

Freedom of Information Team
Post Room
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Portsmouth
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PO6 3LY

Name:
Email:
Date: 28/05/2021
Ref: 21-22 082

Dear

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 05/05/2021.

1. How many patients with Knee Cartilage Damage are referred to your trust for investigation / diagnosis?

115 patients with Knee Cartilage Damage were referred to the Trust for investigation in 2020/21.

2. How are these patients with Knee Cartilage Damage diagnosed?

- **MRI – how many?**
All.
- **Arthroscopy – how many?**
Diagnostic arthroscopy is very rare now as MRI is used. Cartilage damage may be picked up as a finding though when arthroscopy is being performed for another reason.
- **Other method – how many?**
Clinical history and suspicion, eg. joint pain without radiological evidence of arthritis.

3. How many are diagnosed with ICRS grade 1 cartilage damage?

The Trust does not hold this information in an easily retrievable/recorded format. To extract this information, we would have to search through a significant amount of patient records.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information Request, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

4. How are patients ICRS grade 1 managed post diagnosis?

- **Debridement – how many?**
No.
- **Lavage – how many?**
No.
- **Other treatment in secondary care (which)?**
No.
- **Referred back to primary care (which)?**

Conservative treatment in all cases with physiotherapy / weight loss.

5. Average length of time between diagnosis and treatment of patients with ICRS grade 1 lesions?

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6. Estimated percentage of patients treated with grade 1 lesions who would return for further treatment in the future?

All cartilage damage will start as grade 1 and then progress, but we very rarely see patients with grade 1 level of damage as the symptoms are usually so mild that they would not warrant referral to a surgeon and there is no surgical input required.

7. Do you currently use any scaffold or materials-based techniques to treat ICRS grade 1 patients?

No.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team