



**Changes in the forgotten joint score after total knee arthroplasty: Minimal clinical important difference, minimal important and detectable change**

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## Changes in the forgotten joint score after total knee arthroplasty:

### Minimal clinical important difference, minimal important and detectable change

#### Abstract

**Aims** To identify the minimal clinically important difference (MCID) minimal important change (MIC) and minimal detectable change (MDC) in the forgotten joint score (FJS) according to patient satisfaction 6 months following total knee arthroplasty (TKA).

**Methods** During a one-year period 484 patients underwent a primary TKA and completed preoperative and six-month FJS and OKS. At six-months patients were asked "How satisfied are you with your operated knee?" Their response was recorded as: very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The difference between patients recording neutral (n=45) and satisfied (n=151) was used to define the MCID. MIC for a cohort was defined as the change in the FJS for those patients declaring their outcome as satisfied, whereas receiver operating characteristic curve analysis was used to determine the MIC for an individual. Distribution based methodology was used to calculate the MDC.

**Results** Using satisfaction as the anchor the MCID for the FJS was 16.6 (95% confidence intervals (CI) 8.9 to 24.3,  $p < 0.001$ ) and when adjusting for confounding this decreased to 13.7 points (95% CI 4.8 to 22.5,  $p < 0.001$ ). The MIC for the FJS for a cohort of patients was 17.7 points and for an individual patient was 10 points. The MDC90 for the FGS was 12 points; where 90% of patients scoring more than this will have experienced a real change that is beyond measurement error.

**Conclusion** The estimates for MCID and MIC can be used to assess whether there is clinical difference between two groups and whether a cohort/patient has had a meaningful change in their FJS, respectively. The MDC90 of 12 points suggests a value lower than this may fall within measurement error.

*Level of Evidence* Level III, diagnostic study.

## 29 Introduction

30 The Forgotten Joint Score (FJS) is a patient reported outcome measure (PROM)  
31 which can be used to assess the outcome of total knee arthroplasty (TKA). The FJS  
32 was described by Behrend et al<sup>1</sup> in 2012 and is now an established and validated  
33 PROM, demonstrating low ceiling and floor effects and responsiveness to change.<sup>2</sup>  
34 This has resulted in the FJS being increasingly reported as a PROM after TKA in the  
35 orthopaedic literature.<sup>3</sup> Despite the increasing use of the English version of FJS the  
36 authors are not aware of an establish minimally clinically important difference  
37 (MCID), which is required to power studies and allow the FJS to be used as a  
38 primary outcome measure in clinical trials.

39 The MCID is the minimal difference in a scoring measure that is perceived by  
40 the patient to be beneficial or harmful relative to those that perceive no change.<sup>4-6</sup>  
41 This is different from the minimal important change (MIC) which is the change in the  
42 scoring measure for a cohort or individual patient that perceive their improvement to  
43 be minimal.<sup>6</sup> These definitions are often used interchangeably and can cause  
44 confusion in the literature.<sup>6-8</sup> Four previous European studies proposed MIC values  
45 for the FJS score after TKA of between 8 and 14 points; all of which did not use the  
46 English version of FJS.<sup>9-12</sup> The MCID is still to be defined for the FJS, as this is  
47 needed to power studies and assess whether an intervention has made a clinically  
48 important difference between two groups of patients. The minimal detectable change  
49 (MDC) can be defined the smallest change in an individual's FJS that is likely to be  
50 beyond the measurement error and represents a true change i.e. a change in the  
51 FJS less than this may be due to measurement error and not clinically relevant.

52 The primary aim of this study was to identify MCID, MIC and MDC in the FJS  
53 6-months after TKA. The secondary aims were to assess (1) the effect of  
54 preoperative patient case-mix variables and preoperative functional status on the  
55 MCID and (2) whether the MCID changed according to patient specific activities and  
56 symptoms assessed.

## 57 **Patients and methods**

58 During a 1-year period (2014) 517 patients undergoing primary TKA completing pre  
59 and 6-month postoperative questionnaires were identified retrospectively from a TKA  
60 database held at the study centre. The patient demographics, BMI and comorbidities  
61 were recorded at the pre-operative assessment. Categories of comorbidity include:  
62 myocardial infarction (MI), heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, stroke,  
63 dementia, chronic obstructive airways disease (COPD), connective tissue disease,  
64 peptic ulcer, diabetes, kidney disease and backpain, which were all recorded as  
65 dichotomous variables of yes or no. Of the 517 patients 484 (93.6%) completed pre  
66 and postoperative questionnaires in their entirety without any missing data/scores.  
67 There was no significant difference in preoperative gender ( $p=0.677$ ), age ( $p=0.712$ ),  
68 BMI ( $p=0.999$ ), comorbidities ( $p>0.151$ ), FJS ( $p=0.871$ ) or Oxford knee score (OKS)  
69 ( $p=0.972$ ) between those fully completing ( $n=484$ ) and not completing ( $n=33$ ) their  
70 questionnaires.

