

Effects of socioeconomic status on patient-reported outcome after surgically treated trigger finger: a national registry-based study

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Aim: To investigate if socioeconomic status impacts patient reported outcome (PRO) after surgically treated trigger finger (TF).

Methods: Data on patients with TF treated with surgery were collected from the Swedish National Quality Registry of Hand Surgery (HAKIR) 2010 - 2019 with evaluation of symptoms and disability preoperatively, at three and 12 months after surgery, using the QuickDASH questionnaire. Data from HAKIR and from the Swedish National Diabetes Registry were cross-linked with socioeconomic data from Statistics Sweden. Linear regression models were created and analyzed the impact of marital status, education level, incomes, occupation, sickness benefits, days of unemployment, social assistance, and migrant status on PRO, adjusted for age, sex and diabetes.

Results: In total, 5,477 patients were operated for primary TF during the study period, of whom 21% had diabetes, with a response rate of 35% preoperatively, 26% at three months and 25% at 12 months. In the linear regression models, being born outside of Sweden, low earnings and more sick leave the same year as surgery predicted higher QuickDASH scores (i.e., more symptoms and disability) at all time points. No socioeconomic factors impacted the change in QuickDASH score from preoperative to 12 months postoperative in the fully adjusted model.

Conclusion: Individuals with low earnings, high sick leave the same year as the surgery, and who were born outside of Sweden reported more symptoms both before and after surgery, but the relative improvement was not affected by socioeconomic factors.