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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 15th June 2021
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-E-003

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[Redacted]

Corporate Services
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[Redacted]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 7th May 2021. Your request sought information relating to knee cartilage damage.

You clarified on 7th May 2021 that you were looking for information either by calendar or financial year. We have provided the information for calendar year 2020.

1. How many patients with Knee Cartilage Damage are referred to your Health Board for investigation / diagnosis?

Our systems do not code specifically "Knee Cartilage Damage" therefore we are not able to pull exact numbers. However, we have been able to provide you with the number of patients referred in 2020 for the following diagnoses;

Condition Code	Condition Description
370	Knee Pain
371	Revision Total Knee Replacement
372	Specialist Knee Pain
373	Specialist Knee Physio
1710	Primary Soft Tissue Knee
1712	Patellofemoral

A total of 665 individual patients were referred to SBUHB for investigation in 2020 for the above reasons.

2. How are these patients with Knee Cartilage Damage diagnosed?



Pencadlys BIP Bae Abertawe, Un Porthfa Talbot, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR / Swansea Bay UHB Headquarters, One Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

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Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

- **MRI – how many?**

Approximately 95% of patients referred to SBUHB are diagnosed by MRI.

- **Arthroscopy – how many?**

Since 17th May 2020, the Health Board has carried out 71 acute Arthroscopies for either Bucket Handle Mensical Tears, Mechanical Mensical Tears or Osteochondral Cartilage Defects. Prior to this date, this information for patients with Knee Cartilage Damage was not recorded centrally.

- **Other method – how many?**

N/A

3. How many are diagnosed with ICRS grade 1 cartilage damage?

0

4. How are patients ICRS grade 1 managed post diagnosis?

- **Debridement – how many?**
- **Lavage – how many?**
- **Other treatment in secondary care (which)?**
- **Referred back to primary care (which)?**

Patients with ICRS grade 1 lesions are not treated in secondary care in SBUHB. If any patients reached this stage, all would be referred back to the GP.

5. Average length of time between diagnosis and treatment of patients with ICRS grade 1 lesions?

Please see question 4.

6. Estimated percentage of patients treated with grade 1 lesions who would return for further treatment in the future?

Please see question 4.

7. Do you currently use any scaffold or materials-based techniques to treat ICRS grade 1 patients?

No

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. a. wenger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a lowercase "a" and "wenger" following.

Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