### 71 *Outcomes measured*

72 The FJS assesses joint awareness during activities of daily living (for example,  
73 climbing stairs, walking for more than 15 minutes, in bed at night etc).<sup>1</sup> It consists of  
74 12 questions assessed using a five-point Likert response format. Item scores are  
75 summed and linearly transformed to a 0 to 100 scale, a high value reflecting the  
76 ability of the patient to forget about the affected/replaced joint during the activities of  
77 daily living.

78 The OKS<sup>13</sup> was recorded preoperatively and at 6-months postoperatively. The  
79 OKS consists of twelve questions assessed on a Likert scale with values from 0 to 4.  
80 A summative score is then calculated where 48 is the best possible score (least  
81 symptomatic) and 0 is the worst possible score (most symptomatic). The MCID for  
82 the OKS is 5 points and is thought to represent a clinical difference between two  
83 groups of patients.<sup>6</sup>

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3 84 The EuroQoL (EQ) general health questionnaire evaluates five domains (5D:  
4  
5 85 assesses mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression)  
6  
7 86 and was recorded preoperatively and at 6-months postoperatively.<sup>14</sup> The 3L version  
8  
9 87 of the EuroQoL questionnaire was used, with the responses to the five domains  
10  
11 88 being recorded at three levels of severity (no, slight problems, moderate, severe or  
12  
13 89 unable/extreme problems). This index is on a scale of -0.594 to 1, where 1  
14  
15 90 represents perfect health, and 0 represents death. Negative values represent a state  
16  
17 91 perceived as worse than death.<sup>15</sup>

18  
19  
20 92 Patient satisfaction was assessed by asking the question “How satisfied are  
21  
22 93 you with your operated knee?”. The response was recorded using a five-point Likert  
23  
24 94 scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (simplified to neutral  
25  
26 95 for the rest of manuscript), dissatisfied and very dissatisfied. Twelve further questions  
27  
28 96 were asked relating to how their TKA has affected specific activities and symptoms  
29  
30 97 which were rated using a five-point Likert scale: much worse, worse, the same, better  
31  
32 98 and much better (Figure 1). These questions are based on the OKS questions.

### 33 99 *MCID*

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36  
37 100 The MCID was primarily defined according to patient satisfaction and secondarily by  
38  
39 101 patient specific activities and symptoms. The MCID was calculated using two  
40  
41 102 different methods: anchor-based. Using the anchor-based method the MCID was  
42  
43 103 defined as the difference in the mean FJS change between patients responding with  
44  
45 104 “satisfied” or “better” compared to those responding with “neutral” or “same” for level  
46  
47 105 of satisfaction and patient specific activities and symptoms, respectively.<sup>16, 17</sup> Linear  
48  
49 106 regression analysis was used to adjust for preoperative confounding variables to  
50  
51 107 identify the MCID for the FJS.

### 52 108 *MIC*

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56 109 The MIC for a cohort was defined as the change in the FJS for those patients  
57  
58 110 declaring their outcome as satisfied. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve  
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3 111 analysis was used to determine the MIC for an individual and was defined as the  
4  
5 112 threshold value in the FJS that was predictive of patient satisfaction.

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7 113 *MDC*

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9 114 A distribution methodology based on the standard error of measurement was used to  
10  
11 115 calculate the MDC90. The 90 indicates a 90% confidence interval that a change  
12  
13 116 greater than this is real and not due to intrinsic variability of the FJS. The standard  
14  
15 117 error of measurement (the range in which a patient's true score lies) is the error  
16  
17 118 associated with the measuring tool. The standard error of measurement was  
18  
19 119 calculated using the standard deviation (SD) for the change in the FJS (from the  
20  
21 120 study cohort) and the reliability of the FJS: standard error of measurement = SD x  $\sqrt{1-$   
22  
23 121 reliability. A previously established Cronbach's alpha of 0.97 for test re-test reliability  
24  
25 122 for the FJS was used.<sup>18, 19</sup> The MDC was then calculated by multiplying the standard  
26  
27 123 error of measurement by  $\sqrt{2}$  (representing two separate occasions in which to  
28  
29 124 measure change) and by a z value which represents the chosen confidence intervals  
30  
31 125 (CI). To establish the 90% CI a value of 1.65, hence: MDC90 = standard error of  
32  
33 126 measurement x  $\sqrt{2}$  x 1.65.

