**The Timing of Corticosteroid Injections following Simple Knee Arthroscopy Influences Infection Risk**

**Purpose:** To examine any association between the timing of ipsilateral postoperative corticosteroid injection following simple knee arthroscopy and infection.

**Methods:** Private-payer (PP) and Medicare (MC) national insurance databases were queried for patients who underwent simple arthroscopic knee procedures. Patients undergoing concomitant open or more complex procedures with grafts were excluded. Patients who underwent ipsilateral corticosteroid injections within 2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks postoperatively were then identified. Postoperative infection within 90 days after the injection was assessed using ICD-9 and CPT coding for all study groups and compared using a multivariate binomial logistic regression analysis.

**Results:** 5,533 patients were identified and met inclusion criteria, including 725 that received an injection within 2 weeks, 1,236 patients within 4 weeks, 1,716 patients within 6 weeks, and 1,856 patients that received an injection within 8 weeks postoperatively. In both the PP and MC datasets the rate of infection was significantly higher in the 2-week group compared to the 6 week (PP: OR 3.81, *p* = 0.012; MC: OR 9.36, *p* = 0.001) and 8 week (PP: OR 8.59, *p* = 0.003; MC: OR 7.80, *p* = 0.001) groups. The rate of infection was also higher in the 4-week group compared to the 6 week (PP: OR 2.54, *p* = 0.024; MC: OR 8.91, *p* = 0.001) and 8 week (PP: OR 5.64, *p* = 0.009; MC: OR 7.80, *p* = 0.001) groups. There was no difference in infection rates between the 2 and 4 week groups in either dataset (PP: *p =* 0.278; MC: *p =* 0.861).

**Conclusions:** There is a significant association between intra-articular knee corticosteroid injections within 4 weeks of surgery and an increased incidence of postoperative infection in both Medicare and private payer patients after knee arthroscopy compared to patients with steroid injections more than 4 weeks postoperatively. In the absence of any prospective studies on this topic, we caution against the use of corticosteroid injections within 4 weeks after simple knee arthroscopy.