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Guest Editors: Kimberly J. Templeton MD and Kris Radcliff MD

Is Social Deprivation Associated With Usage, Adverse Events, and Patient-reported Outcome Measures in Total Joint Arthroplasty? A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Background To capture various social determinants of health, recent analyses have used comprehensive measures of socioeconomic disadvantage such as deprivation and vulnerability indices. Given that studies evaluating the effects of social deprivation on total joint arthroplasty (TJA) have yielded mixed results, a systematic review of this relationship might help answer questions about usage, complications, and results after surgery among patients in different socioeconomic groups and help guide targeted approaches to ensure health equity.

Questions/purposes We asked: How is social deprivation associated with TJA (1) usage, (2) adverse events including

discharge disposition and length of stay, and (3) patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)?


Methods A comprehensive review of the PubMed, EBSCO host, Medline, and Google Scholar electronic databases was conducted to identify all studies that evaluated social deprivation and TJA between January 1, 2000, and March 1, 2022. Studies were included if they evaluated comprehensive measures of socioeconomic deprivation rather than individual social determinants of health. Nineteen articles were included in our final analysis with a total of 757,522 patients. In addition to characteristics of included studies (such as patient population, procedure evaluated, and utilized social deprivation metric), we recorded TJA usage, adverse events, and PROM values as reported by each article. Two reviewers independently evaluated the quality of included studies using the Methodological Index for Nonrandomized Studies (MINORS) tool. The mean \pm SD MINORS score was 13 ± 1 of 16, with higher scores representing better study quality. All the articles included are noncomparative studies. Given the heterogeneity of the included studies, a meta-analysis was not performed and results were instead presented descriptively.

Results Although there were inconsistencies among the included articles, higher levels of social deprivation were associated with lower TJA usage even after controlling for various confounding variables. Similarly, there was agreement among studies regarding higher proportion of nonhome discharge for patients with more social deprivation. Although there was limited agreement across studies regarding whether patients with more social deprivation had differences in their baseline and postoperative PROMs

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scores, patients with more social deprivation had lower improvements from baseline for most of the included articles.

Conclusion These findings encourage continued efforts focusing on appropriate patient education regarding expectations related to functional improvement and the post-operative recovery process, as well as resources available for further information and social support. We suggest linking patient data to deprivation measures such as the Area Deprivation Index to help encourage shared decision-making strategies that focus on health literacy and common barriers related to access. Given the potential influence social deprivation may have on the outcome and utilization of TJA, hospitals should identify methods to determine patients who are more socially deprived and provide targeted interventions to help patients overcome any social deprivation they are facing. We encourage physicians to maintain close communication with patients whose circumstances include more severe levels of social deprivation to ensure they have access to the appropriate resources. Additionally, as multiple social deprivation metrics are being used in research, future studies should identify a consistent metric to ensure all patients that are socially deprived are reliably identified to receive appropriate treatment.

Level of Evidence Level III, therapeutic study.

Introduction

Despite the increased usage of and clinical success associated with total joint arthroplasty (TJA) [3, 5, 40, 58], the quality of TJA care varies across patient populations [41]. Recently, there has been an increased interest in how factors such as low income and social determinants of health are associated with perioperative TJA outcomes and quality of care [51, 55]. Specifically, recent analyses have demonstrated disparities in TJA usage and outcomes based on race [2, 21, 61], income [4, 54], education [18, 51], and insurance type [12, 45]. Despite the increased awareness regarding how these social factors contribute to health inequities, inconsistency exists regarding which social determinants of health should be evaluated perioperatively [8, 41].

To capture various social determinants of health, recent analyses have used comprehensive measures of socioeconomic disadvantage such as deprivation and vulnerability indices [8, 59]. These multidimensional metrics frequently incorporate a wide variety of factors such as income, education, and housing quality to generate scores representing relative neighborhood and socioeconomic disadvantage [38]. These measures frequently have been used to capture the association of social determinants of health on outcomes for surgical procedures generally [47], and evaluations of this relationship for TJA have been performed with increasing frequency.

However, studies evaluating the association of social deprivation on TJA have yielded mixed results. It has become increasingly important to determine the relationship of social deprivation and TJA to develop interventions to reduce disparities in orthopaedic care. Because of the differences across studies, a systematic review of studies exploring this relationship might settle controversies about differences in usage, complications, and validated outcomes scores across socioeconomic groups and so might help guide targeted approaches to ensure health equity.

