



Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery Wait Times Benchmark Initiative

Chair: Leif Sigurdson, MD, MSc, MBA, FRCSC

Members: Earl Campbell, MD, FRCSC and Nicholas Carr, MD, FRCSC

April 10, 2007

Rm. 4437-1796 Summer St.
Dalhousie University
B3H 3A7
(902) 473-1550
leif.sigurdson@dal.ca

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Executive Summary

Plastic surgeons in Canada provide a wide spectrum of acute and non-acute surgical services. Long surgical wait times and their effect on patient morbidity have been growing concerns among Canadian plastic surgeons.

PURPOSE: The objective of this benchmarking initiative was to develop expertise-based recommendations regarding maximum plastic surgery specific procedure wait times.

METHODS: A steering committee struck by the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (CSPS) developed an electronically administered questionnaire (in both official languages) that was sent to all society members with a valid email address. Survey items consisted of respondent information on maximal acceptable wait times for 91 different plastic surgical procedures (from time of referral to surgery).

RESULTS: One hundred and seventy four plastic surgeons responded to the survey yielding a response rate of 66%. Highest response rates were in the Maritime provinces (>91%) and lowest response rates were in Quebec (34%). Greater than 80% of respondents felt that acute hand injuries (i.e., tendons/fractures) should undergo surgery within seven days of presentation, with the exception of mallet finger deformities, gamekeeper thumbs and volar plate injuries which could wait between one and two weeks. Respondents felt that immediate breast reconstruction should be performed within four weeks of the date of referral. Delayed breast reconstructions should wait no more than nine months. Breast reductions, asymmetries, and congenital breast anomalies could wait up to a year. Cleft lips should be repaired before four months of age and cleft palates before one year. Acceptable wait times for most cosmetic surgery procedures are 18 months. Carpal tunnel patients with permanent numbness should be treated within 2 months, whereas those with episodic numbness could wait up to 6 months. Melanoma patients should wait no longer than 1 month and bcc and scc patients no longer than 2 months. Acceptable wait time for premalignant skin lesions such as actinic keratoses is between 4 and 6 months. Diabetic and venous stasis ulcers should be treated within four months.

CONCLUSIONS: The survey results provide the most comprehensive plastic surgery procedure specific wait time benchmarks available in Canada to date.

Introduction

Wait times for plastic and reconstructive surgery are increasing in Canada. The causes are multi-factorial and include, but are not limited to, population aging and growth, diminishing health care resources and declining plastic surgery manpower. The board of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery (CSPS) has identified wait times as a priority area of focus. Accordingly, a committee was formed in the spring of 2006 to develop procedure-specific wait time benchmarks in plastic surgery.

Background

A Medline literature search revealed only one publication addressing wait times for plastic surgery (Chung, Hamill, Kim, Walters, & Wilkins, 1999). A logistic regression on a survey study involving 345 patients found a statistically significant relationship between length of time waiting for appointments and patient satisfaction. To date, no publications in the field of plastic surgery explore the influence of prolonged wait times on clinical outcomes.

A number of reports address wait times for plastic surgery in Canada. The most well known include the Fraser Institute Report and the Western Canadian Wait List Project.

Fraser Institute Report

The 2005 edition of the Fraser Institute Report on Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada indicates that wait times for plastic surgery are the second lengthiest of all specialties (Esmail, 2005). The median total wait times (from time of referral to time of surgery) are in excess of 36.2 weeks, with wait times between specialist consultation and treatment being 20.9 weeks. Based on a survey of plastic surgeons, the same report indicates that a median clinically reasonable wait time for the latter is 10 weeks. Plastic surgery wait times are increasing. In 1993, the median wait time from referral by GP to the time of surgical consultation was 5.9 weeks. In the 2005 report, the same wait time had more than doubled to 15.4 weeks.

