Regional Differences in Joint Replacement Surgery Among Racial Groups in the USA

Black individuals in the United States are less likely than White individuals to undergo total hip or knee replacement surgeries to treat osteoarthritis.

Does this pattern hold across regions and socioeconomic divisions?

Medicare records from 2009 to 2017

Hospital Referral Region data

Race demographics

Socioeconomic status

Categorized into

Medicare

Medicare + Medicaid

Gap between White Medicare-only and dual-eligible people increased by 40%

40%

Gap between Black Medicare-only and dual-eligible people increased by 300%

300%

Total knee replacement disparities remained unchanged

A significant geographic variation alongside persistent racial and socioeconomic disparities exists in the USA regarding joint replacement surgeries.