

# **What is a post operative complication?**

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# Overview

A presentation arising from recent rct data from the Physiotherapy Research Unit (Oxford) and Primary Care Clinical Sciences (University of Birmingham).

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# Background

- General lack of UK data re: complications.
- Recent trial (n=107).
- Self report & medical notes.

# Trial Data (n=98)

KEY: SR: Self report MR: Medical Records

<b>Complication type</b>	<b>0-3 months post op</b>	<b>4-12 months post op</b>
<b>Major</b>	<b>SR: 17 (n=11)</b> <b>MR:7</b>	<b>SR: 24 (n=22)</b>
<b>Minor</b>	<b>SR: 83 (n=56)</b>	<b>SR: 32 (23)</b>

# Issues

1. Perception of importance.
2. Data Source.
3. What is a complication?
4. How should complications be measured and reported?
5. A combined approach?

**Paley, 1990** Clin Orthops Rel Res, 250: 81-104.

Post operative difficulties



Problems

Obstacles

Complications

*Limitations! Non patient friendly*

*Surgically based*

# A New Proposal

Subclassify “*complication*”:

I. Surgical Complication:   Ia) Major  
  Ib) Minor

II. Rehabilitation Complication:   IIa) Major  
  IIb) Minor

# I. Surgical Complication: Ia) Major

*any local or systemic intraoperative or perioperative complication that either:*

- *leads to a further operative invasive procedure,*
- *is collected as local/national/international benchmark data (e.g. PE)*
- *permanently limits the outcome of the TKA.*

*Examples might be an intra-operative fracture or deep infection.*



# I. Surgical Complication: Ib) Minor

*any local or systemic intraoperative or perioperative complication:*

- *that does not require any further operative invasive procedure*
- *does not or permanently limit the outcome of the TKA.*

*Examples might be a superficial wound infection, MUA, or a tethered stitch.*

## II. Rehabilitation Complication: IIa) Major

*any post perioperative local or systemic problem:*

- *which effects all stages of the rehabilitation process*
- *is considered by patients &/or health care professionals to permanently limit outcome.*

*Examples might be developed co-morbidities, such as like stroke.*

## II. Rehabilitation Complication: IIb) Minor

*any post perioperative local or systemic problem:*

- *which resolves during the rehabilitation process*
- *which has no permanent effect on outcome.*

*Examples might be swelling, temporary foot drop.*

# Applied to RCT Self Reported MAJOR complications Data

Complication type	0-3 months post op	4-12 months post op
Surgical Major Ia	5	5
Surgical Minor Ib	6	0
Rehab Major IIa	3	3
Rehab Minor IIb	3	16

# Summary

This presentation suggests one possible approach we're considering adopting.....

What do you think?

Comments?

What do you record?

How do you classify?

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