



NOD

National Ophthalmology
Database Audit

National Ophthalmology Database Audit National Cataract Audit

Key Findings Summary 2020-2021



Key findings

National cataract audit

Data was received from 134 centres as the cataract audit continues growing each year. With >70% participation, the RCOphth NOD Cataract Audit is now included on the Quality Accounts List meaning all NHS Trusts in England are required to participate or justify non-participation (e.g. due to non-utilisation of ophthalmic EMR) in their annual report to the Secretary of State for Health.

Following the Paterson Inquiry, surgeons undertaking private practice are mandated to provide audit data that is accessible and understandable to the public. The NOD Cataract Audit has now received data from a purely private practice provider, which is included in this report.



Data was received from **134** centres



2020 NHS year, **246,300** cataract operations were reported to NHS Digital from English centres and **5,731** operations from Welsh Local Health Boards



The audit received data for **182,606** cataract operations which equates to approximately **72.5%** of operations performed in England and Wales during the 2020 NHS year

The **172,320** eligible operations were performed by **1,920** surgeons



Surgical audit results

The median age of cataract patients was 75 years for first eye surgery and 76 years for second eye surgery.

For all surgeons, 0.91% of operations were affected by posterior capsule rupture (PCR). This is slightly below the current consultant-only based average rate of 1.1% used for risk adjustment and approximately 50% lower than in 2010. This 0.91% rate continues the trend to improvement the NOD has reported since 2010.



