

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of adults with and without SI undergoing surgery (April 2019–March 2023, n=228,687).

Patient characteristics	Adults without SI (n=187,676)	Adults with SI (n=41,011)	Absolute SMD
Age in years, mean (SD)	52.1 (17.9)	66.2 (13.5)	0.89
Female sex, no. (%)	115,723 (61.7)	18,831 (45.9)	0.32
Qualifying serious illness, ^a no. (%)			-
Advanced cancer	-	26,451 (64.5)	
End-stage renal disease	-	6669 (16.3)	
Heart failure	-	4856 (11.8)	
Dementia	-	2723 (6.6)	
Advanced pulmonary disease	-	2051 (5.0)	
Cirrhosis	-	921 (2.2)	
No. of qualifying conditions, mean (SD)	-	1.065 (0.259)	
One condition, no. (%)	-	38,480 (93.8)	
Two conditions, no. (%)	-	2403 (5.9)	
At least 3 conditions, no. (%)	-	128 (0.3)	
Surgical procedure type, no. (%)			
Breast and soft tissue	14,418 (7.7)	3663 (8.9)	0.045
Cardiothoracic and vascular	23,860 (12.7)	9218 (22.5)	0.259
Central nervous system ^b	3165 (1.7)	778 (1.9)	0.016
Ear, nose, and throat	5536 (2.9)	686 (1.7)	0.085
Endocrine ^c	1495 (0.8)	882 (2.2)	0.113
Eye	1004 (0.5)	134 (0.3)	0.032
Gastrointestinal	32,911 (17.5)	12,527 (30.5)	0.308
Genito-urinary ^d	6280 (3.3)	3363 (8.2)	0.209
Gynaecological	63,264 (33.7)	2949 (7.2)	0.696
Musculoskeletal	32,757 (17.5)	2815 (6.9)	0.328
Respiratory	2108 (1.1)	3478 (8.5)	0.349
Others ^e	878 (0.5)	518 (1.3)	0.086
Surgery nature, no. (%)			
Major	92,864 (49.5)	25,026 (61.0)	0.234
Minor	94,812 (50.5)	15,985 (39.0)	0.234
Length of stay, days, mean (SD)	5.11 (9.93)	11.77 (17.56)	0.467
Length of stay, days, median (IQR)	3 (2–5)	6 (3–14)	-
30-day hospital readmission, any, no. (%)	13,491 (7.2)	3902 (9.5)	0.084
1-year hospital readmission, any, no. (%)	35,578 (19.0)	17,351 (42.3)	0.524
30-day ED visit, any, no. (%)	16,442 (8.8)	5981 (14.6)	0.182
1-year ED visit, any, no. (%)	43,091 (23.0)	19,264 (47.0)	0.520

ED: emergency department; IQR: interquartile range; SD: standard deviation; SI: serious illness; SMD: standard mean difference

^a Does not sum up to 100% as a patient can have >1 serious illness condition

^b Neurosurgery, spine

^c Thyroid, adrenal

^d This excludes female genital; female genital is under gynaecological procedure

^e Lymphatics, spleen