4,502 (23.1)	3,994 (22.2)
C	630 (3.2)	663 (3.7)
Diagnosis (%)		
Osteoarthritis	18,019 (88.6)	17,510 (96.9)
Nonosteoarthritis	2,315 (11.4)	569 (3.1)

Less than 10% of the values for adverse events were missing, and less than 5% for patient characteristics.

ASA, American Society of Anaesthesiologists; BMI, body mass index; LOS, length of stay; THA, total hip arthroplasty; TKA, total knee arthroplasty.

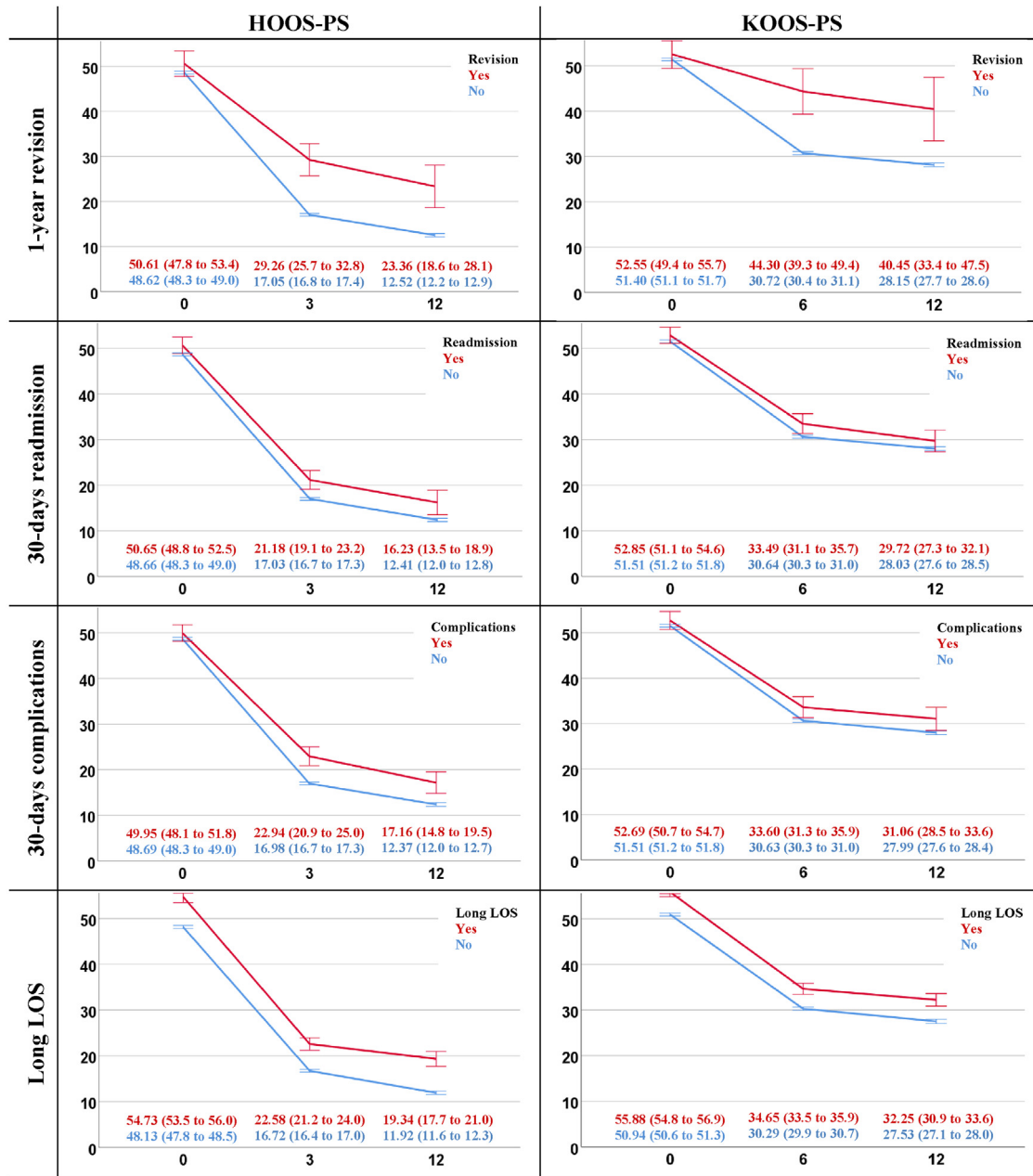


Fig. 1. Mean PROM scores over time for adverse events. The line graphs show the mean and 95% CI for preoperative and 2 postoperative PROM scores for patients with and without revisions, readmission, complications and long LOS. X-axis: 0, preoperative; 3, 3-month postoperative; 6, 6-month postoperative; 12, 12-month postoperative. Y-axis: HOOS-PS or KOOS-PS scores. HOOS-PS, hip disability and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function Short form; KOOS, knee injury and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form; LOS, length of stay; PROM, patient-reported outcome measures.

Considering the 3,206 patients who had at least one adverse event, 2,212 (69%) did not return both the preoperative and 3-month postoperative questionnaires, compared with 59% of patients experiencing no adverse event, and thus were more likely to be nonrespondents. For not returning the preoperative and 12-month questionnaires, these figures were 80 and 71%, respectively. Although the absolute differences between respondents and non-respondents for most patient characteristics were small, they were nevertheless significant due to the large sample size. For the KOOS-PS, preoperative and 6-month postoperative questionnaires were completed by 5,519 (31%) TKA patients, and 4,319 (24%) completed both preoperative and 12-month postoperative questionnaires (Table 3). Revision and readmission occurred more frequently in

patients who did not complete both the preoperative and postoperative KOOS-PS questionnaires, but they had comparable complication rates and lower long-term LOS rates. Of 2,549 patients who had at least 1 adverse event, 1,988 (78%) did not return both preoperative and 6-month postoperative questionnaires, compared with 67% of patients experiencing no adverse event. For not returning the preoperative and 12-month postoperative questionnaires, these figures