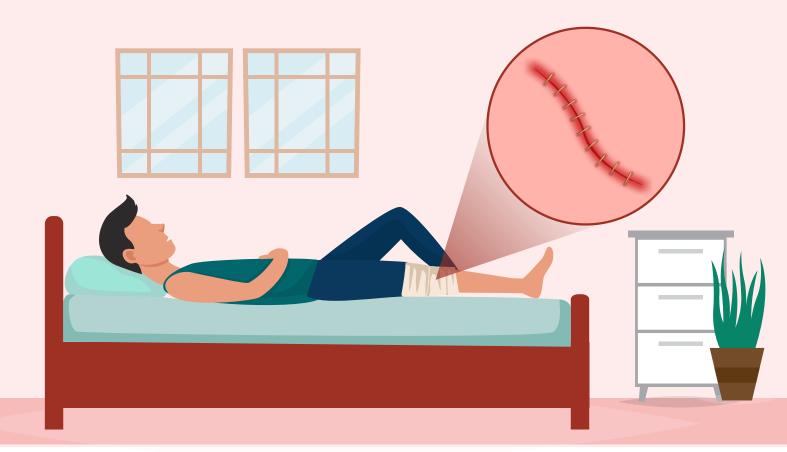
Long-Term Effects of Postoperative Surgical Site Infections

The long-term effects of postoperative surgical site infections (SSIs) on healthcare utilization and costs are typically measured for 90 days postoperatively but their long-term impact is unknown



Observational cohort study

Patients in the Veterans Affairs healthcare system who underwent orthopaedic surgeries (N = 96,983)





No SSI within 90 days



Difference in healthcare utilization and cost 2 years post-discharge





\$148,824 ± \$268,358

For patients with SSIs

At 2 years post-surgery

Adjusted SSIs were associated with greater risk of



RR* = 1.18



*RR = Relative risk



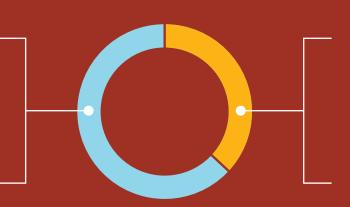
RR = 1.35

Adjusted costs for patients with SSIs



68% more compared to patients without SSIs

63% of subsequent surgeries occurred after 90 days



37% of subsequent surgeries occurred within 90 days

The healthcare utilization and high costs for patients with orthopaedic SSIs are sustained for up to 2 years after index surgery

Quality Reporting Windows May Not Capture the Effects of Surgical Site Infections After Orthopaedic Surgery







Shapiro et al. (2022) | DOI: 10.2106/JBJS.21.01278