

Title: Epidemiology of anterior knee dysaesthesia (AKD) post total knee arthroplasty (TKA).

Objective: To document the incidence of AKD and to show its resolution over time post TKA.

Design & Methods: Patients who underwent TKA were retrospectively stratified based on their post op time. The knee circumference (KC), anterior knee area (AKA) and areas of AKD (for touch, pain and temperature) were measured with a 1 cm² tegraderm grid. AKD was standardized by calculating the true ratio (Area of dysaesthesia ÷ AKA).

Results: All patients had AKD with the longest time post op being 5 years. Dysaesthesia was found on either side of the surgical scar and within the AKA. The average area of sensory changes was 95.1 ± 25.7 cm². The mean true ratios were 0.3894 and 0.2010 for the <3 months and >2 year groups respectively showing a 50% decrease in area between the two groups (p <0.01).

Conclusion: Due to the high prevalence informing patients of post op sensory alterations must be included in consenting for TKA. Resolution of symptoms will also reassure patients that their post op complication is transient.

