

High cost of re-operation after breast-conserving surgery

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A small number of women require re-operation after breast-conserving surgery (BCS) for breast cancer, if the surgical margins are not free from cancer.

A new *BJS (British Journal of Surgery)* analysis reveals the expense of re-operation. If re-operation rates can be minimized, there may be considerable efficiency savings.

Using data from relevant published studies, the authors found the median hospital costs of women who needed re-operation were £4,511, £2,136 more than in women whose surgical margins were clear.

If these [cost estimates](#) are applied nationally, they provide compelling encouragement to seek interventions to minimize re-operation after BCS, which would reduce associated costs.

More information: *British Journal of Surgery* (2018). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.11050](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.11050)

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