Therefore, our systematic review sought to evaluate how socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with the outcomes of TJA. Specifically, we asked: How is social deprivation associated with TJA (1) usage, (2) adverse events including discharge deposition and length of stay, and (3) patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)?

Materials and Methods

Search Strategy

We conducted a comprehensive review of the PubMed, EBSCO host, Medline, and Google Scholar electronic databases to identify all studies that evaluated social deprivation and TJA between January 1, 2000, and March 1, 2022 (Appendix 1; <http://links.lww.com/CORR/A942>). The following keywords and MeSH terms were utilized in combination with “AND” or “OR” Boolean operators: “Arthroplasty, Replacement [MeSH],” “Arthroplasty, Replacement, Hip [MeSH],” “Arthroplasty, Replacement, Knee [MeSH],” “Social Determinants of Health [MeSH],” “Social Deprivation [MeSH],” “Healthcare Disparities [MeSH],” “total hip arthroplasty,” “total knee arthroplasty,” “total joint arthroplasty,” “THA,” “TKA,” “TJA,” “social determinants,” “social deprivation,” and “healthcare disparities.”

Eligibility Criteria

Articles were included if full-text articles in the English language were available; the study described primary TJA; and the study reported on the relationship between social deprivation and usage, adverse events, or PROMs. Specifically, we included studies evaluating comprehensive measures of socioeconomic deprivation rather than individual social determinants of health such as education or income. The following were excluded from our analysis: case reports, systematic reviews, abstracts, unpublished articles, and articles reporting on revision TJA as well as duplicate studies among databases.

Study Selection

In accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis guidelines, two reviewers (AK, RJB) independently assessed the eligibility of each article for inclusion in our review. Disagreements were discussed and a third independent reviewer (AJA) was consulted to achieve consensus. The initial query yielded 429 publications, which were then screened for appropriate studies that aligned with the purpose of our review. After removing duplicates and reading each abstract, we selected 62 studies for further consideration. The full text of each article was then reviewed, 19 of which fulfilled our inclusion criteria. A thorough review of each studies' reference list did not yield any additional articles (Fig. 1). The study characteristics included study design, patient population, procedure (THA, TKA, or both), and social deprivation measure, and factors controlled for in each analysis were documented.

Data Collection

A collaborative online spreadsheet (Google Sheets), arranged by two reviewers (AK, RJB) before starting, facilitated data extraction. Reviewers performed data extraction in duplicate, and they compared findings for verification. We

documented details regarding study design, methodology, patient demographics, surgical procedure, and social deprivation index. Complications, utilization, 30- and 90-day readmission, length of stay, cost, discharge disposition, and PROMs constituted the outcomes of interest.

Methodological Quality Assessment

Two reviewers (AK, CJH) independently evaluated the quality of included studies using the Methodological Index for Nonrandomized Studies (MINORS) tool [57], which is a validated assessment tool that grades noncomparative studies from 0 to 16 based on eight criteria and comparative studies from 0 to 24 based on 12 categories related to study design, outcomes assessed, and follow-up. Across these domains, each item is scored 0 if not reported, 1 when reported but inadequate, and 2 when reported and adequate, such that higher scores represent better study quality. Any discrepancies in grading were resolved by discussion with a third reviewer (AJA).

Included Studies

The final analysis included 19 studies (Table 1). In the 17 articles reporting on sample size, 757,522 patients were

