



KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS:
ROLE OF ARTHROSCOPIC LAVAGE

PLACEBO SURGERY: AN NHS-FUNDED TRIAL?

What do you as a surgeon think?

- The benefits of arthroscopic lavage (and/or debridement) for the management of knee osteoarthritis are unproven¹.
- The NHS is considering funding a clinical trial to assess the effectiveness of arthroscopic lavage.
- They are considering including a placebo arm within the trial.
- The possibility of a placebo has been discussed with groups of surgeons, anaesthetists, patients and ethics committee representatives.
- Informed by these discussions, the following placebo is being proposed:
 - General anaesthetic (as for arthroscopic lavage)
 - Three small skin incisions penetrating only the epidermis
 - No penetration of the knee space
- Arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery and conservative management will be compared in terms of knee function, pain and quality of life.
- Our research group has been commissioned to find out what surgeons think of this, specifically:
 - Do you think the NHS should proceed with this trial?
 - What are your views on the plan for the trial?
 - Would you take part?
- Please take the time (approx. 2 minutes) to complete this questionnaire.
- The results of this survey will directly influence whether this trial will be conducted.

Q1. If a trial of **arthroscopic lavage** vs **placebo surgery** vs **conservative management** were to be funded in the UK:

a) would you be supportive of such research being mounted?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) would you consider taking part?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) if a friend or member of your family had osteoarthritis of the knee and were asked to participate in this trial would you encourage them to sign up for the trial?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Bandolier. Surgery for arthritic knee: roundup (2002). <http://www.ir2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/booth/Arthritis/arthrokn.html>

Q2. If a trial of **arthroscopic lavage** versus **conservative management** only (ie **no placebo**) were funded in the UK:

a) would you be supportive of such research being mounted?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) would you consider taking part?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) if a friend or member of your family had osteoarthritis of the knee and were asked to participate in this trial would you encourage them to sign up for the trial?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3. If a placebo trial went ahead the randomisation between groups could be made **equal** (ie equal chance of allocation to arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery, or conservative management) or **unequal** (ie randomisation loaded to favour allocation to active surgery). What do you think would be the best strategy?

Equal randomisation (1:1:1 allocation to arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery, conservative management)

Unequal randomisation (2:1:1 allocation to arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery, conservative management)

No preference

Other randomisation ratio (please specify) _____

Q4. Do you currently perform arthroscopic lavage (and/or debridement) for the management of knee osteoarthritis?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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I used to, but not now

<input type="checkbox"/>

No

<input type="checkbox"/>

If you used to perform arthroscopic lavage but do not now, why did you stop?

(please specify): _____

Q5. Do you have any other comments to make about this proposed research?

(please use an additional sheet if required)

Thank you for completing this questionnaire

Please return it in the envelope provided

PLACEBO SURGERY: AN NHS-FUNDED TRIAL?

What do anaesthetists think?

- The benefits of arthroscopic lavage (+/- debridement) for the management of knee osteoarthritis are unproven¹.
- The NHS is considering funding a clinical trial to assess the effectiveness (in terms of knee function, pain and quality of life) of arthroscopic lavage.
- They are considering including a placebo surgery arm within the trial.
- The possibility of placebo surgery has been discussed with groups of surgeons, anaesthetists, patients and ethics committee representatives.
- Informed by these discussions, the following placebo is being proposed:
 - General anaesthetic (as for arthroscopic lavage)
 - Three small skin incisions penetrating only the epidermis
 - No penetration of the knee space
- Those who took part in the discussion groups thought general anaesthesia was most appropriate as it a) provided the best mimic for the full surgery and b) was thought to be the technique anaesthetists were most familiar with and most experienced in using (compared with a hypnotic and opioid-based sedation regimen as was used in a previous trial).
- Our research group has been commissioned to find out what anaesthetists think of this, specifically:
 - Do you think the NHS should proceed with this trial?
 - What are your views on the plan for the trial?
 - If the orthopaedic surgeon you work with wished to take part, would you co-participate as an anaesthetist for the trial?
- Please take the time (approx. 2 minutes) to complete this questionnaire.
- The results of this survey will directly influence whether this trial will be conducted.

Q1. If a trial of **arthroscopic lavage vs placebo surgery vs conservative management** were to be funded in the UK:

a) would you be supportive of such research being mounted? Yes
 No

b) if the orthopaedic surgeon you work with wished to take part, would you agree to co-participate as an anaesthetist for the trial? Yes
 No

c) if a friend or member of your family had osteoarthritis of the knee and were asked to participate in this trial, would you encourage them to sign up for the trial? Yes
 No

Q2. If a trial of **arthroscopic lavage** versus **conservative management** only (ie **no placebo**) were funded in the UK:

a) would you be supportive of such research being mounted?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) if the orthopaedic surgeon you work with wished to take part, would you agree to co-participate as an anaesthetist for the trial?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) if a friend or member of your family had osteoarthritis of the knee and were asked to participate in this trial, would you encourage them to sign up for the trial?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3. If a placebo trial went ahead the randomisation between groups could be made **equal** (ie equal chance of allocation to arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery, or conservative management) or **unequal** (ie randomisation loaded to favour allocation to active surgery). What do you think would be the best strategy?

Equal randomisation (1:1:1 allocation to arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery, conservative management)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unequal randomisation (2:1:1 allocation to arthroscopic lavage, placebo surgery, conservative management)	<input type="checkbox"/>
No preference	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other randomisation ratio (please specify) _____

Q4. Do you have any other comments to make about this proposed research?
(please use an additional sheet if required)

Thank you for completing this questionnaire

Please return it in the envelope provided