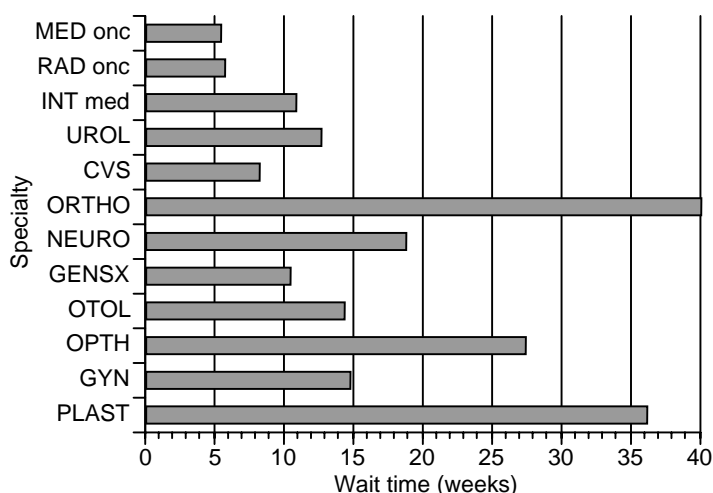


Chart produced from Fraser Institute Data (2005)

Total expected wait times (referral by GP to time of treatment) show wide provincial variations with the lengthiest wait times occurring in the Maritime Provinces.

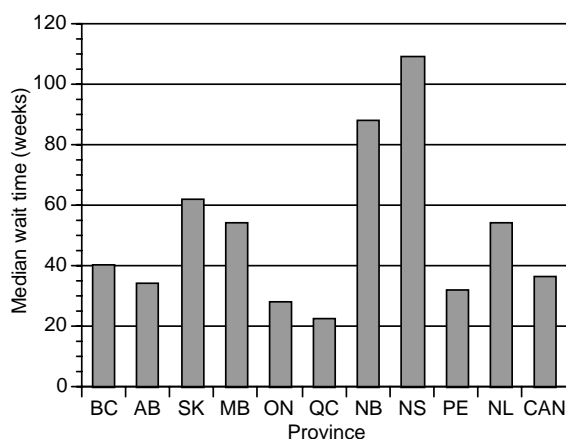


Chart produced from Fraser Institute Data (2005)

It should be noted that the Fraser Institute's methodology is based on survey responses from plastic surgeons across the country. The wait times are self-reported and therefore may not be entirely accurate. In addition, Canadian plastic surgery response rates for the 2005 survey were only 37%, ranging from 20% in Quebec to 55% in British Columbia.

Access to Health Care Services in Canada (Statistics Canada)

Statistics Canada published a document in 2003 outlining provincial wait times for access to elective surgical procedures. The report was based on data obtained from the Canadian Community Health Survey. The data was not resolved down to the specialty level.

Provincial and Territorial Initiatives

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and, most recently, Nova Scotia all have initiatives underway to centralize wait time data collection. Interprovincial comparisons are difficult due to a lack of standardized reporting.

British Columbia

There are 4,340 patients waiting for plastic surgery in British Columbia (Government of British Columbia, 2006). As of August 31, 2,193 procedures had been completed in the preceding three months.

Alberta

The Alberta Wait List Registry indicates that 2,784 patients are waiting for plastic surgery (Government of Alberta, 2006). In the three months preceding August 31, 2006, 1,505

procedures were completed. The median wait time listed is 6.9 weeks.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network lists 1,893 patients as waiting for plastic surgery as of March 31, 2006 (Government of Saskatchewan, 2006).

Manitoba

Wait times are currently being collected only for select cardiac, orthopedic and ophthalmologic procedures in Manitoba (Manitoba, 2006).

Ontario

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in Ontario is collecting wait time data on cardiac surgery, cataract surgery and joint replacements (Government of Ontario, 2006). No plastic surgery data are reported.

Quebec

The Ministry of Health and Social Services does not report any data on plastic surgery wait times. Data are available for some cancers, knee replacement surgery and cataracts (Sante et Services Sociaux Quebec, 2006).

New Brunswick

The New Brunswick Department of Health website posts regional health authority specific wait times for two plastic surgery procedures (breast reductions and carpal tunnel surgery). The data is also resolved down to the hospital level.

Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Wait Times initiative systematically collects wait time data for the period between referral and consultation for plastic surgery (Government of Nova Scotia, 2006). The data are collected in collaboration with 80% of plastic surgeons in the province using the Medical Services Insurance (MSI) electronic billing system. In Nova Scotia, 94% of plastic surgery referrals will be seen within one year from date of referral. Data are not available on wait times between consultation and procedure completion. Surgeon specific wait time data are available to GP's through a password protected internet portal.

Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island

Wait time information for plastic surgery procedures is not available for the provinces of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

Clearly, there is a need for consistent and comparable collection of plastic surgery wait time data among the provinces.

Benchmark Methodology

An electronic survey was created which incorporated the majority of procedures in plastic surgery. Survey questions were vetted to ensure clarity. The survey was piloted on a sample of ten plastic surgeons before its implementation. The survey was sent to all members of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery residing in Canada who had provided an email address to the society. For each question, respondents were asked to click on the referral period that “corresponds to the maximum wait time that you feel is acceptable between referral and surgery”.

Results

Response rates

Of the 266 surveys distributed, 174 were completed resulting in a response rate of 66%. The Geographic distribution of response rates is outlined below.

Province	Number Surveyed	Response rate
British Columbia	46	63%
Alberta	30	73%
Saskatchewan	7	57%
Manitoba	8	75%
Ontario	103	69%
Quebec	41	34%
New Brunswick	12	50%
Nova Scotia	12	92%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%
Newfoundland	4	100%
USA	2	50%
Total	266	66%

The survey questions and amalgamated results are found below. Questions are grouped into subspecialty areas of plastic surgery. In the tables, the boldfaced figures represent the most common response. The median wait time represents the maximum time that the majority of respondents (ie. > 50%) felt that patients should wait from time of referral to surgery. Similarly the greater than 80% respondents column represents the maximum wait time that captured the responses of greater than 80% of the respondents. The percentage column represents the actual percentage of respondents that felt the maximum wait time should be within and below the range listed in the 80% column. For example, 83% of respondents felt that the maximum wait time from the time of referral to surgical treatment of suppurative tenosynovitis should be within or less than 6 to 12 hours. The corollary would be that only 17% of respondents felt that patients could wait longer than 12 hours.

Acute Conditions

Infections

	< 3 hours	3 - 6 hours	6 - 12 hours	12 - 24 hours	1 - 2 days	2 - 4 days	4 - 7 days	> 7 days	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Necrotizing fasciitis	81% (140)	16% (27)	2% (4)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	< 3 hours	< 3 hours	81
Suppurative tenosynovitis	13% (23)	36% (61)	33% (57)	14% (24)	4% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	6 - 12 hours	6 - 12 hours	83
Felon	7% (12)	12% (21)	32% (54)	35% (60)	13% (22)	1% (1)	1% (1)	0% (0)	6 - 12 hours	12 - 24 hours	86
Pyoarthrosis	11% (19)	29% (50)	36% (61)	20% (34)	3% (5)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	6 - 12 hours	12 - 24 hours	96
Total Respondents	172										
(skipped this question)	2										

Facial Trauma

	< 24 hours	1 - 2 days	2 - 4 days	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	> 4 weeks	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Zygoma fracture	2% (3)	9% (16)	20% (34)	43% (74)	26% (44)	0% (0)	0% (0)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	100
Orbital floor fracture (no entrapment)	1% (2)	8% (14)	18% (31)	40% (68)	29% (50)	3% (5)	0% (0)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	97
Mandibular fracture (compound)	44% (75)	33% (56)	14% (24)	7% (12)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 days	2 - 4 days	91
Panfacial fracture	17% (29)	19% (32)	21% (36)	32% (54)	11% (18)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 days	4 - 7 days	89
Frontal sinus fracture	14% (24)	28% (47)	22% (37)	24% (40)	11% (18)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 days	4 - 7 days	89
Nasal fracture	1% (2)	8% (13)	12% (21)	42% (72)	36% (62)	0% (0)	1% (1)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	99
Facial nerve laceration	18% (30)	33% (55)	15% (25)	19% (32)	13% (22)	2% (4)	1% (1)	1 - 2 days	4 - 7 days	84
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	171 3									