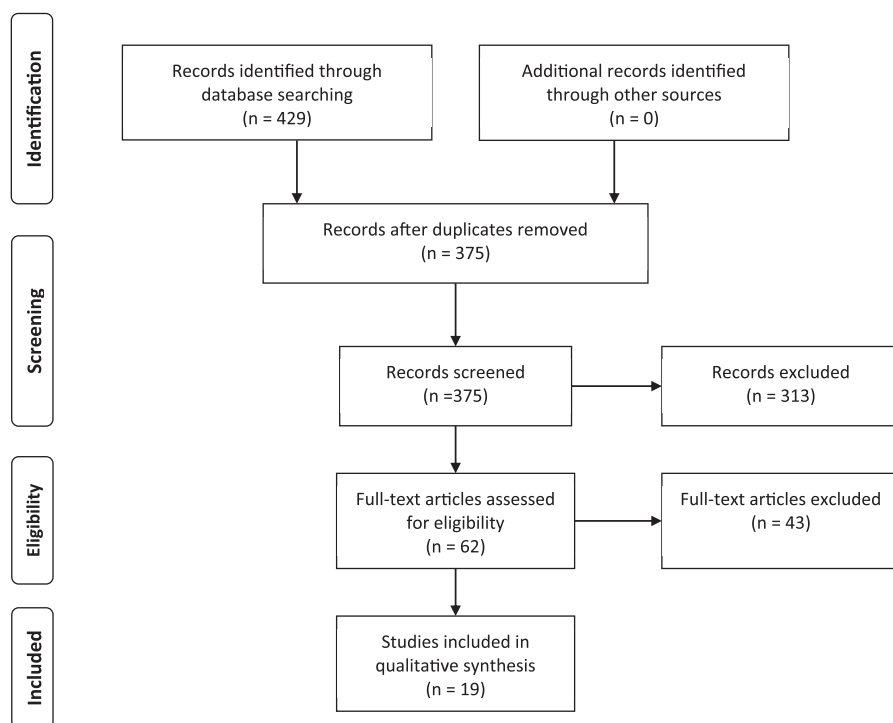


Fig. 1 This PRISMA diagram depicts the selection process for article inclusion.

Table 1. Studies included in final analysis

Article	Study design	Country	Data source	Deprivation metric	Procedure	Sample size, n	Gender, women	MINORS score ^a
Clement et al. [11]	Prospective	United Kingdom	Hospital-specific	Carstairs Score	THA	1312	N/A	14
Clement et al. [10]	Prospective	United Kingdom	Hospital-specific	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	TKA	996	56.40%	14
Diaz et al. [14]	Retrospective	United States	Medicare provider analysis and review and CDC Social Vulnerability Index dataset	CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index	Both	70,840	61.60%	12
Dixon et al. [15]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	Hospital Episode Statistics of England	Townsend Index of Deprivation	Both	N/A		12
Dixon et al. [16]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	Hospital Episode Statistics of England	English Index of Multiple Deprivation	Both	83,871	N/A	12
Edwards et al. [19]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	National Joint Registry for England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Isle of Man; National Health Service England Patient Reported Outcome Measures; and Hospital Episode Statistics of England	English Index of Multiple Deprivation	TKA	66,769	56.50%	14
Harcombe et al. [24]	Retrospective	New Zealand	New Zealand Ministry of Health's National Minimum Dataset	New Zealand Deprivation Index	TKA	62,907	54.17%	12
Hartnett et al. [25]	Retrospective	United States	New York Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) database	Social Deprivation Index	THA	142,681	58.60%	12
Holbert et al. [27]	Retrospective	United States	Administrative database of 16 surgeons	CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index	Both	11,451	57.60%	12
Jenkins et al. [29]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	Regional arthroplasty database	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	THA	1620	36.7%	12
Judge et al. [31]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	Hospital Episode Statistics of England	English Index of Multiple Deprivation	Both	N/A		12
Judge et al. [32]	Cross-sectional	United Kingdom	Hospital Episode Statistics of England	English Index of Multiple Deprivation	Both	N/A		14
Khlopas et al. [36]	Retrospective	United States	Hospital-specific	Area Deprivation Index	TKA	3928	60.50%	14

Table 1. continued

Article	Study design	Country	Data source	Deprivation metric	Procedure	Sample size, n	Gender, women	MINORS score ^a
Mehta et al. [44]	Retrospective	United States	Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council	Area Deprivation Index	THA	84,931	55%	12
Michel et al. [46]	Cross-sectional	France	French hospital national database	French Version of the European Deprivation Index	TKA	77,597	62.80%	12
Murray et al. [49]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	Hospital-specific (multicenter)	Townsend Index of Deprivation	TKA	2506	N/A	14
Neuburger et al. [50]	Retrospective	United Kingdom	Patient-reported outcome measures program of England	English Index of Multiple Deprivation	Both	121,983	57.90%	12
Rahman et al. [53]	Cross-sectional	United States	Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission datasets	Area Deprivation Index	THA	21,475	N/A	12
Shaw et al. [56]	Retrospective	United States	Michigan Arthroplasty Registry Collaborative Quality Initiative (MARCQ)	Area Deprivation Index	TKA	2655	N/A	12

