

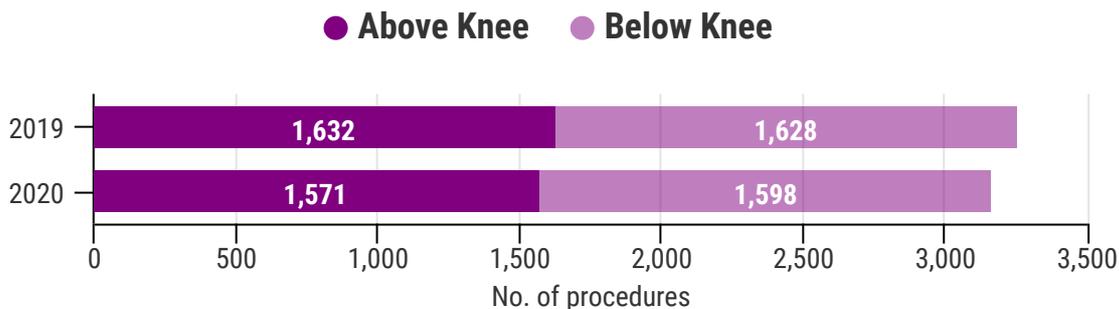
Lower limb major amputation for peripheral arterial disease

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a restriction of the blood flow in the lower limb arteries that can severely affect a patient's quality of life, and risk their limb.

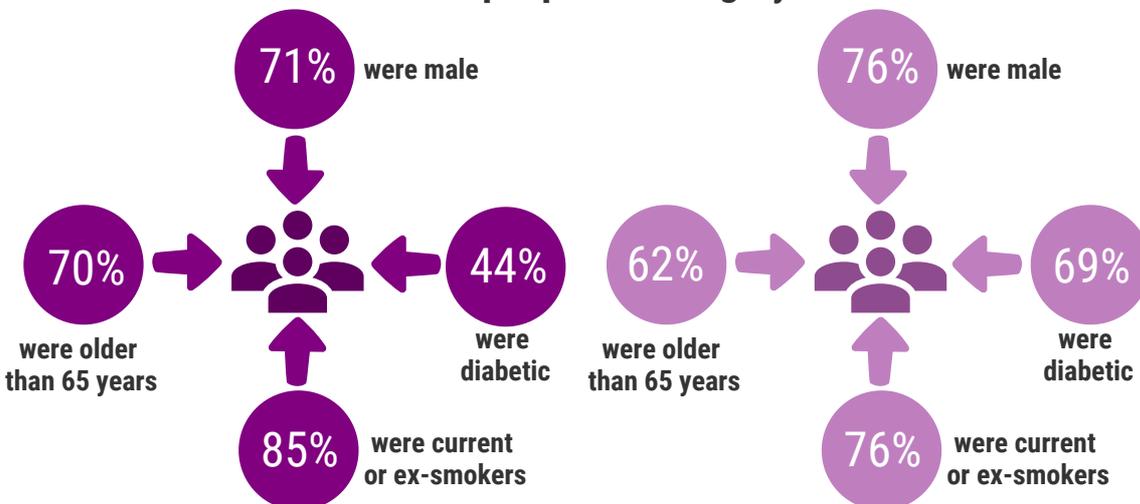
PAD can gradually progress in some patients and an operation to improve blood flow may no longer be possible. In these situations, people will require amputation of the lower limb. Additionally, patients without PAD but with a complication of diabetes may require a major amputation.

Impact of COVID-19

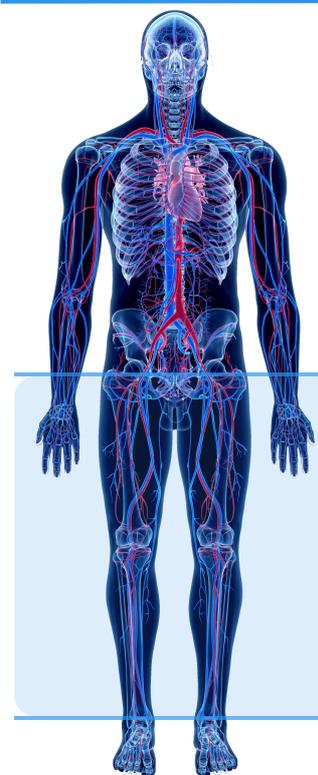
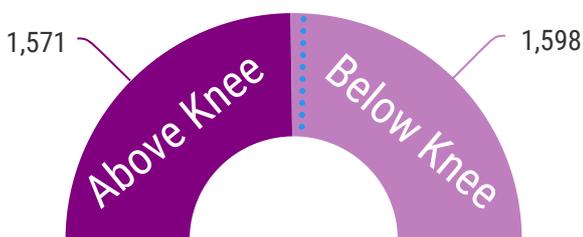
In 2020 there were 3,169 major lower limb amputations submitted to the NVR. This was only a slight reduction on the 3,260 procedures in 2019.



Which people had surgery?



Hospitals should aim to have an above knee amputation to below knee amputation ratio below 1. In 2020, the national ratio was 0.98, but it varied greatly across the country. 29 hospitals had a ratio above 1, and of these, 12 were above 1.5.



Glossary

The average is the median; "typical range" is the interquartile range.

Patient outcomes after surgery