Burns

	< 6 hours	6 - 12 hours	12 - 24 hours	1 - 2 days	2 - 4 days	4 - 7 days	> 7 days	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Major burn	41% (69)	7% (12)	9% (15)	9% (15)	20% (34)	11% (19)	2% (4)	12 - 24 hours	2 - 4 days	86
Minor burn	1% (2)	7% (11)	11% (19)	13% (22)	14% (24)	21% (36)	33% (55)	4 - 7 days	> 7 days	100
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	169 5									

Hand Trauma

	< 24 hours	1 - 2 days	2 - 4 days	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	> 4 weeks	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Flexor tendon laceration	5% (9)	21% (35)	21% (35)	37% (62)	16% (27)	1% (1)	0% (0)	4 - 7 days	4 - 7 days	83
Extensor tendon laceration	2% (3)	16% (27)	22% (38)	40% (68)	18% (30)	2% (3)	0% (0)	4 - 7 days	4 - 7 days	81
Digital nerve laceration	3% (5)	10% (17)	13% (22)	34% (57)	30% (50)	5% (9)	5% (9)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	89
Proximal phalanx fracture (compound)	53% (88)	24% (39)	12% (20)	8% (14)	2% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	< 24 hours	2 - 4 days	89
Proximal phalanx fracture (not compound)	2% (4)	12% (21)	19% (32)	48% (81)	18% (31)	0% (0)	0% (0)	4 - 7 days	4 - 7 days	82
Mallet finger	1% (1)	3% (5)	15% (25)	39% (65)	30% (50)	7% (11)	5% (9)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	88
Volar plate injury	1% (2)	8% (13)	19% (30)	39% (62)	29% (47)	2% (4)	2% (3)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	96
Gamekeeper thumb	2% (3)	6% (10)	17% (28)	39% (66)	30% (51)	4% (7)	2% (3)	4 - 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	94
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	169 5									

Replantations

	< 3 hours	3 - 6 hours	6 - 12 hours	12 - 24 hours	1 - 2 days	2 - 4 days	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Digit	34% (58)	36% (61)	24% (40)	6% (11)	0% (0)	0% (0)	3 - 6 hours	6 - 12 hours	93
Hand	62% (105)	27% (45)	9% (15)	2% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	< 3 hours	3 - 6 hours	89
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	169	5							

Breast Related Conditions

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Breast reconstruction (immediate)	20% (33)	19% (31)	43% (70)	12% (20)	4% (6)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	83
Breast reconstruction (delayed)	1% (1)	1% (1)	2% (4)	15% (24)	20% (33)	29% (47)	13% (22)	7% (11)	7% (12)	2% (3)	3% (5)	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	81
Breast reduction	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	7% (11)	15% (25)	32% (52)	13% (21)	16% (26)	10% (16)	3% (5)	4% (7)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	83
Gynecomastia	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	6% (10)	15% (25)	31% (51)	15% (25)	15% (25)	11% (19)	3% (5)	3% (5)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	82
Breast asymmetry	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	5% (9)	14% (23)	32% (52)	13% (21)	18% (30)	11% (18)	2% (4)	4% (6)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	83
Congenital breast anomaly	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	5% (8)	15% (25)	34% (57)	14% (24)	16% (26)	8% (13)	2% (4)	5% (8)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	85
Total Respondents	167													
(skipped this question)	7													