75 years old

First eye surgery



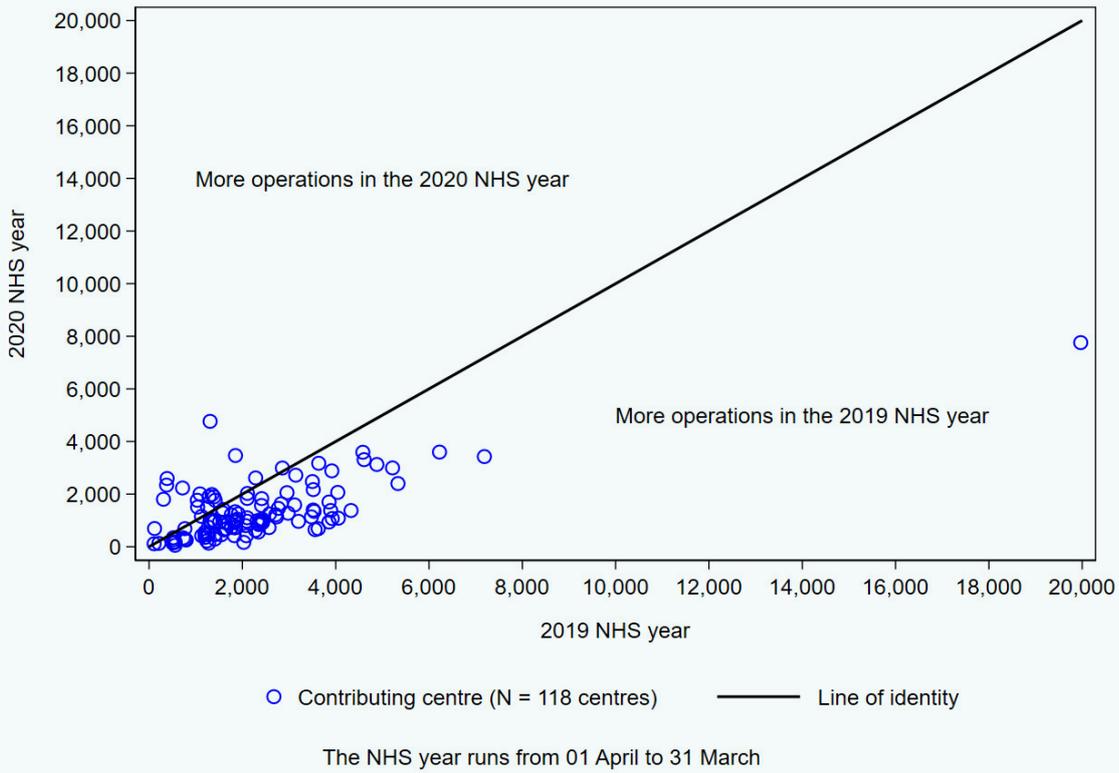
76 years old

Second eye surgery

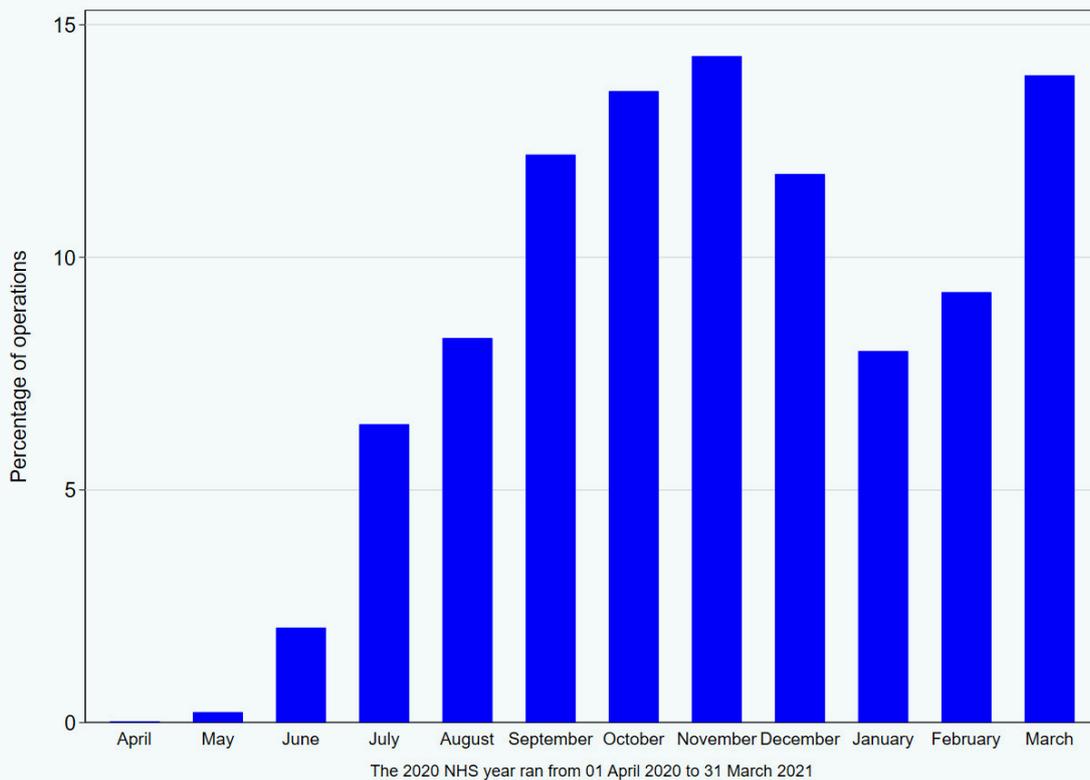


This **0.91%** rate continues the trend to improvement the NOD has reported since 2010

Publicly funded cataract surgical activity decreased for most providers between the 2019 and 2020 NHS year (Figure 23 in the report)



The percentage of operations in each month of the 2020 NHS year (Figure 24 in the report)



COVID-19 related disruption to services

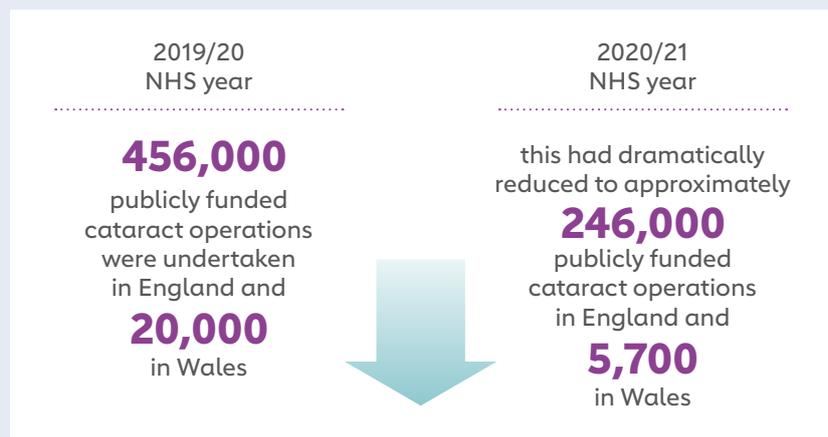
There was great disruption over the year with NHS capacity being directed towards COVID-19, and national lockdowns reducing activity overall.

In the 2019/20 NHS audit year, 456,000 publicly funded cataract operations were undertaken in England and 20,000 in Wales. In 2020/21, this had dramatically reduced to approximately 246,000 publicly funded cataract operations in England and 5,700 in Wales.

Providers ability to capture data has also been impaired. Less than 60% of operations had a post-op VA collected as patients were increasingly discharged to the community under Patient Initiated Follow-Up arrangements. Processes for getting post-operative data from community optometrists are developing.

Impact of the pandemic on training

Consultants and career grade non-consultant surgeons performed 82.0% and 4.2% of operations respectively. This left just 20,806 (12.1%) operations performed by more experienced trainees,



and 3,066 (1.8%) operations performed by less experienced trainees. In the 2019 NHS year more experienced trainee surgeons performed 50,317 (18.1%) operations and the less experienced trainee surgeons performed 7,590 (2.7%) operations. The reduction in training opportunity seen in 2020 may not automatically revert to pre-pandemic levels as there has been a shift in service provision from traditional NHS providers to independent sector providers which have historically had limited capacity to offer training.

Immediate Sequential Bilateral Cataract Surgery (ISBCS)

Despite the overall reduction in surgical activity, uptake of ISBCS has more than doubled from 540 patients in the 2019 NHS year to 1,243 patients in the 2020 NHS year. ISBCS

is increased in use, and the nature of these patients has changed. In 2019, 35.6% of ISBCS patients were operated under General Anaesthetic (GA) which reduced to 12.9% under GA in the 2020 NHS year, suggestive that, in keeping with NICE guidance, ISBCS is being offered to routine low-risk patients, as well as more complex patients requiring GA.

Social Deprivation and pre-operative visual acuity

Patients from more deprived post codes are presenting for cataract surgery with worse Visual Acuity (VA) overall. From the most deprived decile, 10.9% of patients have a LogMAR of <0.30 and 24.5% have a LogMAR of ≥ 1.00 , which compares to 17.8% and 13.4% respectively in the least deprived decile.

National Ophthalmology Database Audit
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
18 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

T. 020 7935 0702
noa.project@rcophth.ac.uk
nodaudit.org.uk