^aMINORS scores range from 0 to 24 for comparative studies and 0 to 16 for noncomparative studies, with higher scores corresponding to lower bias.

included. Of the 19 studies, 14 were retrospective, three were cross-sectional, and two were prospective. All the studies were noncomparative and had a mean \pm SD MINORS score of 13 ± 1 of 16. Nine different deprivation indices were used across included articles (Table 2). The most common indices were the English Index of Multiple Deprivation ($n = 4$) and Area Deprivation Index (ADI) ($n = 4$). The studies were conducted across four countries: United Kingdom ($n = 10$), United States ($n = 7$), New Zealand ($n = 1$), and France ($n = 1$).

Given the heterogeneity of the included studies, we did not perform a meta-analysis, and we have presented the results descriptively.

Primary and Secondary Study Outcomes

Our primary study goal was to determine the association between social deprivation and TJA utilization [15, 16, 24, 25, 31, 32, 46, 53] (Table 3). Of the studies included, eight articles evaluated TJA utilization. Our secondary goal was to investigate the association between social deprivation with adverse events and PROMs after TJA. Seven articles evaluated the association between social deprivation and adverse events [11, 14, 19, 27, 36, 44, 56] (Table 4). Six articles reported on the relationship between PROMs and social deprivation [10, 11, 19, 29, 49, 50] (Table 5).

Results

Arthroplasty Usage

There were mixed data regarding how social deprivation is associated with TJA usage. However, of the eight articles evaluating TJA usage [15, 16, 24, 25, 31, 32, 46, 53], six found that higher levels of social deprivation were associated with lower TJA utilization, even after controlling for various confounding variables including age, gender, rurality, ethnicity, distance to hospital, hospital characteristics, payer, and comorbidity burden (Table 3). All eight studies were retrospective and used a large national database, which allowed them to report on large patient populations. Dixon et al. [16] was the only study that found no association between social deprivation and TJA utilization when they compared different regions within England rather than individual patient characteristics.

Adverse Events

Among the seven studies that evaluated the association between social deprivation and adverse events, there was disagreement about whether social deprivation was associated with readmission and various complications. However, all seven studies evaluating discharge reported higher nonhome

Table 2. Description of included social deprivation tools

Social deprivation metric	Components included
Carstairs Score	Low income, lack of car ownership, overcrowding, and unemployment of men
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	Employment, income, crime, housing, health, education, and access to services
CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index	Fifteen factors grouped according to social factors, household composition and disability, racial group, language, housing type, and transportation
Townsend Index of Deprivation	Unemployment, lack of car ownership, lack of home ownership, and overcrowding in household
New Zealand Deprivation Index	Home internet access, aged 18 to 64 years receiving a means-tested benefit, living in equalized households with income below a threshold, unemployment, aged 18 to 64 without any qualifications, living in a place other than their own home, aged younger than 65 years living in a single-parent family, living in equalized households below a bedroom occupancy threshold, living in dwellings that are always damp and/or always have mold greater than A4 size
Social Deprivation Index	Income, education, employment, housing, household characteristics, transportation, and demographics
English Index of Multiple Deprivation	Income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment
Area Deprivation Index	Seventeen factors grouped according to poverty, housing, employment, and education
French version of the European Deprivation Index	Social exclusion, household data, basic amenities of housing, home ownership, car ownership, marital status, year of birth, gender, employment status, education level, and occupation

ATSDR = Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

discharge for patients with higher levels of social deprivation [11, 14, 19, 27, 36, 44, 56]. These studies were all retrospective, and each had a study population of more than 10,000 participants. However, the study with the highest level of evidence was a prospective study performed by Clement et al. [11], who reported that the most socially deprived THA patients had increased odds of dislocation and 90-day mortality (Table 4).

