

Does it matter how many shoulder arthroplasties my Surgeon does?

In a recent article from Australia, Brown et al studied shoulder arthroplasty from the National Registry and found better results in Surgeons that perform more than 20 shoulder replacements per year. Interestingly, 78.2% of shoulder replacements were done by surgeons that did less than 10 per year. The key to the study is that short term results are much better with fewer complications if your surgeon does more than 20 per year.

Total shoulder arthroplasty is now a very common procedure. Outcomes are generally very good. While not all cases have a perfect outcome, experience and volume matter.

My practice over the 30 years has seen volumes well above 20 per year for over 20 years. My outcomes have been studied and actually are comparable to other world experts in a 10 year follow up of the Tornier prosthesis I use. Over 90% had age adjusted constant scores above 90 out of 100 from a starting score below 40. Average American Shoulder and Elbow scores improved from the mid 30's to above 80 almost 95% of the time, and most of those scored above 90.

Brown,et al; operating volume in shoulder arthroplasty is associated with increased revision rates in the early postoperative period: long-term analysis from the Australian Orthopaedic Association National Joint Replacement