were 82 and 74%, respectively. Significant differences were found for most patient characteristics, except sex, smoking, and body mass index. Patients experiencing a revision, complications, or long LOS were less likely to achieve a clinically relevant improvement in the HOOS-PS (89, 56, and 34% less likely, respectively). A similar, but nonsignificant association was found

Table 2
Respondents Versus Nonrespondents of the HOOS.

	Preoperative and Postoperative HOOS-PS					
	Respondent Preoperative and 3-mo Postoperative (n = 7,731; 38.0%)	Nonrespondent Preoperative and 3-mo Postoperative (n = 12,607; 62.0%)	95% CI Around Difference; P Value	Respondent Preoperative and 12-mo Postoperative (n = 5,382; 26.5%)	Nonrespondent Preoperative and 12-mo Postoperative (n = 14,956; 73.5%)	95% CI Around Difference; P Value
Adverse events						
1-y revision (%)	93 (1.2)	283 (2.2)	0.69, 1.45; <.01	66 (1.2)	310 (2.1)	0.47, 1.22; <.01
30-d readmission (%)	252 (3.4)	472 (4.2)	0.17, 1.28; <.01	166 (3.3)	558 (4.1)	0.17, 1.37; <.01
30-d complication (%)	239 (3.3)	496 (4.3)	0.05, 1.63; <.01	170 (3.4)	565 (4.1)	0.11, 1.31; <.01
Long LOS (%)	566 (7.7)	1,639 (14.5)	5.85, 7.63; <.01	403 (8.1)	1802 (13.2)	4.20, 6.10; <.01
Patient characteristics						
Mean age in y (SD)	68.98 (9.7)	67.98 (10.7)	−1.30, −0.71; <.01	69.02 (9.9)	68.12 (10.5)	−0.81, −0.09; .01
Sex, women (%)	4,876 (63.1)	8,153 (64.7)	0.24, 2.96; .02	3,379 (62.8)	9,650 (64.5)	0.24, 3.24; .02
Mean BMI in kg/m ² (SD)	27.07 (4.4)	26.85 (4.5)	−0.35, −0.10; <.01	27.05 (4.4)	26.89 (4.4)	−0.07, 0.24; .30
Current Smokers (%)	719 (9.3)	1,403 (11.1)	0.98, 2.68; <.01	499 (9.3)	1,623 (10.9)	0.66, 2.50; <.01
ASA classification (%)						
ASA I	1,376 (17.8)	2,477 (19.6)	$P \leq .01$	944 (17.5)	2,909 (19.5)	$P \leq .01$
ASA II	4,983 (64.5)	7,639 (60.6)		3,556 (66.1)	9,066 (60.6)	
ASA III-IV	1,370 (17.7)	2,490 (19.8)		880 (16.4)	2,980 (19.9)	
Charnley score (%)						
A	3,078 (39.8)	5,080 (40.3)	$P \leq .01$	2,161 (40.2)	5,997 (40.1)	$P \leq .01$
B1	2,694 (34.8)	3,547 (28.1)		1,828 (34.0)	4,413 (29.5)	
B2	1,644 (21.3)	2,858 (22.7)		1,161 (21.6)	3,341 (22.3)	
C	217 (2.8)	413 (3.3)		158 (2.9)	472 (3.2)	
Indication (%)						
Osteoarthritis	7,278 (94.2)	10,741 (85.2)	8.16, 9.78; <.01	5,061 (94.1)	12,958 (86.6)	6.61, 8.27; <.01
Nonosteoarthritis	450 (5.8)	1865 (14.8)		318 (5.9)	1,997 (13.4)	

