

## **R053: Elective surgery rates in people with dementia – QUB**

Dementia is a term used to describe a broad group of conditions that affect the brain and causes a progressive cognitive decline in the ability to think, learn and remember. At present, there is no cure for dementia, nor a way to slow down its progress. As we age, we are more likely to require medical interventions. For instance, people with and without dementia are more likely to require elective surgery as they get older (such as hip replacements and cataract surgery). However, there has been little to no research on elective surgery referrals among people with dementia. In this study, we aim to determine the number of people with and without dementia who have been referred for elective surgery, have had an elective surgery or are currently on the waiting list for an elective surgery. We believe that this study has important implications for people with dementia in Northern Ireland. Firstly, with the requested data, we can assess the number of people with dementia in Northern Ireland who have been referred for elective surgery, have had an elective surgery or are currently on the waiting list for an elective surgery and comparison to an age and gender matched control group of people without dementia. Our analysis will allow us to determine whether people with dementia are waiting longer than people without dementia for a similar type of elective surgery. Moreover, we will analyse which types of elective surgery are more or less common among people with dementia.

Primary objective: To determine whether people with dementia are referred for elective surgery at the same rate as people without dementia.

Secondary objective: To determine what demographic factors might influence the decision to refer someone with dementia for elective surgery in comparison to people without dementia.