34  
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36  
37 127 *Statistical analysis*

38  
39 128 Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 17.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA)  
40  
41 129 was used for all data analysis. Data was assessed for normality and parametric tests  
42  
43 130 were appropriate. Linear variables were assessed using either unpaired Student's t-  
44  
45 131 test, or one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with correction for multiple testing  
46  
47 132 (Tukey). A Chi square test was used to assess gender and comorbidity differences  
48  
49 133 between groups. ROC curve analysis was used to identify a threshold (point of  
50  
51 134 maximal sensitivity and specificity) in the mean FJS change that was predictive of  
52  
53 135 patient satisfaction. The area under the ROC curve (AUC) ranges from 0.5, indicating  
54  
55 136 a test with no accuracy in distinguishing whether a patient is satisfied, to 1.0 where  
56  
57 137 the test is perfectly accurate identifying all satisfied patients. To adjust for  
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3 138 confounding preoperative variables influencing the MCID linear regression analysis  
4  
5 139 was used identify an adjusted MCID. Significance was set as a p-value of <0.05.  
6

#### 7 140 *Ethics*

8  
9 141 Ethical approval was obtained from the regional ethics committee (Research Ethics  
10  
11 142 Committee, South East Scotland Research Ethics Service, Scotland [16/SS/0026])  
12  
13 143 for analysis and publication of the presented data. The data collection was carried  
14  
15 144 out in accordance with the GMC guidelines for good clinical practice and the  
16  
17 145 Declaration of Helsinki.  
18

#### 19 146 **Results**

##### 20 147 *Study cohort characteristics*

21  
22 148 The study cohort consisted of 484 patients undergoing TKA with complete pre and  
23  
24 149 postoperative data that met the inclusion criteria. This included 218 (45%) male  
25  
26 150 patients and 266 (55%) female patients, with an overall mean age of 70.0 (range 27  
27  
28 151 to 91) years. There was a greater improvement in the FJS with increasing level of  
29  
30 152 patient satisfaction at 6 months (Figure 2), but this was not significantly different  
31  
32 153 between neutral, dissatisfied and very dissatisfied patients (Table I).  
33  
34

##### 35 154 *MCID using patient satisfaction as the anchor*

36  
37 155 There were 153 (31.6%) patients that declared they were satisfied and 44 (9.1%)  
38  
39 156 patients that were neutral. There was no significant difference in the demographics,  
40  
41 157 comorbidities or the preoperative EQ-5D and FJS between these groups, but the  
42  
43 158 preoperative OKS score was significantly worse in the neutral group (Table II).The  
44  
45 159 unadjusted MCID for the FJS was 16.6 (95% confidence intervals (CI) 8.9 to 24.3,  
46  
47 160 p<0.001). When adjusting for confounding (all preoperative variables from Table II)  
48  
49 161 using regression analysis the MCID for the FJS decreased to 13.7 (R<sup>2</sup>=0.45, 95% CI  
50  
51 162 4.8 to 22.5, p<0.001).  
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##### 54 163 *MCID using patient specific activities and symptoms as the anchor*

55  
56 164 When the MCID was defined using patient specific activities and symptoms it varied  
57  
58 165 from 1.9 points for general knee pain to 26.6 points for kneeling and getting up again  
59  
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3 166 (Table III). However, the MCID was not statistically different for four of the  
4  
5 167 activities/symptoms assessed. The ability to do household shopping was the  
6  
7 168 question with the lowest MCID (7.2 points) that was also statistically significantly  
8  
9 169 ( $p=0.021$ ) different between the groups. Using this same question (household  
10  
11 170 shopping) the MCID for the OKS was 4.9 (95% CI 2.2 to 7.5,  $p<0.001$ ).

#### 171 MIC estimate for single group over time

172 The mean change, pre to postoperative, in the FJS associated with a response of  
173 satisfied was 17.7 (95% CI 14.2 to 21.2) and was defined as the MIC (Table IV).

#### 174 MIC estimate for individual patients

175 There were 416 (86%) patients that were satisfied with their outcome. The individual  
176 MIC was identified using ROC analysis to identify satisfied patients from dissatisfied  
177 patients according to change in their FJS. The change in the FJS was demonstrated  
178 to be a reliable and significant predictor of patient satisfaction with an AUC of 82%  
179 (95% CI 77 to 87,  $p<0.001$ ) (Figure 3). The maximal point of sensitivity and specificity  
180 for predicting satisfaction, which was 77%, corresponded to a change in the FJS for  
181 10 points or more (Figure 4).