Congenital Anomalies

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Cleft lip	5% (8)	2% (3)	15% (22)	22% (33)	43% (65)	10% (15)	2% (3)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	2 - 4 months	87
Cleft palate	3% (5)	1% (2)	14% (21)	13% (19)	14% (21)	8% (12)	5% (8)	29% (43)	9% (13)	1% (1)	1% (1)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	90
Velopharyngeal insufficiency	1% (2)	1% (1)	11% (16)	12% (18)	15% (22)	18% (26)	7% (10)	15% (21)	10% (14)	3% (5)	6% (9)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	81
Craniofacial anomaly	0% (0)	1% (2)	7% (10)	12% (17)	18% (25)	18% (25)	6% (9)	19% (26)	7% (10)	4% (5)	7% (10)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	82
Congenital hand deformity	0% (0)	1% (2)	3% (5)	9% (14)	24% (36)	15% (23)	7% (10)	19% (28)	8% (12)	7% (11)	5% (8)	4 - 6 months	12 - 18 months	87
Congenital pigmented nevus	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	8% (12)	18% (27)	20% (30)	4% (6)	15% (22)	8% (12)	5% (8)	18% (27)	6 - 9 months	18 - 24 months	82
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	155 19													

Other Craniofacial Conditions

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Vascular malformation (no obstruction)	0% (0)	1% (2)	7% (10)	17% (25)	24% (36)	22% (33)	5% (8)	9% (14)	4% (6)	1% (2)	10% (15)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	85
Vascular malformation (obstruction)	57% (88)	21% (33)	10% (16)	6% (9)	2% (3)	2% (3)	1% (1)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	< 7 days	2 - 4 weeks	89
Facial palsy (with corneal exposure)	51% (79)	23% (35)	14% (21)	8% (13)	3% (4)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	< 7 days	2 - 4 weeks	88
Facial palsy (without corneal exposure)	1% (2)	4% (6)	16% (24)	17% (25)	25% (38)	18% (27)	5% (7)	9% (13)	3% (4)	3% (4)	1% (1)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	81
Late post traumatic craniofacial anomaly (i.e. enophthalmos)	1% (2)	3% (4)	4% (6)	17% (25)	29% (44)	21% (32)	7% (11)	9% (14)	4% (6)	0% (0)	4% (6)	2 - 4 months	6 - 9 months	83
Total Respondents	156													
(skipped this question)	18													

Cosmetic Procedures

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Liposuction	0% (0)	0% (0)	5% (8)	15% (23)	20% (31)	16% (25)	10% (15)	13% (20)	8% (13)	2% (3)	12% (19)	4 - 6 months	12 - 18 months	86
Abdominoplasty	0% (0)	0% (0)	5% (8)	14% (22)	20% (31)	17% (26)	10% (16)	13% (20)	8% (12)	2% (3)	12% (19)	4 - 6 months	12 - 18 months	86
Breast augmentation	0% (0)	0% (0)	5% (8)	15% (23)	20% (31)	18% (28)	9% (14)	12% (19)	8% (12)	1% (1)	12% (18)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	80
Breast implant capsular contracture	0% (0)	1% (1)	4% (7)	21% (33)	25% (40)	25% (39)	7% (11)	8% (13)	4% (7)	1% (2)	3% (4)	2 - 4 months	6 - 9 months	83
Facelift	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (7)	15% (23)	19% (29)	17% (27)	9% (14)	13% (20)	8% (13)	2% (3)	13% (20)	4 - 6 months	12 - 18 months	85
Rhinoplasty	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (7)	15% (23)	20% (31)	17% (27)	9% (14)	14% (22)	8% (12)	2% (3)	11% (17)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	80
Nasal obstruction	0% (0)	1% (1)	8% (12)	18% (28)	24% (38)	25% (40)	6% (10)	9% (14)	4% (6)	1% (2)	4% (6)	2 - 4 months	6 - 9 months	82
Rhinophyma	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	14% (22)	21% (32)	25% (39)	10% (16)	15% (24)	6% (9)	2% (3)	4% (6)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	89
Tattoo removal	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (4)	8% (13)	14% (22)	17% (26)	8% (13)	12% (18)	14% (21)	1% (2)	22% (34)	6 - 9 months	> 2 years	100
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	157 17													

