

# **Factors Most Important to Patients During Their Recovery Following Closed Ankle Fracture Fixation Surgery: A Multicentre, Focus Group Study**

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## Background

Ankle fractures are one of the commonest orthopaedic injuries with a substantial proportion of patients requiring surgery. Recovery from this particular injury and the associated surgery can be considerably challenging and impacts patients' lives in many aspects. Identifying factors most important to patients during their recovery can help clinicians improve the quality of management and patient outcomes, as well as apply these findings for the design of future research. There are no prior studies that have focussed solely on understanding the experiences of operatively managed ankle fracture patients. This study aimed to explore the factors most important to patients recovering from fracture surgery of their closed ankle fracture.

## Methods

Four focus groups each comprising five patients aged  $\geq 18$  years and within six months of surgery for a closed ankle fracture were completed. Patients were recruited from two sites (University Hospital Coventry and Royal London Hospital) and purposively sampled based on age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and whether surgery was performed with or without a tourniquet. Focus groups were audio recorded, transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis.

## Results

Study in progress.