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[Inguinal herniotomy in outpatient clinics and in hospital departments].

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Abstract: The purpose of the investigation was to examine the use of ambulatory surgery, anesthetic technique, reoperation rates, and reimbursement fees after inguinal herniotomy in private outpatients clinics compared to herniotomy in hospital departments.

Information on number of operations performed, choice of anesthetic and surgical technique in private outpatients clinics and hospital departments was extracted from the Danish Hernia Data Base. Information on reimbursement fees was obtained from the relevant health authorities and the Danish Medical Association.

7.4% of the inguinal herniotomies in Denmark were performed in private outpatients clinics. There was an extended use of local infiltration anesthesia (99%) and ambulatory procedures (99%) compared with 12% and 57% in the hospital departments. The reimbursement fee for a herniotomy is approximately 3700 DKK in private outpatients clinics vs. 11,000 DKK in hospital departments.

The results of the study showed that the quality of inguinal herniotomy in private outpatients clinics is comparable to herniotomy in hospital departments, but the reimbursement fees are lower in private outpatients clinics.

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