Simultaneous versus staged bilateral knee arthroplasty: do we impact chronic opioid use?

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Wilson *et al*¹ conducted a retrospective cohort study that included patients who underwent bilateral total knee arthroplasty (BTKE). Then they compared the postoperative chronic opioid use following simultaneous versus staged BTKE. Investigators found no statistically significant difference between both groups in postoperative chronic opioid use.

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Wilson *et al*. evaluated the incidence of postoperative chronic opioid use following simultaneous versus staged BTKE, based on the different timing strategies of staged.

- This retrospective cohort study included patients who underwent bilateral total knee arthroplasty (BTKE) procedures (n=14,407)
- Cases were classified as having undergone simultaneous or staged BTKE (<3 months, 3-6 months, or 6-12 months apart)
- Outcomes included postoperative chronic opioid use and oral morphine

Results

Unadjusted frequency of chronic opioid use did not differ between groups (Simultaneous: 11.3%, Staged <3 months: 10.7%, Staged 3-6 months: 11.7%, Staged >6 months: 10.2%; p=0.247).

Conclusion

Although patients undergoing staged BTKE <6 months apart were prescribed greater quantities of opioids upon discharge, there was no significant difference in the odds of postoperative chronic opioid use compared to simultaneous BTKE.

Featured article:

Wilson *et al*. The risk of chronic opioid use after simultaneous versus staged bilateral knee arthroplasty
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