#### 182 MDC90

183 The standard deviation of the mean postoperative FJS was 30 points. In test retest  
184 reliability was defined as 0.97 (Cronbach's alpha coefficient).<sup>18, 19</sup> The standard error  
185 of measurement was 5.2 (standard deviation [30] multiplied by the square root of one  
186 minus the test retest reliability [0.173]). The MDC90 was then calculated to be 12  
187 points (SEM x 1.41 x 1.65) i.e. 90% patient patients scoring more than this will have  
188 experienced a real change that is beyond measurement error.

#### 189 **Discussion**

190 This defines the MCID, MIC and MDC for the English version of FJS score after TKA.  
191 Preoperative variables were shown to influence the MCID, using the anchor-based  
192 question of patient satisfaction, and when adjusted for the MCID reduced to 13.7  
193 points. The MCID for the FJS was also found to vary between 1.9 to 26.6 points

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2  
3 194 depending on the focus of the anchor question used relating to patient specific  
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5 195 activates and symptoms. The MIC for the FJS for a cohort of patients was 17.7 points  
6  
7 196 and for an individual was 10 points i.e. a change greater than this represents a real  
8  
9 197 change recognised by the group or individual, respectively. The MDC90 of 12 points  
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11 198 suggests a value lower than this may fall within measurement error.

12  
13  
14 199 There are several limitations to the current study that relate to the relatively  
15  
16 200 early timepoint of assessment (6-months) and using patient satisfaction as the  
17  
18 201 anchor question. Hamilton et al<sup>18</sup> demonstrated a 4 point improvement in the FJS  
19  
20 202 between 6- and 12-months, which could potentially influence the identified MCID  
21  
22 203 from the current study. However, previous studies assessing the MCID in the OKS  
23  
24 204 have found the same MCID at 6- and 12-months<sup>6, 20</sup>, despite a similarly recognised  
25  
26 205 improvement in the OKS over that time period.<sup>21</sup> Loth et al<sup>22</sup> recently assessed  
27  
28 206 patient satisfaction at one-year and the associated FJS after TKA; from their  
29  
30 207 published data their MCID would be 13.6 points at one year which is similar the 13.7  
31  
32 208 points identified in the current study after adjusting for confounding at 6-months. This  
33  
34 209 suggests there may not be a change in the MCID between 6- and 12-months, but this  
35  
36 210 should be assessed in future studies. Patient satisfaction changes with time and  
37  
38 211 patient factors can also influence the rate of this change<sup>23, 24</sup>, using satisfaction as the  
39  
40 212 anchor question to define the MCID predisposes this to the same influences.  
41  
42 213 However, the same argument could be made for whatever anchor question was  
43  
44 214 used. The ideal anchor question for the FJS would be one that assesses the scores  
45  
46 215 underlying psychometric construct of the patient's "awareness" of their joint. Joint  
47  
48 216 awareness has been suggested to be an overarching value that encompasses pain  
49  
50 217 and function in those with an arthroplasty and as such patient satisfaction is likely to  
51  
52 218 be a good surrogate marker.<sup>25, 26</sup> In addition, the way patient satisfaction was  
53  
54 219 measured was also a limitation of the study as the difference between neutral and  
55  
56 220 satisfied patients may not represent the "minimal" difference. Using the joint  
57  
58 221 awareness question as the anchor with responses such as "same", "a little better",  
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3 222 “somewhat better” and “much better” may be more optimal to define the “minimal”  
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5 223 difference between those that are the “same” from the those “a little better”. A  
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7 224 disadvantage of using such a response is that relatively few patients record their  
8  
9 225 outcome as the “same” or “a little better” and this will limit the patient numbers  
10  
11 226 available for analysis.<sup>10, 12</sup> However, those patients who declared their level of  
12  
13 227 satisfaction as dissatisfied or neutral in the current study had similar changes in their  
14  
15 228 FJS, which may indicate that they were similar group of patients and could be  
16  
17 229 combined for analytical purposes should number be limited.

20 230 There have been three previous studies, using the Danish, German and  
21  
22 231 Italian versions of the FJS, that have defined the MIC after TKA.<sup>9-11</sup> Ingelsrud et al<sup>10</sup>  
23  
24 232 used three methods to define the MIC which included predictive modelling and ROC  
25  
26 233 curve analysis and found the MIC in the FJS to be 14 and 17 points, respectively.  
27  
28 234 These values support the MIC of 17.7 points in the FJS suggested in the current  
29  
30 235 study for a cohort of patients. Baumann et al<sup>9</sup> and Sansone et al<sup>11</sup> both used a  
31  
32 236 simple rule of thumb method to estimate the MIC by using half of the SD of the FJS  
33  
34 237 and demonstrated values for the postoperative MIC of 11 and 12 points, respectively.  
35  
36 238 If the same rule of thumb was applied to the current cohort of patients with a SD of  
37  
38 239 30 points for change in the FJS at 6-months the MIC would have been 15 points,  
39  
40 240 which is similar to defined MIC of 17.7 points using the mean change method. As the  
41  
42 241 MDC90 was found to be 12 in the current study a score less than this may represent  
43  
44 242 measurement error of the FJS and therefore a MIC of less than this may not be a  
45  
46 243 reliable measure. However, if lower SD of 25 was used to calculate the MDC90,  
47  
48 244 which has been reported buy two previous studies<sup>9, 11</sup>, it would be reduced to 10  
49  
50 245 points.