Patient-reported Outcome Measures

There was limited agreement among the six studies that reported on the link between PROMs and social deprivation about whether patients with more social deprivation had differences between their baseline and postoperative PROMs score. However, four of the included studies found that patients with more social deprivation had smaller improvements from baseline at final follow-up. This ranged from 6 to 18 months postoperatively across studies (Table 5). The highest power studies were prospective studies both performed by Clement et al. [10, 11]. In 2011, Clement et al. [11] utilized the Carstairs Score to measure

deprivation and found patients in more deprived areas had lower improvements after THA. In 2013, Clement et al. [10] reported that social deprivation was not associated with 1-year outcomes after TKA when utilizing the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Discussion

As orthopaedic surgeons become more cognizant of the social factors that may influence perioperative TJA care, a growing interest has focused on comprehensive measures of social deprivation rather than more granular social determinants of health. Our analysis sought to summarize the current studies evaluating how combined socioeconomic disadvantage among patients undergoing TJA is associated with usage, adverse events, and PROMs. Although there was limited agreement among included studies, we found that patients with more social deprivation frequently have lower TJA utilization than those who are more affluent. Additionally, the frequency of nonhome discharge was greater among patients with more-severe social deprivation. Although it remains unclear whether social

Table 3. Studies evaluating social deprivation and TJA use

Study	Key findings	Factors controlled for
Dixon et al. [15]	Patients with the highest level of social deprivation (as measured by the Townsend Index of Deprivation) had the lowest utilization of primary TJA	Age, gender
Dixon et al. [16]	No correlation between deprivation quintile and utilization of THA and TKA	Correlation only
Judge et al. [31]	There was an association between THA and TKA use and social deprivation, with more-deprived groups having lower access to TJA care	Age, gender, rurality, ethnicity
Rahman et al. [53]	The THA utilization per 100,000 patients was lower in more socioeconomically disadvantaged communities as measured by the Area Deprivation Index	Age, gender, race or ethnicity, distance to nearest hospital
Judge et al. [32]	Patients with the highest levels of social deprivation had higher utilization of TKA but lower utilization of THA	Age, gender, race, rurality, distance to nearest hospital, hospital characteristics
Michel et al. [46]	TKA utilization was higher for patients in less socioeconomically deprived communities. As deprivation increased, use decreased	Age, gender
Harcombe et al. [24]	People in the most deprived groups had a higher utilization of TJA than the least socioeconomically deprived group	Age, race or ethnicity
Hartnett et al. [25]	Patients with a higher level of social deprivation, as measured by the Social Deprivation Index, had decreased odds of THA	Age, gender, race, payer, CCI

CCI = Charlson comorbidity index.

deprivation is associated with baseline PROM scores for these patients, socioeconomic disadvantage appears to limit the ability to achieve functional improvements compared with patients who are less deprived. Based on these findings, surgeons should be encouraged to incorporate early screening methods into clinical practice that identify patients with substantial social deprivation, for example, using a questionnaire during preoperative visits to assess for social determinants of health or linking patient data to specific social deprivation metrics. Identifying these patients during the early stages of the treatment process will allow surgeons to provide timely interventions and ensure patients receive adequate support and resources for a successful treatment course. The addition of optional virtual or in-person visits during the perioperative period can also ensure close patient monitoring. Furthermore, care should be provided by a multidisciplinary healthcare team, including social workers, who can connect the patient to community resources and address any social barriers that interfere with access to healthcare. Lastly, policymakers should continue to address areas of social deprivation, such as lack of

transportation, which is a major barrier for socially deprived patients. Implementing transportation programs that offer free or reduced rates to and from healthcare facilities may increase access to care and mitigate disparities in people living in deprived areas.

Limitations

This study has limitations. There was wide heterogeneity across included studies regarding what additional factors were controlled for when exploring the association of social deprivation on the evaluated outcome measures, and inconsistency in how these were measured and controlled for may influence reported findings. However, most of the studies controlled for factors that might influence social deprivation and the outcomes of TJA such as age, gender, race, and comorbidity. An important limitation relates to how social deprivation was measured in each article and the fact that we did not use a definition or set of criteria for identifying a social deprivation index. Although Cheng et al. [8] recently found that national ADI and healthcare

Table 4. Studies evaluating social deprivation and perioperative outcomes after TJA

