

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 (BTKA). Then they compared the postoperative chronic opioid use following simultaneous versus staged BTKA. Investigators found no statistically significant difference between both groups in postoperative chronic opioid use.

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Contributors AA-E is the sole author and contributed to the design and writing of this work.

Funding The author has not declared a specific grant for this research from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

Competing interests None declared.

Patient consent for publication Not required.

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To cite Abd-Elseyed A. *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2021;**46**:404.

Received 13 November 2020
Accepted 16 November 2020
Published Online First 6 January 2021



► <https://doi.org/10.1136/rapm-2020-102060>

Reg Anesth Pain Med 2021;**46**:404.
doi:10.1136/rapm-2020-102294

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Regional & Pain Anesthesia & Medicine

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

- This retrospective cohort study included patients who underwent bilateral total knee arthroplasty (BTKA) procedures (n=14,407)
- Cases were classified as having undergone simultaneous or staged BTKA (<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 BTKA <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 BTKA.

Featured article:
Wilson *et al*. The risk of chronic opioid use after simultaneous versus staged bilateral knee arthroplasty [dx.doi.org/10.1136/rapm-2020-102060](https://doi.org/10.1136/rapm-2020-102060)

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