53 246 Seven of the 12 patient specific activity and symptoms questions assessed in  
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55 247 the current study demonstrated a MCID in the FJS after TKA lower than 13.7 points,  
56  
57 248 which was the estimated MCID according satisfaction. The MCID in the FJS after  
58  
59 249 TKA may therefore be lower than the 13.7 points identified in the current study.

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3 250 However, for these seven questions only three demonstrated a statistically  
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5 251 significantly difference of which the ability to do household shopping which had the  
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7 252 lowest MCID of 7.2 points for the FJS. Using this same question the MCID in the  
8  
9 253 OKS was found to be 4.9 points which is the currently accepted MCID after TKA.<sup>6, 20</sup>  
10  
11 254 It is recognised that the MCID does change according to the focus of the anchor  
12  
13 255 question and will also likely vary according to the number of responses to the chosen  
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15 256 anchor question assessed.<sup>20</sup> the authors suggest the satisfaction derived MCID value  
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17 257 of 13.7 points is the most reasonable estimate. However, to use a MCID of 7 points  
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19 258 for the FJS after TKA, due to the high SD associated with the FJS (30 points in the  
20  
21 259 current study), would result in an effect size of 0.23. This would translate into more  
22  
23 260 than 580 patients needing to be randomised to power future clinical studies (Table  
24  
25 261 IV). Whereas a MCID of 13.7 points in the FJS increases the effect size to 0.46 and  
26  
27 262 reduces the number of patients required to power future studies.

28  
29  
30 263 The identified MCID may be specific for TKA, as previous authors have  
31  
32 264 shown that patients undergoing medial unicompartmental knee arthroplasty (UKA)  
33  
34 265 have a greater postoperative FJS relative to TKA patients.<sup>3, 27</sup> However, this may  
35  
36 266 reflect the higher rate of patient satisfaction with UKA compared to TKA.<sup>3</sup> The MCID  
37  
38 267 may also be language dependant with a previous study demonstrating significant  
39  
40 268 differences in the improvement in the FJS after TKA at one year between Swiss and  
41  
42 269 Scottish patients.<sup>28</sup> This suggests that the response trajectories and improvement  
43  
44 270 values demonstrated in previous European studies may not directly translate to UK  
45  
46 271 arthroplasty patients and UK derived values are from the current study are required.

## 272 **Conclusion**

273 The estimates for MCID and MIC can be used to assess whether there is clinical  
274 difference between two groups and whether a cohort/patient has had a meaningful  
275 change in their FJS, respectively. The MDC90 of 12 points suggests a value lower  
276 than this may fall within measurement error.

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2  
3 278 **Competing Interest Statement**  
4

5 279 The authors declare no conflict of interest with the content of this study.  
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9 281 **References**  
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382 **Tables**383 **Table I.** Differences in the mean change (95% CI) in the FJS according to level

384 patient satisfaction 6 months after TKA for the study cohort.

Versus	Level of Satisfaction				
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	-	29.8 (22.1 to 37.5) p<0.001	46.3 (34.0 to 58.7) p<0.001	45.4 (27.4 to 63.3) p<0.001	37.3 (3.2 to 71.5) p=0.024
<b>Satisfied</b>	-29.8 (-37.5 to -22.1) p<0.001	-	16.6 (3.7 to 29.5) p=0.004	15.6 (-2.8 to 34.0) p=0.140	7.5 (-26.8 to 42.0) p=0.974
<b>Neutral</b>	-46.3 (-58.7 to -34.0) p<0.001	-16.6 (-29.5 to -3.7) p=0.004	-	-1.0 (-21.7 to 19.8) p=0.999	-9.0 (-44.7 to 26.7) p=0.958
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	-45.4 (-63.3 to -27.4) p<0.001	-15.6 (-34.0 to 2.8) p=0.140	1.0 (-19.8 to 21.7) p=0.999	-	-8.0 (-46.0 to 30.0) p=0.978
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	-37.3 (-71.5 to -3.2) p=0.024	-7.5 (-42.0 to 26.8) p=0.974	9.0 (-26.7 to 44.7) p=0.958	8.0 (-30.0 to 46.0) p=0.978	-