Eyelid Surgery

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Ptosis (levator weakness)	1% (1)	1% (1)	6% (9)	17% (26)	34% (52)	28% (44)	5% (8)	5% (7)	2% (3)	0% (0)	3% (4)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	86
Ectropion	3% (4)	5% (8)	19% (30)	35% (54)	23% (36)	9% (14)	3% (5)	1% (2)	1% (2)	0% (0)	1% (1)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	85
Blepharoplasty (visual axis not impaired)	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	11% (18)	22% (35)	21% (33)	9% (14)	15% (23)	4% (7)	2% (3)	13% (20)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	81
Blepharoplasty (visual axis impaired)	2% (3)	3% (5)	9% (15)	22% (34)	34% (53)	23% (36)	3% (4)	4% (6)	1% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	92
Total Respondents	160													
(skipped this question)	14													

Elective Hand Procedures

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Carpal tunnel with permanent numbness	4% (6)	14% (23)	31% (50)	34% (55)	13% (21)	3% (5)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 months	1 - 2 months	83
Carpal tunnel with episodic numbness	1% (1)	1% (2)	11% (18)	30% (49)	35% (56)	15% (24)	3% (5)	3% (5)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	93
Painful neuroma	0% (0)	7% (12)	16% (26)	35% (57)	28% (45)	8% (13)	2% (4)	1% (1)	1% (2)	0% (0)	1% (1)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	87
Flexor tendon reconstruction	2% (3)	4% (7)	13% (21)	26% (42)	32% (52)	16% (26)	6% (9)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	94
de Quervain's tenosynovitis	2% (4)	2% (4)	22% (36)	32% (52)	26% (42)	12% (20)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	86
Trigger finger	0% (0)	6% (9)	17% (27)	32% (52)	29% (46)	14% (23)	2% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	83
Total Respondents	161													
(skipped this question)	13													

Elective Hand Procedures Cont.

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Rheumatoid/OA hand	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (6)	22% (34)	39% (60)	24% (37)	5% (8)	4% (6)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	89
Dupuytren's (with joint contracture)	0% (0)	1% (2)	6% (10)	28% (45)	42% (66)	17% (27)	3% (5)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	95
Dupuytren's (without joint contracture)	0% (0)	1% (1)	2% (3)	12% (19)	24% (38)	34% (53)	6% (10)	9% (15)	4% (7)	2% (3)	6% (9)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	88
Wrist ganglion	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (2)	15% (23)	20% (31)	32% (50)	6% (10)	10% (16)	7% (11)	1% (1)	8% (13)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	84
Stiff joint (MP, PIP)	1% (2)	1% (2)	9% (15)	24% (38)	30% (48)	23% (37)	5% (8)	2% (4)	3% (5)	1% (1)	1% (1)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	88
Enchondroma	0% (0)	1% (1)	10% (16)	31% (49)	27% (43)	22% (35)	2% (3)	6% (9)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	92
Ingrown finger nail	4% (6)	9% (14)	17% (25)	23% (34)	23% (34)	15% (22)	3% (5)	3% (5)	1% (2)	1% (1)	1% (2)	1 - 2 months	4 - 6 months	90
Total Respondents	161													
(skipped this question)	13													

Malignant Neoplastic Conditions

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Lesion suspicious for melanoma	30% (49)	38% (62)	29% (47)	2% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	98
Lesion suspicious for BCC	6% (10)	10% (16)	32% (52)	39% (63)	10% (16)	2% (4)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 months	1 - 2 months	87
Lesion suspicious for SCC	7% (12)	17% (28)	44% (71)	25% (41)	4% (7)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	94
Melanoma re-excision	14% (22)	30% (49)	47% (76)	9% (14)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	91
BCC positive margins	3% (5)	10% (17)	25% (41)	38% (62)	16% (26)	5% (8)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (1)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	93
SCC positive margins	4% (7)	20% (32)	39% (62)	30% (49)	5% (8)	1% (2)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	93
Head and neck cancer	6% (10)	21% (32)	52% (80)	20% (31)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	80
Premalignant conditions (e.g. actinic keratosis, actinic cheilitis)	2% (3)	0% (0)	11% (18)	24% (39)	30% (48)	24% (39)	4% (7)	2% (4)	1% (1)	1% (1)	1% (1)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	91
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	162	12												