Percentages might not sum to 100 because of rounding.

ASA, American Society of Anaesthesiologists; BMI, body mass index; HOOS-PS, hip disability and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form; LOS, length of stay; N/A, not applicable.

for readmission (Table 4). Patients experiencing revision or long LOS were less likely to achieve a clinically relevant improvement in the KOOS-PS (74 and 37% less likely, respectively), with associations for readmission and complications in the same direction but nonsignificant.

Discussion

Interpretation of the Results

To investigate whether missing HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS data for THA and TKA may result in underestimation or overestimation of HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS improvement scores, we used adverse event rates to examine how these differed between respondents and non-respondents and their association with HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS improvement scores. We found that adverse events occurred more frequently in HOOS-PS nonrespondents and that revision and readmission occurred more frequently in KOOS-PS non-respondents. In patients who had completed HOOS-PS or KOOS-PS scores, the occurrence of revision, complications, or long LOS after THA made it less likely to achieve a clinically relevant improvement in the HOOS-PS, with results for readmission in the same direction but nonsignificant. The strongest association was found for revision, suggesting that quality improvement initiatives should focus most on reducing revision rates to benefit patient care. Comparable results were found for the KOOS-PS. Since adverse events generally occur more frequently in patients not completing HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS questionnaires, and these adverse events would make it less likely to achieve a clinically relevant improvement, this means that improvements in HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS scores in the total population are likely lower (ie, are overestimated) than those in HOOS-PS/KOOS-PS respondents. This means, for example, that less than our estimated 90% of THA and 78% of TKA patients had a clinically

relevant improvement at 12 months postoperatively in the HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS, respectively, had all patients been considered.

Strengths and Limitations

To our knowledge, this study is the first to report associations between a set of commonly used adverse events and the likelihood of achieving a clinically relevant improvement in physical functioning after THA and TKA. Given the observed associations, it seems likely that initiatives to improve the quality of care by reducing revision, readmission, complications, and long LOS rates will be accompanied by increased percentages of patients achieving clinically relevant improvement in physical functioning, but also that current estimates of improvement after THA and TKA are likely overestimated if based on those completing PROM questionnaires. However, some potential limitations should be noted. Data were obtained from 19 hospitals rather than all Dutch hospitals performing THA and TKA in the Netherlands. However, these hospitals reflected the national distribution of hospital types (ie, university, teaching, general, and private clinics) and had comparable revision rates to national data, so it seems unlikely that the selection of hospitals would affect our results [18]. In addition, this study can only provide indirect evidence due to the lack of information about changes in PROM scores among non-respondents. Also, nonresponse is known to be affected by patient characteristics. So, if nonrespondents would systematically have more favorable patient characteristics (eg, younger and who had better health status) known to be related to more improvement in PROMs, then this could be the case for the nonrespondents who did not have adverse events. However, Tables 2 and 3 did not indicate such systematic differences, as respondents were older, but less often smoked and had American Society of Anaesthesiologists 3+. Potential risk factors such as mental health and emotional health status were not included to adjust the associations between

Table 3
Respondents Versus Nonrespondents of the KOOS.