385 p-values are for an ANOVA with Tukey correction for multiple testing

**Table II.** Patient demographics and pre-operative functional scores according group.

Demographic	Descriptive	Satisfaction		Odds ratio/ Difference	95% CI		p-value*
		Neutral (n=44)	Satisfied (n=153)		Lower	Upper	
<b>Gender (M/F)</b> (n, % of group)	Male	19	74	OR 0.81	0.41	1.59	0.544
	Female	25	79				
<b>Mean Age</b> (years: mean, SD)		69.8 (9.8)	69.0 (9.8)	Diff 0.8	-2.5	4.1	0.626**
<b>BMI</b> (kg/m <sup>2</sup> : mean, SD)		30.4 (6.1)	30.8 (5.9)	Diff 0.4	-1.7	2.5	0.690**
<b>Comorbidity</b> (n, % of group)	Myocardial Infarction	6	7	OR 0.30	0.10	0.96	0.033
	Heart Failure	1	2	OR 0.57	0.05	6.43	0.570***
	Vascular disease	1	3	OR 0.86	0.09	8.48	0.897***
	Stroke	1	1	OR 0.28	0.02	4.62	0.345***
	Dementia	1	1	OR 0.28	0.02	4.62	0.345***
	COPD	3	6	OR 0.56	0.13	2.33	0.417***
	Connective tissue	7	21	OR 0.84	0.33	2.13	0.715
	Peptic ulcer	1	3	OR 0.86	0.09	8.48	0.897***
	Diabetes	9	14	OR 0.39	0.16	0.98	0.040
Kidney disease	2	2	OR 0.28	0.04	2.03	0.180***	
Back pain	18	73	OR 1.32	0.67	2.60	0.425	
<b>Functional measures</b> (mean, SD)							
<b>Oxford Score</b>	Pre-operative	21.5 (8.2)	21.0 (7.9)	Diff 0.6	-2.1	3.3	0.674**
<b>EQ5D</b>	Pre-operative	0.437 (0.321)	0.421 (0.312)	Diff 0.016	-0.090	0.122	0.762**
<b>FJS</b>	Pre-operative	14.1 (21.1)	11.0 (12.3)	Diff 3.1	-3.6	9.8	0.359**

\*chi square test unless otherwise stated, \*\*unpaired t-test, \*\*\*Fishers exact test

**Table III.** The MCID according to the anchor question used. The MCID was defined as the difference between those experiencing no change in their symptoms and those defining their outcome as better.

Descriptive	Response	Mean change in FJS (SD)	MCID	95% CI		p-value*
				Lower	Upper	
General knee pain	Same (n=31)	9.8 (23.7)	1.9	-6.5	10.3	0.658
	Better (n=148)	11.7 (21.1)				
Washing and drying yourself	Same (n=117)	15.2 (27.1)	4.5	-2.4	11.5	0.204
	Better (n=104)	19.8 (25.5)				
Getting into and out of cars and / or public transport	Same (n=100)	12.3 (28.8)	16.3	9.6	23.0	<0.001
	Better (n=168)	28.5 (25.7)				
Walking	Same (n=74)	7.0 (22.0)	12.3	6.2	18.5	<0.001
	Better (n=161)	19.3 (22.4)				
Getting up from a table	Same (n=105)	10.2 (21.9)	16.4	10.2	22.6	<0.001
	Better (n=187)	26.7 (27.8)				
Limping	Same (n=62)	11.5 (19.3)	5.2	-1.8	12.3	0.144
	Better (n=155)	16.7 (25.3)				
Kneeling and getting up again	Same (n=167)	23.5 (31.3)	26.6	18.9	34.3	<0.001
	Better (n=100)	50.1 (30.0)				
Pain in bed at night	Same (n=70)	11.8 (29.9)	11.0	3.8	19.0	0.003
	Better (n=160)	22.8 (23.8)				
Your usual work	Same (n=100)	9.8 (24.6)	13.8	7.8	19.9	<0.001
	Better (n=167)	23.6 (24.0)				
Your knee giving way suddenly	Same (n=58)	16.5 (26.2)	0.7	-7.4	8.7	0.868
	Better (n=138)	15.8 (26.1)				
Doing household shopping	Same (n=112)	13.8 (24.2)	7.2	1.1	13.3	0.021
	Better (n=137)	21.1 (24.3)				
Walking downstairs	Same (n=93)	13.0 (27.0)	15.6	8.8	22.3	<0.001
	Better (n=160)	28.6 (25.8)				

\* unpaired t-test

**Table IV.** Mean pre and postoperative FJS and change in the score according to the patients level of satisfaction with their outcome at 6-month follow TKA.

