Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons

The Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality (WAASM)

2025 Report Snapshot

5-year review
Jan 2020 - Dec 2024

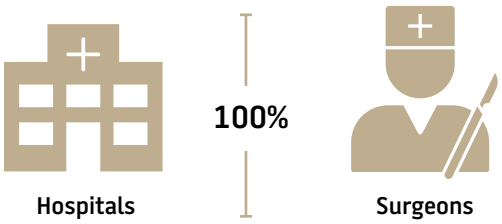
RANZCOG™
Excellence in Women's Health

Snapshot

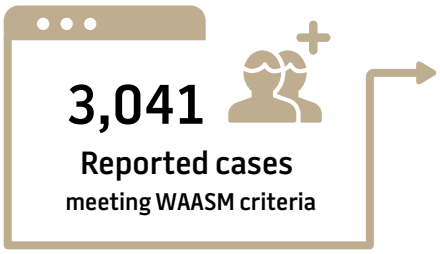
This snapshot covers cases reported to WAASM from **1 January 2020 to 31 December 2024**.

Note that differences in denominators are due to incomplete information provided in surgical case forms and assessment forms, resulting in missing data.

Participation



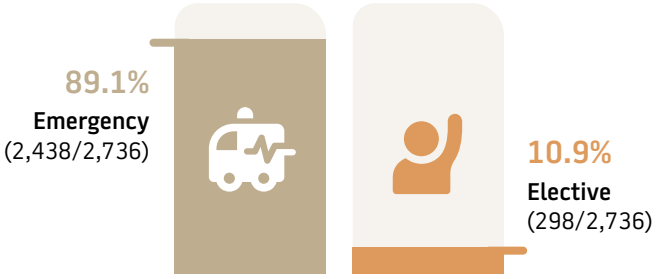
Analysis and audit numbers



88.0%
Completed cases
(2,677/3,041)

3.6%
Cases in progress
(109/3,041)

8.4%
Excluded terminal care cases
(255/3,041)



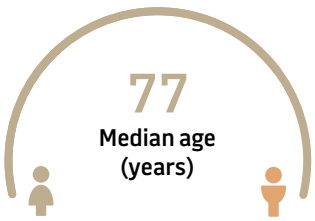
Admission type

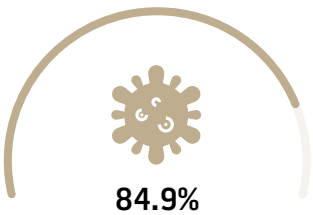
Public 83.6%
(2,288/2,737)

Private 9.8%
(268/2,737)

Co-location 6.6%
(181/2,737)

Risk profile

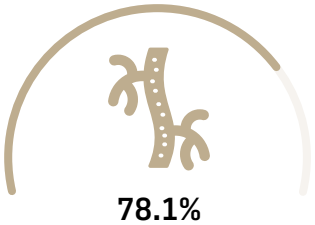




84.9%
Comorbidities
(2,323/2,737)

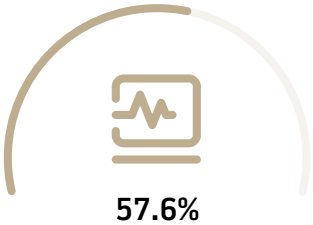
44.7%
ASA IV - most common ASA grade
(1,209/2,706)

ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists.



78.1%
DVT prophylaxis use
(2,137/2,736)

DVT: deep vein thrombosis.



57.6%
CCU use
(1,574/2,735)

CCU: critical care unit.

Patient transfers

29.6%
Patients transferred (811/2,736)

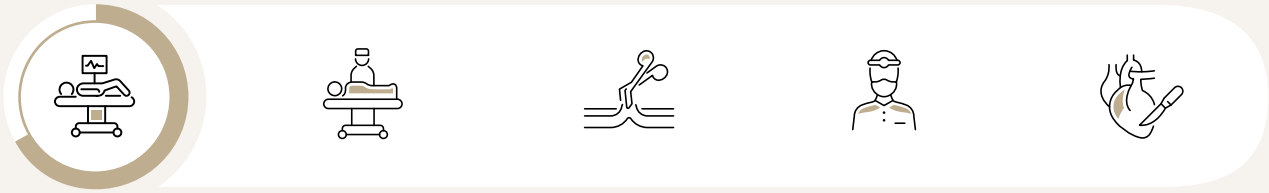
11.5%
Delay in transfer (93/809)

4.2%
Insufficient clinical information (34/808)

4.2%
Inappropriate transfer (34/809)

2.4%
Inappropriate level of care (19/807)

Operations



62.1%
Patients with one or more operations (1,700/2,737)

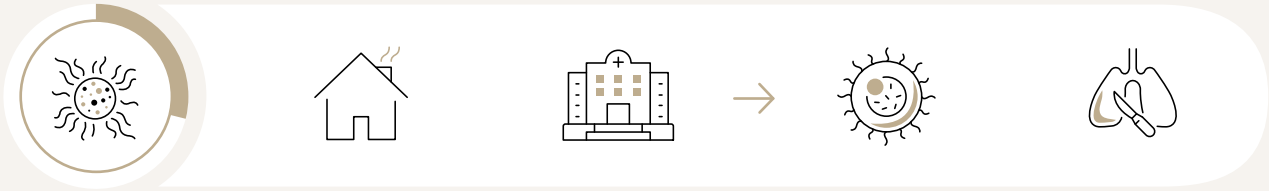
2,267
Number of operations

91.8%
Consultant surgeons who made the decision to operate (2,081/2,267)

68.4%
Consultant surgeons who performed the surgery (1,550/2,267)

14.5%
Unplanned returns to theatre (246/1,700)

Infection



30.8%
Patients with clinically significant infection (843/2,734)

53.4%
Infection acquired prior to admission (450/843)

46.6%
Infection acquired during admission (393/843)

28.0%
Infection acquired preoperatively (110/393)

52.9%
Infection acquired postoperatively (208/393)

Peer-review outcomes

13.6%
Cases with one or more clinical management issues (365/2,677)

603
Number of clinical management issues

11.3%
Adverse events (68/603)

44.1%
Adverse events that caused death (30/68)

26.7%
Definitely preventable adverse events that caused death (8/30)

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Western Australian
Audit of Surgical Mortality

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