

Shoulder replacements benefit most patients for more than ten years, study shows

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More than 90 percent of shoulder replacement implants last more than ten years, according to the largest study of its kind.

The study led by the University of Exeter and the National Institute for Health Research Applied Research Collaboration South West Peninsula (PenARC), and published in *The Lancet Rheumatology* examined data on nearly 18,000 people who have had [shoulder](#) replacements, an increasingly common procedure.

The study found that at ten years, more than 90 percent of shoulder replacements were still working well, and that patients continued to report that the operation had benefitted them.

Jon Evans, Orthopaedic Registrar and NIHR Clinical Lecturer at the University of Exeter Medical School, who led the collaboration, said: "Our findings provide valuable and overdue information for patients and clinicians considering shoulder replacement surgery. To our knowledge, this study is the first to provide a simple and generalisable answer to two very important questions: how long does a shoulder replacement last, and will my shoulder be better in the long-term after surgery? We found that shoulder replacements have a sustained [positive effect](#) on patients' lives for at least ten years, in more than 90 percent of cases. Our data will also be useful for those commissioning health-care services enabling them to plan the provision of future revision services."

The paper is entitled "How long does a shoulder replacement last? A [systematic review](#) and meta-analysis of case series and national registry reports with more than 10 years of follow-up."

Provided by University of Exeter

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