Level of Satisfaction	Mean preoperative FJS (SD)	Mean postoperative FJS (SD)	Mean change in FJS (95% CI)	p-value*
Very Satisfied (n=263)	10.0 (10.5)	57.5 (29.6)	47.5 (43.7 to 51.3)	<0.001
Satisfied (n=153)	11.0 (12.3)	28.8 (18.4)	17.7 (14.2 to 21.2)	<0.001
Neutral (n=44)	14.1 (21.1)	15.3 (14.8)	1.1 (-6.7 to 9.0)	0.769
Dissatisfied (n=19)	6.9 (6.4)	9.0 (12.8)	2.1 (-4.0 to 8.3)	0.477
Very Dissatisfied (n=5)	8.3 (5.7)	18.5 (24.0)	10.1 (-15.2 to 35.4)	0.328

\*Paired t-test

**Table V.** Power calculations for total sample size according to MCID and required power. A two-way analysis for two independent groups (means) with a standard deviation of 30 and an alpha of 0.05 was used in all calculations.

Power	MCID		
	7	13.7	14
80%	n=580	n=154	n=148
85%	n=663	n=176	n=168
90%	n=774	n=204	n=196

## Figure Legends

**Figure 1.** Sample to the portion of the 6-month patient questionnaire asking whether specific activities and symptoms have been affected after their TKA.

**Figure 2.** Mean change in the FJS at 6 months following TKA according to level of patient satisfaction (error bars represent 95% confidence intervals).

**Figure 3.** Receiver operating curve predicting satisfied patients using the Forgotten Joint Score. Area under the curve 82% (95% CI 77 to 87,  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Figure 4.** Sensitivity and specificity plot for predicting satisfied from neutral patients after TKA according to change in their FJS.

Please tell us how your procedure has affected the following:

	<b>Much worse</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>The same</b>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Much better</b>
General knee pain	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Washing and drying yourself	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Getting into and out of cars and/or public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Getting up from a table	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Limping	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Kneeling and getting up again	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pain in bed at night	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Your usual work (including housework)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Your knee giving way suddenly or 'letting you down'	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Doing household shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Walking down stairs	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Figure 1. Sample to the portion of the 6-month patient questionnaire asking whether specific activities and symptoms have been affected after their TKA.

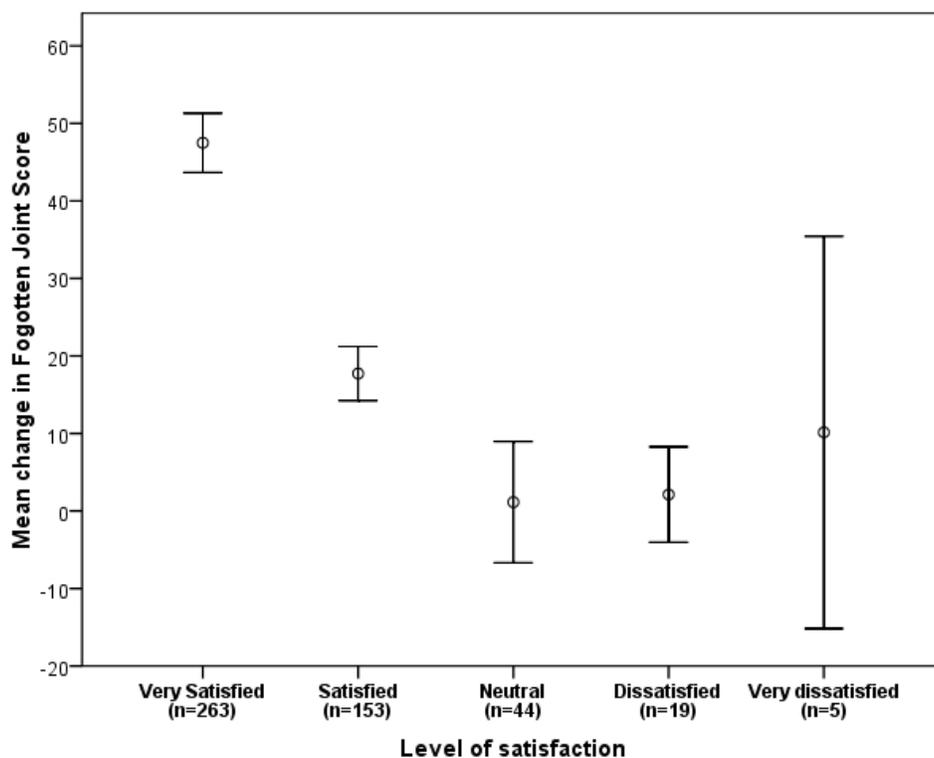


Figure 2. Mean change in the FJS at 6 months following TKA according to level of patient satisfaction (error bars represent 95% confidence intervals).

