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## No. 11

# Impact of Covid-19 on prosthetic activity in the years 2020 – 2021 in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (Italy) – hip, knee and shoulder prosthesis interventions

Roberto Picus, Sabine Weiss

Arthroplasty Register of Autonomous Province of Bolzano (Italy), Observatory for Health – Provincial Government South Tyrol

E-mail: roberto.picus@provincia.bz.it

Presenter: Roberto Picus

### Introduction

This study examines the impact of Covid-19 on arthroplasty care in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (PABZ) in 2020 and 2021. PABZ is one of the Italian regions with the highest percentage of prosthetic surgeries performed in recent years.

### Material and Methods

Hip, knee and shoulder replacements are analyzed using the provincial archive of hospital discharge forms (SDO), which records each hospitalization in the PABZ. The volume of interventions in 2020 and 2021 will be compared to the pre-pandemic period 2018-2019, between different types of hospitalizations, hospitals and patients.

### Results

In 2020, total prosthetic activity in PABZ decreased by 27.1% compared to the 2018-2019 average, to recover in 2021 with an increase of 55.2%. Public hospitals suffered the largest decrease in primary interventions in 2020 (-33.3% compared to 2018-2019), while private hospitals increased by +41.3% (in 2020) and +342.4% (in 2021) compared to 2018/2019. The elderly age groups suffered the most in 2020: 70-79 (age group) -30.3% compared to 2018/2019, and those over 80 years -41.3%.

### Conclusions

The Covid-19 pandemic had a strong impact in PABZ, reducing the total primary interventions by 34.8% (in 2020) compared to 2018/2019 (-32.9% for primary hip prostheses and -38.8% for knee prostheses). In the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic there was a strong recovery, due in part to greater utilization of the private hospitals for elective interventions (+140.8% hip prostheses and +354.2% knee prostheses). In 2021, the elective arthroplasties performed in private hospitals, reached more than 27% of total provincial interventions (compared to 8% before Covid-19).

### Notes