Study	Key findings	Factors controlled for
Clement et al. [11]	Patients with the most severe levels of social deprivation who underwent TJA had increased odds of dislocation and 90-day mortality	Age, gender, CCI, BMI
Khlopas et al. [36]	Higher area deprivation (as measured by the Area Deprivation Index) was associated with increased risk of all-cause readmissions, prolonged LOS, and nonhome discharge after TKA	Age, gender, race, BMI, smoking, CCI
Holbert et al. [27]	Patients within Maryland Health Enterprise Zones (underserved areas) had an increased risk of nonhome discharge as well as a higher incidence of 90-day ED visits after TJA	Age, gender, anesthesia type
Shaw et al. [56]	No association with Area Deprivation Index and 90-day postoperative ED visits after TKA	Age, gender, BMI, ASA class, comorbidities (diabetes, depression), preoperative ED visit
Edwards et al. [19]	Greater area deprivation was associated with a lower risk of any complication after TKA	Age, gender, living arrangements, symptom duration, comorbidity burden, baseline PROMs
Mehta et al. [44]	Patients with higher Area Deprivation Index values (less affluent areas) had a higher incidence of discharge to a facility after THA. No association seen with Area Deprivation Index and readmission	Age, gender, insurance, ECI, facility volume
Diaz et al. [14]	No differences in postoperative complications, mortality, or readmissions for patients undergoing TJA when comparing Social Vulnerability Index scores	Age, gender, race, ECI, hospital teaching status, year

CCI = Charlson comorbidity index; LOS = length of stay; ED = emergency department; ASA = American Society of Anesthesiologists; ECI = Elixhauser comorbidity index.

insurance were the most effective metrics to capture social deprivation, alternative measures of socioeconomic disadvantage were commonly used which may be specific to the countries they were used in. Furthermore, we included studies from different countries with widely disparate healthcare systems. However, many of the social determinants of health are universal and our results may be seen as more generalizable by including data from multiple countries.

Additionally, although we analyzed more-global measurements of deprivation, it is possible that individual social determinants of health or factors such as healthcare insurance or income level could have influenced the evaluated outcomes. However, most of these individual factors are interdependent, and therefore, assessing outcomes through a social deprivation metric may provide a more comprehensive view of the relationship between social determinants of health and patient outcomes after TJA. Furthermore, we were not able to comment on the association between social deprivation and aspects of social identity such as age, gender, and race. Despite these limitations, our systematic review provides the first summary of the available literature on social deprivation and TJA utilization and patient-reported and surgical outcomes.

Arthroplasty Usage

Most of the included studies found that patients with more social deprivation had lower utilization of TJA compared with those with less social deprivation. This has likewise been demonstrated in studies evaluating specific social determinants of health, with lower usage reported among patients with lower income and education, those who live alone, and those who are resource limited [1, 6, 20, 23]. Various theories for the causes of these socioeconomic disparities have been postulated, including concerns regarding inequitable knowledge regarding osteoarthritis or about the potential benefits derived from TJA [63]. Similarly, socially disadvantaged patients may be less willing to undergo these elective procedures because of concerns related to costs, social support for recovery, and difficulties associated with transportation to follow-up appointments [7, 26]. Conversely, primary care providers might expect this patient population to have comparably poorer outcomes and subsequently may be less likely to refer these patients for surgery [6, 9]. Although this issue is likely multifaceted, a large contributing factor is probably the decreased involvement in medical decision-making that has been demonstrated for patients with social

Table 5. Studies evaluating the relationship between social deprivation and PROMs

Study	Key findings	Factors controlled for
Clement et al. [11]	Lower improvements in Oxford hip scores at 1 year associated with more-deprived areas as measured by the Carstairs Score	Age, comorbidity burden, baseline PROMs, LOS
Clement et al. [10]	Social deprivation, as measured by the SMID, was not associated with 1-year Oxford knee or SF-12 scores	Age, gender, comorbidity burden, baseline PROMs
Jenkins et al. [29]	Patients with the most severe levels of social deprivation who underwent THA had lower baseline, 6-month, and 18-month HHS and SF-36 physical and mental scores	Age, gender
Edwards et al. [19]	Greater area deprivation was associated with lower improvements in Oxford knee scores at 6 months	Age, gender, living arrangements, symptom duration, comorbidity burden, baseline PROMs
Neuburger et al. [50]	Higher postoperative improvements in the Oxford hip and knee scores were seen for more socially deprived patients. Patients in the most socially deprived cohorts had an increased odds of reporting no improvement after THA and TKA	Age, gender, ethnicity, comorbidity burden, revision rate, primary diagnosis, baseline PROMs
Murray et al. [49]	No association between deprivation (as measured by the Townsend score) and KSS or QoL scores	None listed

LOS = length of stay; SMID = Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation; HHS = Harris hip score; KSS = Knee Society score; QoL = quality of life.

deprivation [22, 48]. Therefore, we believe that implementing global measures of social deprivation in clinical practice may help physicians better understand which patients are susceptible to potentially delayed TJA care, and subsequently, address related concerns. Specifically, we suggest linking patient data to deprivation measures such as the ADI to help encourage shared decision-making strategies that focus on health literacy and common barriers related to access [17, 39, 62]. This also highlights the importance of primary care physicians in educating and recommending patients for TJA to increase utilization.