	Preoperative and Postoperative KOOS-PS					
	Respondent Preoperative and 6-mo Postoperative (n = 5,519; 30.5%)	Nonrespondent Preoperative and 6-mo Postoperative (n = 12,563; 69.5%)	95% CI Around Difference; P Value	Respondent Preoperative and 12-mo Postoperative (n = 4,319; 23.9%)	Nonrespondent Preoperative and 12-mo Postoperative (n = 13,763; 76.1%)	95% CI Around Difference; P Value
Adverse events						
1-y revision (%)	51 (0.9)	186 (1.5)	0.22, 0.89; .03	35 (0.8)	202 (1.5)	0.32, 0.99; <.01
30-d readmission (%)	155 (2.8)	369 (3.5)	0.24, 3.62; <.01	115 (3.0)	436 (3.5)	0.20, 1.10; <.01
30-d complication (%)	139 (2.8)	278 (2.4)	−0.91, 0.16; .16	108 (2.9)	309 (2.4)	0.20, 1.00; <.01
Long LOS (%)	577 (11.7)	1,201 (10.6)	−2.20, −0.05; .04	485 (12.8)	1,293 (10.3)	−3.71, −1.33; <.01
Patient characteristics						
Mean age in y (SD)	68.50 (8.5)	67.93 (8.9)	0.09, 0.60; <.01	68.58 (8.5)	67.95 (8.8)	0.28, 0.40; <.01
Sex, women (%)	3,393 (61.5)	7,806 (62.1)	−0.88, 2.20; .40	2,641 (61.1)	8,558 (62.2)	−0.63, 2.70; .22
Mean BMI in kg/m ² (SD)	29.43 (4.8)	29.22 (4.8)	−0.18, 0.20; .91	29.38 (4.8)	29.26 (4.8)	−0.09, 0.29; .15
Current Smokers (%)	451 (8.2)	1,073 (8.5)	−0.51, 1.23; .14	352 (8.2)	1,172 (8.5)	−0.58, 1.30; .35
ASA classification (%)						
ASA I	666 (12.1)	1,841 (14.7)	$P \leq .01$	525 (12.2)	1982 (14.4)	$P \leq .01$
ASA II	3,718 (67.4)	8,279 (65.9)		2,937 (68.0)	9,060 (65.8)	
ASA III-IV	1,135 (20.6)	2,440 (19.4)		857 (19.8)	2,718 (19.7)	
Charnley score (%)						
A	2,103 (38.1)	4,484 (35.7)	$P \leq .01$	1,627 (37.7)	4,960 (36.0)	$P \leq .01$
B1	2,024 (36.7)	4,719 (37.6)		1,586 (36.7)	5,157 (37.5)	
B2	1,147 (20.8)	2,847 (22.7)		913 (21.1)	3,081 (22.4)	
C	227 (4.1)	436 (3.5)		175 (4.1)	488 (3.5)	
Indication (%)						
Osteoarthritis	5,374 (97.4)	12,136 (96.6)	0.22, 1.28; <.01	4,205 (97.4)	13,305 (96.7)	0.10, 1.23; .03
Nonosteoarthritis	145 (2.6)	424 (3.4)		114 (2.6)	455 (3.3)	

Percentages might not sum to 100 because of rounding.

ASA, American Society of Anaesthesiologists; BMI, body mass index; KOOS, knee injury and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form; LOS, length of stay; N/A, not applicable.

adverse events and improvements in PROM scores, as these variables are not collected by the LROI [26,27]. Although the available patient characteristics are likely the most relevant, some residual confounding may remain [25,28]. Furthermore, patients undergoing THA or TKA may not improve as much in their PROM scores if another joint is also affected. The latter will influence associations when the prevalence of such patients is unevenly distributed among patients who did and did not have adverse events.

