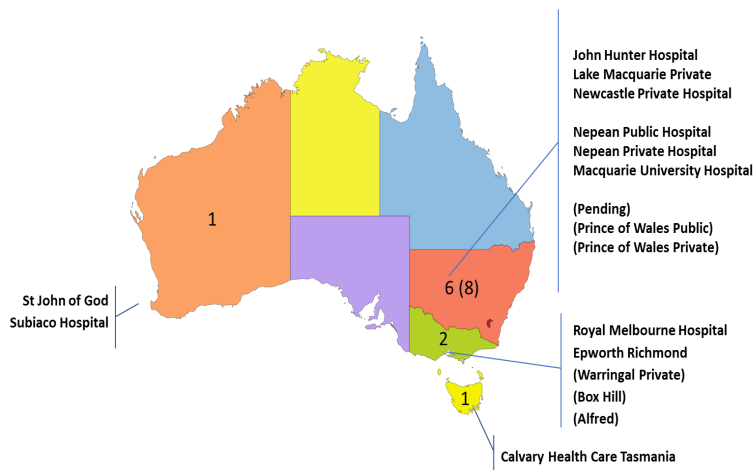


Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Australian Spine Registry (ASR) newsletter. With the pilot now in full swing, we are excited to share our progress.

ASR Participating Sites and Surgeons

The registry has ethics approval for 10 hospitals around Australia with another 5 hospitals pending approval.



We currently have 5 orthopaedic spine surgeons and 2 neurosurgeons participating in the pilot with another 4 orthopaedic spine surgeons interested in joining.

Site Governance

We are pleased to announce that Ramsay Healthcare has approved our registry which means that we have a streamlined process for all Ramsay Healthcare hospitals.

Registry Governance

The ASR Steering Committee, which comprises of 5 surgeons (orthopaedic and neurosurgeons) and 3 Monash representatives, is responsible for the governance of the registry, in accordance with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's Operating Principles (2008) and Framework (2014) for Clinical Quality Registries. The Steering Committee's focus is on providing strategic direction and ensuring deliverables are met for the ASR.

Recruitment and Patient follow up

Enrolment of patients into the registry began in mid January 2018. As at the end of May, the registry had enrolled 160 patients. The pilot is aiming to recruit 2000 patients in a 2 year time frame.



The ASR is an **OPT-OUT registry**. Patients can opt-out at any time by either informing their surgeon or calling the registry on **1800 998 722**.

ASR Stakeholder Engagement

This year for the first time the ASR was actively promoted at the Spine Society of Australia Annual Scientific meeting at the Adelaide Convention Centre in April. The conference presented a unique opportunity to directly engage with the participating surgeons, to gather feedback on their experience with the registry data collection tool, KEOPs. It also provided a forum to promote the registry, to establish surgeon interest and to personally meet and thank the registry sponsors.

Clinical lead for the registry, Michael Johnson also presented at the meeting on the benefits of registries, in particular the ASR, highlighting the importance of data collection and patient reported outcome measures.



News/Events

ASR begins its Post-Op follow up!



The registry has entered the post-op follow up phase for its recruited patients. Patients will either receive an email with a link to the registry questionnaires or, for those patients who don't have an email, a letter in the mail. Follow up questionnaires will be sent to patients at 6, 12 and 24 months post op.

Practices are encouraged to remind their patients to check their spam just in case they haven't received their questionnaires. Registry staff will also be following up patients by phone if the questionnaires have not been received.

ASR publishes its first paper

The ASR recently published its first perspective paper in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery. The paper, titled "*Monitoring outcomes in spine surgery: Rationale behind the Australian Spine Registry. A national Spine Registry is needed*" gives an overview of the registry and why a national registry is needed. "The burden associated with spinal disease and its variation in management to the Australian community and healthcare system is significant, and its importance has been recognised in recent national reports. The aims of the registry, although seen as ambitious, are critical to making an impact to the management of this significant source of disability in the Australian population." (Ahern et al, 2018, ANZ J Surg, in press).

New Staff

The ASR is pleased to introduce Mr Tom Ranger. Tom is completing his PhD in epidemiology and biostatistics with a background in physiotherapy and has experience teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Tom joined the Registry Science Unit as a data analyst in May 2018 with the role to provide data analysis support for the Australian Spine Registry. His research areas of interest include public health, environmental effects on health and geo-spatial modelling.



The registry is also in the process of recruiting a research assistant to the team who will assist in the operational aspects of the registry and the follow up of patients.

More Information?

If you would like more information about the registry please visit our website: www.spineregistry.org.au or, call the registry on 1800 998 722.

An initiative of the SSA
in partnership with Monash University



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