Adverse Events

Although there was general disagreement regarding how social deprivation is associated with outcomes such as readmission [14, 36, 44], general complications [14, 19], and mortality [11, 14], patients who are more socially disadvantaged consistently had increased nonhome discharge. Similar to proposed explanations behind reduced usage among this patient population, nonhome discharge may be driven by patient and provider concerns regarding access to immediate postoperative care, transportation needs, or general social support [7, 26]. However, because home discharge has been shown to be associated with

improved postoperative outcomes, such as shorter length of stay, fewer readmissions, and reduced overall costs of care [13, 43], further efforts at improving the proportion of home discharge may help reduce disparities in complications demonstrated in some of the included articles. Previously mentioned shared decision-making interventions that include a multidisciplinary team of nursing staff, social workers, and case managers may help set postoperative expectations, review postoperative instructions and protocols, as well as address patient concerns related to social support after discharge [33, 52, 60]. Given their recently demonstrated potential, mobile applications and messaging services could be implemented to help reduce emergency department visits and readmissions among socially vulnerable patients who are discharged home [34, 36, 37, 64]. However, it is important that discussions related to adequate education and postoperative support begin early [35], preferably when assessing the willingness of patients with more severe levels of social deprivation to proceed with surgical management.

Patient-reported Outcome Measures

Although there were some discrepancies regarding how social deprivation is associated with preoperative PROM

scores and gross values postoperatively, most of the included studies found that higher social deprivation was associated with lower functional improvements from baseline. Patients with more severe social deprivation may have more severe arthritis because of delayed access to care [29]. Conversely, the lower functional improvement in patients who are less affluent may be explained by patient expectations postoperatively, where it has been shown that patients with lower expectations report lower functional outcomes. This has been demonstrated previously when focusing on specific social determinants of health, with studies reporting higher expectations among patients with less education and those with lower income [30, 42]. Therefore, in addition to ensuring that patients receive endstage arthritis care in appropriate timeframes, interventions should be implemented that target the expectations of patients with social deprivation. A thorough discussion with the patient regarding access to care and postoperative expectations should be incorporated during preoperative evaluation to improve patient expectations of surgical outcomes. Having these conversations should encourage adherence to the treatment plan and improve functional outcomes. These discussions should focus on what socioeconomic barriers may limit the rehabilitation process and must also include patient counseling regarding the typical duration of recovery, common residual symptoms, and the level of functional improvement patients may receive from joint replacement [28]. Shared decision-making strategies that include discussions with patients regarding their level of social deprivation and its association with comparably lower improvements may help ensure that expectations are appropriately managed among this patient population and resources are provided to improve outcomes after TJA.

Conclusion

Our systematic review found that patients with more social deprivation were less likely to receive TJA, be discharged home, and experience substantial improvements in functional outcomes than patients who were more affluent. These findings should encourage continued efforts at ensuring equitable care across socioeconomic groups. Efforts should focus on appropriate patient education regarding expectations related to functional improvement and the postoperative recovery process and making resources available for further information and social support. We suggest linking patient data to deprivation measures such as the ADI to help encourage shared decision-making strategies that focus on health literacy and common barriers related to access. Hospitals should identify methods to recognize patients whose circumstances involve more severe levels of social deprivation and provide additional targeted interventions to

help patients overcome the social deprivation they might be facing. Additionally, shared decision-making between patients with social deprivation and their surgeons can improve the health literacy of these patients and subsequently ensure they have adequate access to quality care. With multiple social deprivation measures utilized in research, future studies should establish a consistent metric to ensure all patients who are socially deprived are reliably identified to receive appropriate treatment. In addition, more information is needed regarding the intersectionality between social deprivation and aspects of social identity such as age, gender, and race.

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