Comparison to the Literature

This study showed that 1 year after surgery, 90% of THA patients achieved a clinically relevant improvement and 78% of TKA patients. However, 2% of THA and 3% of TKA patients reported clinically relevant worsening, with 8 and 19% showing no relevant change, respectively. The lower percentages of improvement in PROM scores for TKA than THA are consistent with earlier studies from our group and others in Sweden and the United States

Table 4
Associations Between Adverse Events and Clinically Relevant Improvement in PROM Scores.

Adverse Events	HOOS-PS	KOOS-PS
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
1-Y revision	0.11 (0.06 to 0.20)	0.26 (0.12 to 0.55)
30-D readmission	0.71 (0.48 to 1.06)	0.70 (0.46 to 1.05)
30-D complications	0.44 (0.30 to 0.63)	0.79 (0.51 to 1.23)
Long LOS	0.66 (0.50 to 0.88)	0.63 (0.50 to 0.80)

A difference of 10 points was taken as a clinically relevant improvement for the HOOS-PS and 9 points for the KOOS-PS.

HOOS-PS, hip disability and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form; KOOS, knee injury and osteoarthritis outcome score-physical function short form; LOS, length of stay; OR, odds ratio; PROM, patient-reported outcome measures.

[2,29–31]. It should be noted that while patients who had worse preoperative PROM scores may improve more, they do not achieve the same postoperative level as patients who had better preoperative function scores [28]. Additionally, previous studies have reported higher satisfaction rates for THA than TKA, which would seem consistent with more patients achieving clinically relevant improvement in PROM scores [32,33]. Satisfaction rates may improve further by addressing preoperative expectations, a significant predictor of dissatisfaction following TKA [3]. In the Dutch registry, 63 and 58% of patients completed the preoperative HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS questionnaires, respectively, which are low compared with the Scandinavian registries but higher than the Italian Register of the Orthopaedic Prosthetic Implants and the Michigan Arthroplasty Register [7,9,10]. This would suggest that the extent of overestimation in PROM improvement is likely smaller for countries with better response rates, provided that adverse event rates are similar. In accordance with our results, one study including THA patients found that nonresponse during follow-up was not at random; nonrespondents had significantly lower PROM scores at the previous time point than respondents, thereby indicating that patients reporting good outcomes were over-represented [34]. In another study, TKA patient respondents reported a higher mean Knee Society Score, mean function score, and lower mean pain score than nonrespondents [35]. Comparable results were reported in another study, including patients after shoulder arthroplasty, and another study identified a trend of worse outcomes for nonrespondents [15,36].

The PROMs Working Group of the International Society of Arthroplasty Registries stated that a response rate above 80% is recommended for reliable outcome assessment but proposes a 60% threshold for an acceptable response rate [7]. Only 6 of the 16 arthroplasty registries collecting PROMs capture >80% of their preoperative and postoperative PROMs; the remaining registries reported response rates less than 60% [4,6,7,16,37–42]. Another

study stated that a 100% response rate is needed to adequately evaluate PROM difference scores because of a change in the distribution of predictors when a selection of patients is analyzed, resulting in unreliable outcomes [43]. This seems only feasible if PROM collection is mandatory and becomes part of the doctor-patient conversations on THA and TKA care goals [44].

Conclusions

Patients not completing HOOS-PS and KOOS-PS questionnaires more often experienced adverse events, which were associated with a lower likelihood of achieving a clinically relevant improvement in HOOS-PS or KOOS-PS. This means that the percentage of patients achieving clinically relevant improvements after THA and TKA is likely lower when assessed in all patients. Higher HOOS-PS or KOOS-PS response rates are therefore needed for reliable outcome assessment.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Peter van Schie: Writing – original draft, Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization. **Leti van Bodegom-Vos:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Conceptualization. **Tristan M. Zijdeman:** Writing – original draft, Data curation, Conceptualization. **Taco Gosens:** Writing – review & editing. **Rob G.H.H. Nelissen:** Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition, Conceptualization. **Perla J. Marang-van de Mheen:** Writing – review & editing, Validation, Supervision, Project administration, Methodology, Funding acquisition, Formal analysis, Conceptualization.

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