



Rannán na nOspidéal Ghéarmhíochaine  
Aonad 1A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar Míleata

Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Deputy Róisín Shortall  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**PQ 10826/19\*** *To ask the Minister for Health the number of spinal fusion surgeries that have been carried out in each year since 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Additional Information: Please include spinal fusion surgeries for adults and children across all hospitals.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Response:**

Spinal fusion is a neurosurgical or orthopaedic surgical technique that joins two or more vertebrae. This procedure can be performed at any level in the spine cervical, thoracic, or lumbar and prevents any movement between the fused vertebrae. This is done to eliminate painful motion or to restore stability to the spine.

There are many types of spinal fusion with varying techniques, the procedure is most commonly performed to relieve the pain and pressure on the spinal cord that results when a disc wears out (degenerative disk disease) but spinal fusion can relieve symptoms of many back problems, including:

- Spondylolisthesis
- Spinal stenosis
- Scoliosis
- Fractured vertebra
- Infection
- Herniated disk
- Tumor

The table below outlines the number of spinal fusion surgeries that have been carried out in each year since 2010 to 2018; this includes surgeries for all conditions. The information relates to both adults and children and includes the sites that the surgeries have taken place in.

The information outlined relates to surgeries that have taken place in the public system and does not reflect surgery that may have taken place in private facilities.

Table 1: Number of Spinal Fusion Surgeries carried out 2010 to 2018

<b>Number of Spinal Fusions:</b>	Temple St Children's University Hospital*	Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital	Galway University Hospital	Tallaght University Hospital	<b>Total</b>
2010		58	130	16	48	49	<b>301</b>
2011		82	106	22	76	61	<b>347</b>
2012		71	122	14	54	63	<b>324</b>
2013	13	90	140	20	109	31	<b>403</b>
2014	20	82	163	17	93	40	<b>415</b>
2015	13	79	127	29	61	29	<b>338</b>
2016	11	85	134	20	88	43	<b>381</b>
2017	25	124	167	31	58	41	<b>446</b>
2018	25	126	180	50	49	60	<b>490</b>

\*Temple Street spinal fusion only data not available prior to 2013

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Trish King**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**