Benign Neoplastic Conditions

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Nevus	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	8% (12)	17% (27)	29% (47)	11% (18)	17% (27)	5% (8)	2% (4)	9% (14)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	84
Seborrheic keratosis	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	7% (11)	17% (26)	28% (44)	10% (16)	17% (27)	7% (11)	3% (5)	9% (14)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	81
Cyst (inclusion)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	9% (14)	20% (32)	30% (47)	11% (17)	13% (21)	5% (8)	3% (5)	7% (11)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	85
Lipoma (interfering with function)	1% (1)	1% (1)	9% (14)	28% (44)	28% (45)	25% (40)	6% (9)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	91
Lipoma (not interfering with function)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	8% (13)	16% (25)	26% (41)	12% (19)	16% (26)	6% (9)	3% (4)	11% (18)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	80
Moh's defect	50% (78)	21% (32)	8% (12)	10% (15)	5% (8)	4% (6)	1% (2)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	80
Pyogenic granuloma	10% (16)	30% (49)	36% (58)	13% (21)	4% (7)	4% (6)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	89
Total Respondents	161													
(skipped this question)	13													

Wounds

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
Diabetic foot ulcer	8% (13)	16% (25)	32% (50)	22% (34)	14% (22)	6% (9)	3% (4)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2 - 4 weeks	2 - 4 months	91
Venous stasis ulcer	1% (2)	6% (9)	23% (37)	33% (52)	22% (35)	10% (16)	3% (4)	1% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	85
Non-healing wound	1% (2)	12% (19)	30% (48)	28% (45)	20% (32)	5% (8)	1% (2)	1% (1)	0% (0)	1% (1)	0% (0)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	92
Scar (visible area)	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (6)	15% (24)	25% (41)	23% (37)	10% (16)	12% (20)	6% (9)	1% (1)	4% (7)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	89
Scar (non visible area)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	9% (14)	16% (25)	27% (43)	11% (18)	15% (24)	7% (11)	6% (10)	8% (13)	4 - 6 months	12 - 18 months	86
Pressure sore	2% (3)	9% (15)	21% (34)	40% (64)	14% (23)	4% (7)	4% (7)	3% (4)	1% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	87
Total Respondents	161													
(skipped this question)	13													

Other Conditions

	< 7 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	1 - 2 months	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	12 - 18 months	18 - 24 months	> 2 years	Median	>80% respondents	Percentage
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Hidradenitis suppurativa	2% (3)	5% (8)	13% (21)	25% (40)	25% (40)	18% (28)	3% (5)	5% (8)	3% (5)	1% (1)	1% (1)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	88
Axillary hyperhidrosis	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (7)	12% (20)	17% (27)	34% (55)	6% (9)	12% (19)	8% (12)	2% (3)	5% (8)	4 - 6 months	9 - 12 months	86
Foreign body (chronic)	1% (1)	3% (4)	12% (19)	24% (38)	23% (36)	23% (37)	6% (9)	6% (10)	2% (3)	0% (0)	1% (2)	2 - 4 months	4 - 6 months	85
Gustillo IIIB compound tibial fracture	80% (120)	13% (19)	5% (8)	1% (2)	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	< 7 days	< 7 days	80
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	162	12												

Discussion

In the absence of clinical trial research, expert opinion represents the best method for developing wait time benchmarks. In developing our benchmarks, we have gone beyond the committee level to draw on a strongly representative sample of the Canadian plastic surgery population. These benchmarks are the most comprehensive to date, encompassing 91 different plastic surgical procedures. The high response rate assures that the findings represent national consensus among plastic surgeons.

Submitted on behalf of the CSPS Wait Times Committee

Leif Sigurdson, MD, MSc, MBA, FRCSC
4437-1796 Summer St.
Halifax, NS
B3H 3A7
(902)473-1550
leif.sigurdson@dal.ca

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