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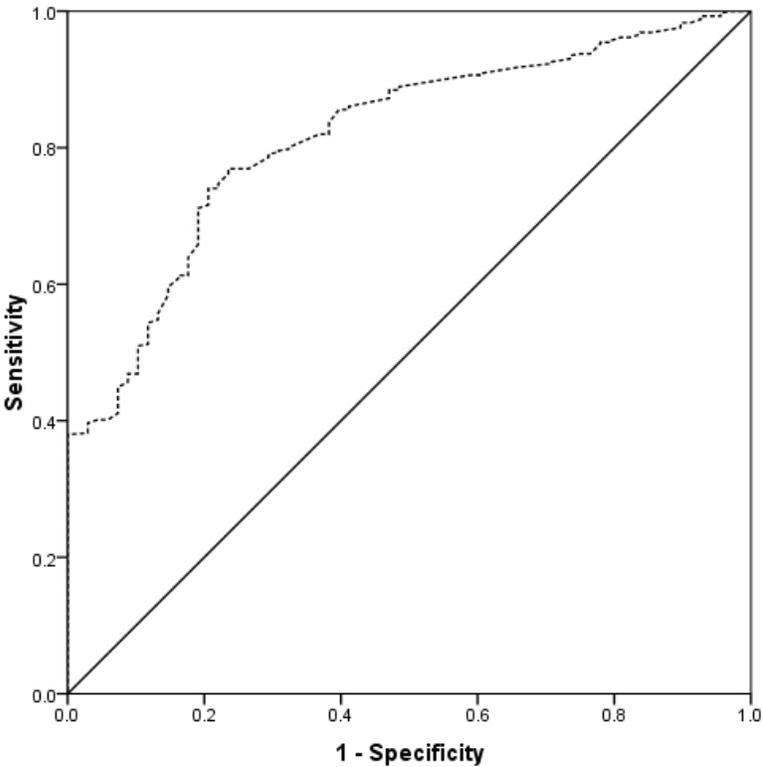


Figure 3. Receiver operating curve predicting satisfied patients using the Forgotten Joint Score. Area under the curve 82% (95% CI 77 to 87,  $p < 0.001$ ).

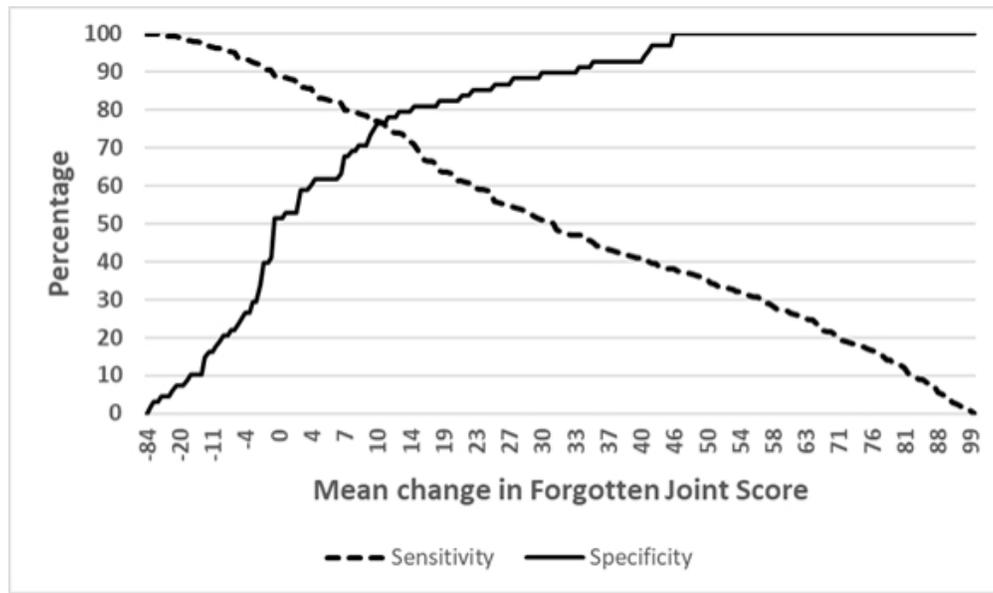


Figure 4. Sensitivity and specificity plot for predicting satisfied from neutral patients after TKA according to change in their FJS.