

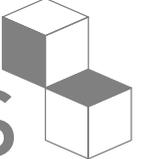


PHRN Population
Health
Research
Network



Heart Surgery in Octogenarians

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NCRIS 
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

Aortic valve replacement surgery

There are increasing numbers of patients over the age of 80 with heart disease. Heart surgery in elderly patients is generally considered high risk. This study investigated the outcomes of elderly patients (over 80 years) undergoing aortic valve replacement surgery. The researchers found that age was not a significant risk factor in elderly patients undergoing aortic valve replacement.

HOW DID THE PHRN INFRASTRUCTURE HELP?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare linked the hospital clinical data to the National Death Index for the research team to analyse.

AUTHORS/CONTRIBUTORS

Harris RS, Yan TD, Black D, Bannon PG, Bayfield MS, Hendel PN, Wilson MK, Vallely MP. consider the association between ED admission and a diagnosis of postnatal depression when planning a woman's care.

REFERENCE

Harris RS, Yan TD, Black D, Bannon PG, Bayfield MS, Hendel PN, Wilson MK, Vallely MP. Outcomes of surgical aortic valve replacement in octogenarians. *Heart Lung Circ.* 2013 Aug;22(8):618-26.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1443950613000310>



Privacy and security

Privacy protection and data security lie at the heart of the Population Health Research Network. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information by government agencies and other agencies are bound by strict legislative and regulatory conditions. Researchers wishing to access linked data must also adhere to stringent conditions, including ethics approval, data custodian approval and the development of a detailed data security plan.

Researchers are typically given access to a linked data set put together to meet the specific needs of their project. This de-identified data includes only the minimum information required for the research, such as age rather than date of birth.

Government agencies handle personal information in highly-secure environments. Data is delivered to researchers through a secure remote access facility, ensuring no information is stored on the researcher's personal computer or their institutional network. Researchers cannot export raw data from this system, only their analyses, and these are checked.

Researchers must only use the data for the approved purpose and are not allowed to link any other information. At the conclusion of the project, all data must be destroyed or returned.

Penalties for researchers and government employees can include criminal conviction, jail time or substantial fines. In the more than ten years since the network began, there has never been a breach.

