



# OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND HAZARDS FACED BY ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Occupational injuries and hazards faced by orthopaedic surgeons have gained increased attention within published literature.<sup>2</sup> Occupational injuries may result in lost productivity due to surgeon absenteeism or presenteeism and may impact the quality of surgical care offered to the patient due to performance issues the surgeon may face while dealing with or recovering from the injury.<sup>2,3</sup> The data below are from published literature on occupational injuries and hazards faced by orthopaedic surgeons.



## Musculoskeletal Disorders

- Operating can lead surgeons to adopt postures and repetitive motions that have damaging long-term effects on physical health through imparting musculoskeletal fatigue, damaging a surgeon's muscles, nerves, and/or joints.<sup>1,4</sup>
- May result in chronic pain for the surgeon, which may lead to other implications including productivity loss.<sup>1</sup>



## Workplace Injuries

- Many orthopaedic surgeons sustain occupational injuries during their careers.<sup>2,3</sup>
- The volume of work days missed suggests that occupational injury has economic implications for the healthcare system and providers.<sup>2,3</sup>
- Occupational injury may impact the quality of surgical care offered to the patient due to performance issues the surgeon may face while dealing with or recovering from the injury.<sup>2,3</sup>

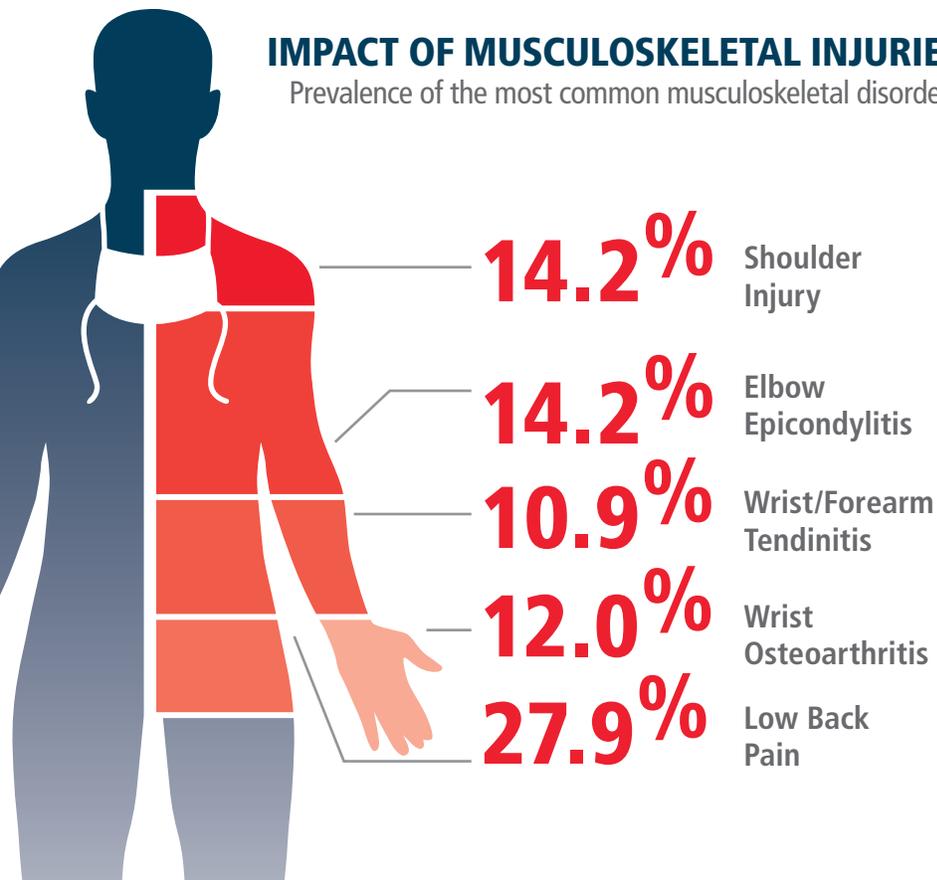


## Emotional and Psychological Health

- Mental health issues and other psychological problems (including anxiety, chronic fatigue, and burnout) are often dismissed as the surgeons do not wish to let their colleagues down.<sup>5</sup>
- There is a misconception that surgeons better cope with stress and are protected from burnout.<sup>5</sup>

## IMPACT OF MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES ON ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Prevalence of the most common musculoskeletal disorders among respondent arthroplasty surgeons.<sup>6</sup>



**2 OUT OF 3**  
**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS**

developed a musculoskeletal disorder from work<sup>6</sup>



# PRODUCTIVITY LOSS FROM OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND HAZARDS FOR ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

## ABSENTEEISM

Work absence due to injury or illness

**23-27%** OF INJURED ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

required time off from work due to a work-related injury (median time off = 7.3 days ± 21 days)<sup>2,3,6</sup>

**8%** OF INJURED ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

required longer than 3 weeks' time off due to an injury<sup>2</sup>

**SURGERY WAS REQUIRED TO TREAT 31**

of cases of musculoskeletal injuries among arthroplasty surgeons<sup>6</sup>

Retrospective study found **STRAIN INJURIES**

of upper and lower limbs were responsible for 14.8% of work-related injuries among healthcare workers\* & resulted in 3,450 lost days of work, with the median duration of work absence being 10.0 days<sup>7</sup>

## PRESENTEEISM

Attending work while injured or ill

**36%** OF INJURED ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

reported that the pain from an occupational injury "at least minimally impacted" their performance in the operating room<sup>2</sup>

**43%** OF INJURED ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

reported that they were forced to take a break from operating to relieve the pain experienced from their symptoms<sup>8</sup>

**35%** OF INJURED SURGEONS

reported performing fewer operations while recovering from an injury<sup>3</sup>

**10%** OF INJURED RESIDENT ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

reported "they missed time in the operating room due to their musculoskeletal injuries"<sup>9</sup>

**\$3,286,764**

Annual net revenue generated by an orthopaedic surgeon<sup>10</sup>

Surgeon Absenteeism  
(7.3 days ± 3 weeks)

**\$92,000-\$189,000**

Lost revenue for the institution

**DEPUY SYNTHES OFFERS TECHNOLOGY THAT MAY HELP ADDRESS OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES FACED BY ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEPUY SYNTHES SALES CONSULTANT TO LEARN MORE.**

\*Healthcare workers include medical staff (eg, medical specialists or residents), registered nursing personnel, nursing assistants, healthcare technicians (eg, laboratory and radiology technicians), administrative assistants, and other professional groups (eg, hospital managers).

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