



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Mary Walsh
Discipline and subject area:	Sciences, Public Health and Health Professions
Amount and year awarded:	€2,145 in 2020
Title of project:	Geographic variation in hip fracture incidence and care-processes: a comparison between Ireland and Denmark



Summary of findings:

This research showed that for many indicators of care quality after acute hip fracture, Denmark performs better than Ireland. In particular, Ireland could focus on improving nutritional risk assessment on hospital admission, reducing the time to hip fracture surgery and ensuring complete recording of pre-discharge mobility. The countries perform comparably when it comes to recording patients' pre-fracture function, in ensuring patients get out of bed early after fracture, and in providing assessments of bone health. Patients in Ireland stay in hospital for longer after hip fracture and are often transferred for further rehabilitation in a hospital setting, whereas in Denmark most patients return home within the first week after fracture. Short-term mortality rates in Denmark are higher, however. The reason for this remains unclear. We also have no information about patients' long-term function or recovery in either country, which is an area that requires development.

An important finding from this work was the level of variation in surgical patterns for "intracapsular" fractures, which is a common type of hip fracture. Specifically, the provision of total hip replacements for this type of injury appears to vary across region in both countries, but particularly in Denmark. This requires further investigation.

The RIA grant allowed for close collaboration and detailed alignment of definitions from databases across two countries. This has led to meaningful benchmarking of international performance of hip fracture care quality. These findings will have immediate implications for the national hip fracture audits in Ireland and Denmark and will highlight areas for future focus.

Plans for continuing collaboration:

This collaboration with Denmark has much potential. We have plans to explore differences between staffing levels and available facilities for hip fracture care and rehabilitation across the countries. This will allow us to compare the influence of service-level factors on process performance measures. Further analysis will also be conducted to explore differences in total hip arthroplasty provision between the countries at a hospital-level.

Published work and publication plans:

A manuscript is in preparation entitled "Geographic variation in hip fracture incidence and care-processes: a comparison between Ireland and Denmark". This will be submitted in early 2022.



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Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

An abstract will be submitted to at least two international conferences: the Fragility Fracture Network Global Congress and the Wennberg Collaborative Meeting, expected to take place in August and October 2022. The work will also be presented at local Irish and Danish hip fracture conferences.

Outreach and engagement activities:

The project received attention on social media via Twitter during the international visit. It will be highlighted as part of the larger public outreach campaign on conclusion of the HipFORGE project. See @MaryWalsh14 #HipFORGE.